



Andrew Morgan

FJG among the UK's first law firms to introduce facial recognition tech

Essex law firm Fisher Jones Greenwood LLP (FJG) has become one of the first legal service providers in the UK to introduce facial recognition technology to streamline their client identity verification process.

As a new customer initiating legal services you are required to provide identification documents, this is often referred to as

'on-boarding'. During this process, a law firm has the responsibility to ensure the documentation provided is authentic and all photographic identification is of a true likeness. The Covid-19 pandemic has made this process challenging both for law firms and clients alike.

Recognising a need to innovate, FJG is pleased to launch facial recognition technology to ensure the on-boarding experience is significantly easier and more efficient for clients today and continues to remain so in the future. The technology uses biometric and liveness detection to complete identity authentication. After a few simple steps using a smartphone, individuals are able to complete identity verification checks in the comfort of their own home at a convenient time in their day, in most instances removing the need to visit the FJG offices.

Andrew Morgan, Learning & Compliance Officer at FJG was responsible for the implementation of this technology. He comments: "Over the last 12 months, working remotely we have been looking at ways to meet our clients changing needs. The new facial recognition software we are introducing speeds up the on-boarding process in an innovative and straightforward way."

Paula Cameron, Managing Partner at FJG added: "At FJG, we pride ourselves on our forward-thinking approach and aim to continue to adapt and offer the best possible service from a law firm. The introduction of facial recognition technology takes away the need for face-to-face contact while still offering an excellent client experience."

Rotary Club of Brentwood Charity Golf Day

The Rotary Club of Brentwood is holding a Charity Golf Day at Thorndon Park Golf Club, voted the number one course in Essex, on Monday, 12th July.

The entry for a four-ball team is £320, which includes green fees, light morning refreshments and a rolling buffet on completion of play. We are also looking for organisation sponsorship of individual holes at a cost of £70 per hole.

All money raised will be distributed to local charities, including Saint Francis Hospice, Little Havens Hospice and SNAP.

The Thorndon Park course is a classic, designed in 1920 by Harry Shapland Colt, one of the greatest golf architects. Nestled among 240 acres of an ancient deer park, it is a challenging course that has been sensitively lengthened over the years, and caters to players of all standards, with the Palladian mansion of Thorndon Hall, a magnificent backdrop to the final hole.

Here, little more than two miles from the M25, is a place of tranquility, bounded by a vast country park, with mighty oaks lending their grandeur alongside the fairways and greens.

Charity Golf Day format:

- 18-hole Stableford team competition of four players, with the best two scores on each hole counting
- Maximum handicaps of 24 for men/30 for ladies
- Team prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places
- Nearest the pin prize
- Longest drive prize
- Tombola prizes

To enter, email golf@brentwoodrotary.org.uk



Report gives big thumbs up to local charity

Hundreds of Essex families have turned to a Brentwood-based charity for support since the UK was plunged into lockdown a year ago.

Like many other charities facing soaring demand for their services since the pandemic began, Special Needs And Parents (SNAP) has been a consistent and reassuring presence.

SNAP's Helpline – there for families with a child or young person who has any disability or special need – has been busier than ever and the charity's team of dedicated Family Support Advisers have responded to 7,358 calls and emails in the past year, registering more than 300 new families in the process.

The contribution made by the Helpline and SNAP's Face-to-Face sessions, alongside the range of other services provided by SNAP, has been praised in an external evaluation, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

"Both parents and children are understandably struggling during the current exceptional circumstances and the challenges they face are varied," says Liza Bowring, SNAP Family Support Adviser.

"Many of our families are at high risk or vulnerable to Covid due to a range of existing conditions as well as immune deficiencies. These families are dealing with extended self-isolation and are having to deal with the practicalities and worries around this.

"Some families have experienced the effects of coronavirus first-hand, with members of their family becoming ill and some even being hospitalised. Most are facing mental health difficulties or feeling isolated.

"We are doing whatever we can to help by listening, advising, sharing SNAP's resources and signposting to other organisations we know are also providing assistance during this crisis."

For SNAP parent Ruth knowing the SNAP Team is on the end of the phone has been invaluable. "The pandemic has overlapped with an extraordinarily challenging time for our little family, stemming from a decline in an area of my daughter's health," she said.

"We have had to spend even more energy than usual advocating for our precious little girl, and that takes its emotional toll. Talking to SNAP on the phone at a time that we most needed compassion and care felt like a lifeline.

"I feel so grateful because SNAP understands that what happens in our daughter's life - all the joy and wonder, but also at times sadness and immense stress - also happens in ours."

"Offering Helpline support means I can often be a first line responder to families who have taken the huge step to contact SNAP," says Liza. "I am very aware of how daunting this can be and that it often takes a great deal of courage and a leap of faith to reach out for support.

"I want to make it as easy as possible, from the outset, for parents and carers to talk to me and know that I am genuinely there to support and listen. I hope parents feel empowered and less isolated knowing they have the SNAP Helpline available to them."

SNAP's Helpline and Face-to-Face sessions were the focus of an external evaluation funded by The National Lottery Community Fund and conducted by evaluation specialists Eastside Primetimers.

Based on a wealth of feedback from parents and carers, the research tells a clear and consistent story of the real and lasting positive impact that SNAP has on family life.

The external evaluator for the report, Neil Smith, found that SNAP occupies a pivotal role in the lives of the families it supports.

"Praise for SNAP is consistently very high. A parent and carer will typically describe their experience as essential, vital and lifesaving. They uniformly report there is no other service like it, and even for those families who are newer to SNAP there is an immediate impact and a 'change of trajectory' as one parent put it."

"Huge thanks to National Lottery players and the National Lottery Community Fund, whose support has been instrumental in helping SNAP support local families," said Sara Clifton, SNAP's Statutory and Trusts Manager.

"Thanks to Neil Smith for helping us evidence the value and impact of these services and a huge thank you to the SNAP Team, stakeholders and more than 300 remarkable and inspiring families – your thoughtful input is very much appreciated."

You can download the Summary Report here - www.snapcharity.org/externalevaluationreport

SNAP's Helpline is available to registered and new families from Monday to Thursday 9am to 5pm and Friday 9am to 4pm. You can contact them by phoning 01277 211300 or email familyteam@snapcharity.org

Why you should enter the Brentwood Business Awards 2021

"With 2020 behind us, a highlight of 2021 will be the Brentwood Business Awards", said Carmel Jane, director of the eponymous school photography company (www.carmeljane.co.uk). "There is something magical about these awards. There is a true sense of community, celebration of local businesses and one fantastic party."

"I am lucky enough to have won three awards at the inaugural event back in 2018, and then presented at the 2019 ceremony. Both times the Chamber really puts on a 'do' to rival any county or national awards ceremony."

Carmel continued: "If any business is considering entering the business awards, I would highly recommend the process. If you don't win, it is still a good chance to take stock and take time on thinking about your business. If you do get shortlisted or win, it is a great opportunity to shout about what you do and what makes your business special. Either way, it is a wonderful chance to have a party and network with brilliant people."

"Even if it takes several hours to think about, process and write your award entry, it is time well spent and the rewards for your business will be hugely beneficial. Support the best local networking group in the area, boost your business and get entering now." www.brentwoodchamber.co.uk/business-awards

Summary of events from this year's AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting took place on May 13th, which ran alongside a Meet the Chamber gathering.

The Executive Committee took time to introduce themselves and explain a little about their backgrounds. They committed themselves to working hard for members as lockdown measures slowly ease, and said membership prices would remain unchanged.

Guest speaker Emily Richards from Savills Place shared more details about the Discover Brentwood project (www.discoverbrentwood.co.uk), and how it aims to attract people to our beautiful borough.

Plus, Alex Burghart, MP, offered his thanks to the Brentwood community for pulling together during what has been a challenging time. He also shared the vision from Whitehall, which included more digital investment in the region.



Chamber Events Calendar 2021

June

Friday 11th - Virtual Business Breakfast

7.30am - 9.00am

July

Monday 12th - Rotary Club of Brentwood – Charity Golf Day

Book events in advance at:
www.brentwoodchamber.co.uk/events

Newsletter Content

If you have any news or articles you think would be of interest to our members, we would love to hear from you: info@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk

Sponsor an Event

With the Virtual Business Breakfast and Lunchtime Networking both established as monthly events, we are offering sponsoring opportunities. The benefits of sponsorship include:

- Event branding with sponsor's name and/or logo included on Eventbrite, Chamber Website, Zoom, Social Media posts and in the Chamber Newsletter.
- A follow up article in the newsletter.
- A 10 minute presentation during the event with the opportunity to include a video
- Live Q&A providing interaction with attendees.
- Option to record the presentation for YouTube.

If you would like more details then do contact us:
info@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk



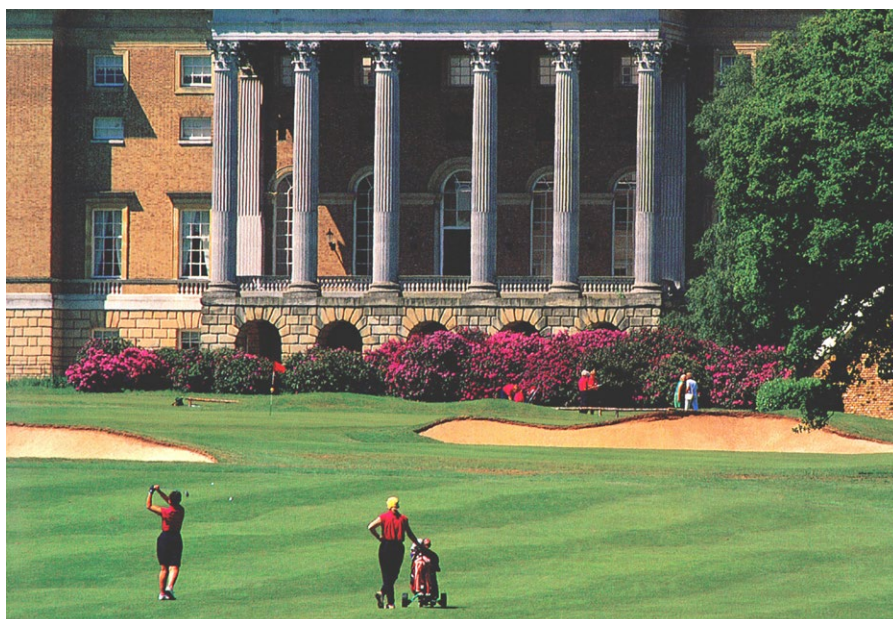
BRENTWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOSTS BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Business Breakfast Meetings are an excellent opportunity to meet your fellow members and find out what is happening in the world of business in Brentwood.

SPONSORED BY GUIDED LEARNING



FRIDAY 11 JUNE 2021 | 7.30AM - 9.00AM | ONLINE



Thorndon Golf Club

Live Events from 21 June

As we all emerge slowly from lockdown - subject to the all-clear from the government and no nasty surprises in the forms of aggressive virus variants - our regular schedule of live events should be returning from 21st June.

We mentioned last month that the virtual alternatives were well attended, massively productive and hugely informative, and it goes without saying they offered members a crucial support network during what has been a very challenging time. But we're also aware that many of our members have sorely missed the cut-and-thrust of face-to-face networking.

Our 'Meet and Eat' lunches will continue at the Terrace Bar on the 3rd Friday of each month, and on Friday 9th July, we are planning to return to our beloved Marygreen Manor for a 'real' Business Breakfast (our first since March 2020).

If you've never previously attended, these events offer attendees the chance to catch up with members old and new, as well as expand their connections and keep their finger firmly on the pulse of what's happening in Brentwood's vibrant business community. Don't miss out!

Keep an eye on our events page for more details: www.brentwoodchamber.co.uk/events

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YouTube: [youtube.com/channel/UC39BxChrewL2v9P1KYEE8Jw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC39BxChrewL2v9P1KYEE8Jw)

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24 fingers
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