



Finalists announced for the 2021 Brentwood Business Awards

Congratulations to all the finalists for this year's Brentwood Business Awards, which recognises the best of local businesses and organisations. They are:

Best Micro or New Business Award

- Cherished Pets of Brentwood
- Exotic Explorers (Essex) Ltd
- Outside Help

Best SME / Growing Business Award

- ERB Commercial Insurance & Risk Management
- Home Instead Brentwood, Billericay & Upminster
- Landons Solicitors

Best Sales and Marketing Award

- 24 Fingers Ltd
- The Greenhouse Brentwood
- Zest Recycle Ltd

Best Charity/Community Interest Company Award

- Helen Rollason Cancer Charity
- Kids Inspire
- Special Needs and Parents (SNAP)

Best Customer Service Award

- Landons Solicitors
- The Beauty of Heaven
- Wylie Wellness Centre
- Bennetts Funeral Directors

Best Innovative Initiative Award

- Carmel Jane Photography Ltd
- Special Needs and Parents (SNAP)
- VINTEC immersive,
- Bennetts Funeral Directors

Best Business Person of the Year Award

- Emma Goode of 24 fingers Ltd
- Matt Barry of Blue Serif Ltd
- Carmel Jane of Carmel Jane Photography Ltd

Employer of the Year Award

- Baker Labels
- Beresfords Group
- Howe Chartered Surveyors

Community Hero Award

- Dusk Brentwood
- Michael Conyers
- Tess Griggs of Little Edie Foundation



Tickets are on sale now for the black tie event, held on Friday 12 November 2021 at Orsett Hall, which includes a three-course dinner starting at 7.15pm, before the ceremony begins at 9.15pm.

Book your ticket, find more information about the Brentwood Business Awards and view the full evening's schedule at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/brentwood-business-awards-2021-tickets-175336063887

Get connected at this year's Brentwood Business Showcase

If you're running low on inspiration for your business after the last couple of rollercoaster years, make a note in your diary to visit the fifth annual Brentwood Business Showcase on Wednesday 20th October.

It will be held at the Brentwood Centre, which can accommodate more than 75 exhibitors and up to 500 visitors, while a new addition for the annual event is the Sustainability Zone, aiming to inspire businesses with carbon reduction initiatives across Essex and the South East.

Keynote speakers for the 2021 event include:

Kate Willard, OBE: Thames Estuary Envoy for the Thames Estuary Growth Board

Barry Hearn OBE: President, Matchroom Sport

Peter Guddé: Energy Projects Manager for the Greater South Essex Energy Hub

Scott Russell: founder of Paddy & Scott's Coffee, workshops and exhibitor display

Plus, between 4pm and 6pm there will be 'Fizz and Biz' informal networking, sponsored by Land Charter Homes.

Christian Howe from Silver Sponsor Howe Chartered Surveyors said: "This year's showcase is extra special because, now more than ever, businesses and professionals need one another to stimulate growth."

You can find out more about the free event at www.brentwoodbusinessshowcase.co.uk and register your attendance at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2021-brentwood-business-showcase-tickets-163348043395.

A few of the standard and micro business stands are still available at £140 and £70 respectively (excluding VAT). Contact business@brentwood.gov.uk to book a stand or find out more.



Will you sign up to the Brentwood Environmental Business Alliance?



This year's Brentwood Business Showcase includes the launch of a new Brentwood Environmental Business Alliance (BEBA) aimed at encouraging businesses to sign up to an innovative Carbon Neutral Pledge.

The new initiative will ask companies to commit to making decisions based on conservation criteria that best supports the ecosystem, and agree to seek opportunities to improve the local environment.

Brentwood Borough Council Leader, Cllr Chris Hossack, who will open the Showcase said: "BEBA is an exciting development in the borough's plans to become carbon neutral in a demonstrable and effective manner.

"The event will see a separate Sustainability Zone this year where we will host a number of exhibitors specialising in initiatives that have a direct positive impact on the carbon emissions. All of which of course enhances the environment. We will launch our new BEBA pledge to encourage businesses to come on board.

"What is clear is that there is a lot of support and opportunities for investment available and we can help businesses tap into this. The more we act together the bigger effect we can have collectively.

"I also want to thank Axis and Norse group, Tees, Pro-actions, UTL Document Solutions and Zest Recycle who have got behind this innovation and are sponsoring the Sustainability Zone."

The Sustainability Zone BEBA project will ask businesses to sign up to BEBA with their company name and contact details and contribute one sustainable idea that the company will implement over the next three to six months.

The BEBA Pledge asks companies to:

- Make decisions based on the conservation of the Ecosystem
- Consider the cyclical economy when providing services and running an organisation
- Seek opportunities to volunteer and assist the improvement of Brentwood
- Commit to support environmental projects within the borough
- Recycle and support local economy
- Consider projects which assist Carbon offset
- Look at how the carbon footprint can be reduced through environmental purchasing and production



■ Lights, camera, action!

The Bells Were Ringing...

Almost 18 months to the day, chamber member David Strelitz (www.dsvp.co.uk) was delighted to be back filming in a professional theatre and with an in-person, near-capacity audience. He and his five-camera crew were at the Royal Festival Hall to film the 50th Anniversary Concert of Mike Oldfield's Tubular Bells for the show's London producers, Fiery Angel.

"Of course, none of us would admit we were around when the album first swept the world and was actually the birth of Richard Branson's Virgin Records," he said. For many of the musicians, performers and tech team, the eight-day run was the first theatre work they'd had since March 2020.

While David has been kept busy since lockdown 2020 with film and video transfers, along with legal and other post-production projects, filming work since the easing of lockdown has been diverse to say the least.

In May, a piece was filmed with the new chairman of the Leigh Orpheus Male Voice Choir so their recruitment promo could be updated. In July, there was a Celebration Mass with the Archbishop of Southwark, nine priests and at least 30 retired nuns, to mark the closure of the Ursuline Convent in Westgate-on-Sea in Kent after 120 years.

David's wife Stephanie was a boarder there (not when it first opened) and they have been involved in archiving videos of the history of the UK Ursuline Schools. With so many people unable to attend due to Covid restrictions, they were asked to film it. "I was on my very best behaviour and we were even invited to stay on and have lunch with the Archbishop. Definitely a first," David quipped.

At the end of July, they were at Basildon Rugby Club, making promos for the junior and senior teams, and in mid-August David worked with two retired nuns, both in their 80s, as they talked about the history of the Ursuline convent. There are some exciting projects in the pipeline for the rest of the year, so watch this space.

Experts speak about climate change at recent Green evening

Late last month, Brentwood Borough Council hosted a Green evening at the Town Hall during which 45 residents learned more about climate change, tree planting and carbon absorption from experts including Tom Moat of the Essex Forest initiative, Dave Bigden from the Thames Chase Trust, and Lindsey Allen of the Forestry Commission.

The council's own arboriculturist Alan Marsh was also among the panel taking questions from residents.

Leader of Brentwood Borough Council, Cllr Chris Hossack, said: "I want to thank those who attended the event and those who hosted it for giving up their time to learn more about the environmental projects and plans around the Borough and how these fit in to improving our environment locally and the part this plays nationally.

"Our speakers enabled us to present an in-depth understanding of the importance of tree planting schemes which are taking place now and are vital for the future of Brentwood as a green borough.

"Residents clearly enjoyed the evening and posed really pertinent questions around these ongoing projects and I look forward to updating everyone as these schemes develop."

Time is running out to apply for Essex County Council's Kickstart scheme

Do you know any unemployed 16-24-year-olds? If so, tell them they still have time to apply for the Essex Kickstart Scheme, backed by the Department for Work & Pensions, which is helping create up to 600 jobs for young people locally.

It covers 25 hours of wages and contributions for 26 weeks and workplace support. The Kickstart scheme (www.jobhelp.campaign.gov.uk/government-services/kickstart-scheme) ends in December, and the last start date for candidates is 31st December 2021.

Since March this year, 170 young people have started work with local businesses, public sector and voluntary sector organisations through Essex County Council's Kickstart scheme, releasing up to £1.3 million of government funding into the local economy, benefiting businesses and the region's young people.

"Kickstart Essex is a fantastic scheme offering young people the valuable opportunity to gain work experience and providing young talent for businesses from a wide range of sectors.

"If you'd like to learn more about the scheme, get in touch," said Councillor Tony Ball, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Skills and Training.

Pop-Up Market Proves Resounding Success

We're pleased to report the Brentwood Business Partnership's Pop-up market in the Crown Street and Chatham Way car park area, on Saturday 4th September was a resounding success.

There were more than 60 stalls and full crowds over the seven to eight hours of the event, while a couple of bands for street entertainment brought a real buzz to the area.

The aim of Brentwood Business Partnership's Pop-up market was to try and encourage extra footfall into the town and a knock-on increase in high street business.

Early reports put the extra footfall at 30% equating to 3,000 extra people in Brentwood that day.

There was a universal call for more events of this kind, which Brentwood Business Partnership said it would carefully consider.



Brentwood Chamber of Commerce's Mike Hawkins pictured here with Nicki Treffers of Beresfords Group, Jane Winfield of Tees and Cllr Cliff Poppy

New Members

The Chamber is delighted to welcome new members The Electric Bike Shop, which recently opened a new shop on Brentwood High Street, and Maptec IT, which offers fast, friendly assistance to users on any device.

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

The Chamber Zone Scales Up

Following the success of the 2019 Chamber Zone event, we are pleased to announce that we will be hosting the zone again this year, but this time on a bigger scale at the Brentwood Business Showcase.

The Chamber Zone will be the perfect place for you to listen to educational talks on a whole range of business activities. These 10-minute presentations will be delivered by Chamber members and promise to be enlightening and full of value. We can also have an area set aside if you want to arrange any one-to-one meetings.

New Growth Grant Applications Open Throughout October

The South East Business Boost Programme (SEBB) has a limited amount of grant funding available to help support Growth projects of eligible businesses, who have not previously received a SEBB grant or workshop/s.



Funding available is from £1,000 to £10,000 on growth projects valued from £3,333 to £33,300.

Applications are open now until 31 October 2021.

Check your eligibility at www.sebusinessboost.org.uk/register-interest

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