

Brentwood Mutual Aid, Brentwood Borough Council launch aid group for Ukraine

As the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces continues, thousands of people across the UK have been prompted into action, and Brentwood is among them.

Members of our Ukrainian community, Brentwood Mutual Aid, Brentwood Borough Council, various community groups, Woodland coffee shop, Schmidt (Brentwood), Bonnetts Garden Village and many more, have joined forces to launch an aid group, gathering and coordinating donations for people facing a desperate situation.

It has been meeting daily and is taking a collaborative approach to supporting the situation, working with the British Red Cross to ensure that all action taken directly supports those who are most in need.

The group also has direct contact with those in Ukraine and others who have managed to cross the border, so there is a good idea of what is needed and we have access to trucks to deliver aid.

If you want to support their work, you can purchase items on the Amazon Wishlist here: www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/33VR9T0LEBCY3 and the group will deliver them to the Brentwood collection points.

Kids Inspire founder receives OBE from the Princess Royal

Sue Bell OBE, founder, chief executive and clinical director of Kids Inspire, was presented with her award by The Princess Royal at an Investiture ceremony at Windsor Castle, after being named in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2021 for services to charity, mental health, and education.

Sue founded Kids Inspire in 2007, a not-for-profit organisation providing mental health and trauma recovery support for children, young people and their families.

Over the past 15 years, she has built a unique organisation, delivering a range of therapeutic and community activities to promote resilience, self-awareness and relationship building, empowering people of all ages to make more positive life choices.

After the ceremony, Sue said: "The Princess Royal helped to make the experience all the more memorable, we spoke about Kids Inspire and the importance of our work, especially now.



Sue Bell OBE with two of her sons, Sam and Ollie

"It honours the courage of the children, young people and their families we are privileged to meet and support. It is their bravery and determination, supported by therapeutic interventions, that break down the trauma of challenging experiences, neglect and abuse that can impact lives at all levels of society.

I feel proud of their life progressions, knowing how positive intervention has supported them to fill their futures with love and opportunity."

More about Kids Inspire can be found at www.kidsinspire.org.uk, or please email emily@kidsinspire.org.uk, or call 01245 348707.

BRENTWOOD • SHENFIELD • INGATESTONE

HIGH STREETS CONFERENCE

PART II

22 March, 6pm - 8pm
Brentwood Theatre

YOUR PLACE, YOUR SAY



business@brentwood.gov.uk
www.brentwood.gov.uk/businesssupport



Book your seat at this month's Town Centre Conference

Brentwood Borough Council is encouraging businesses and residents who have ideas for the future of Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone High Streets to book their place for our follow-up High Streets Conference.

It is being held on Tuesday 22 March from 6pm to 8pm at the Brentwood Theatre. Free parking is available at Brentwood Town Hall, which is just an eight-minute walk from the theatre.

Brentwood Borough Council Leader, Councillor Chris Hossack said: "Our first High Streets Conference last month covered the challenges currently facing our town centres and high streets.

"We addressed topics like policing, parking and licencing, so we have covered those issues. Now it is time to focus on what the future might look like and get the conversation started on what the possibilities are and hear the ideas people have."

He goes on: "we need to transform our high streets into welcoming areas that are adaptable for changing lifestyles and shopping habits, while also recognising that our local economy, entrepreneurs and businesses have built an incredibly resilient range of stores and services in Brentwood, Ingatestone and Shenfield."

You can register to attend at this address: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/brentwood-shenfield-and-ingatestone-high-streets-conference-part-ii-tickets-272093909207?aff=erelexpmlt

Council and local businesses look to reduce their impact on the environment

How do we achieve net zero? We want to contribute but don't know how? How can we have a positive impact on the environment?

They are just three of the questions posed that led to the creation of the Brentwood Environmental Business Alliance (BEBA).

Launched in October 2021 at the Brentwood Business Showcase, a Brentwood Council event with more than 85

exhibitors and 500 visitors, BEBA aims to encourage more sustainable and environmentally friendly practices by providing a platform to collaborate and learn, as well as a place to identify information resources for businesses.

It includes regular meetings and themed workshops with businesses and guest speakers, who aim to inspire members through their own experiences of using sustainable and environmentally friendly practices.

The idea for BEBA started in March 2021 when local business Baker Labels approached Brentwood Borough Council, as they wanted to improve their environmental performance and offset their carbon footprint but, like many companies, they didn't know where to start.

BEBA is the council's response to tackling a range of environmental challenges, including climate change - both at a local level and as a collective, rather than as individuals. It enables businesses to do their bit and have a positive effect on these environmental issues.

Brentwood Council aims to be Carbon Neutral by 2040 and we challenge our local business community to work with us to achieve the same. The key first step to achieving carbon neutrality is to identify a baseline, identifying your business' biggest emissions, and allow for a comparison over time.

Companies in the Brentwood borough can sign up to The Pledge to demonstrate their commitment to going green, reducing carbon and being more sustainable to help our planet.

Signatories of the green pledge make a business commitment to minimise their environmental impact by:

- Adopting an environment-first based approach to business decisions
- Reducing waste in the provision of goods and services
- Recycling waste generated by business operations
- Implementing a green supply chain network and using local suppliers wherever possible
- Adapting procurement policies to prioritise products that are environmentally friendly
- Volunteering or committing resources to support local environmental initiatives
- Actively seeking ways to carbon offset
- Setting a baseline for their business' current carbon footprint
- Disclosing actions that will be taken to achieve BEBA's carbon objectives
- Being carbon neutral by 2040
- Being 'true zero' carbon by 2050

If you are interested in joining and would like to find out more please visit www.brentwood-beba.co.uk or email info@brentwood-beba.co.uk



Chamber Chairman Colin Barber pictured here with Brentwood Borough Councils Greg Campbell, Otilie West and Kirsty Dailly of Baker Labels

**saint
francis
hospice**



Channel 5 news spotlights Saint Francis Hospice

The important work of St Francis Hospice was highlighted on national TV in February, when a Channel 5 news crew paid a visit.

Presenter Simon Vigar spoke with medical director Dr Corinna Midgley, patients and volunteers about the impact of the pandemic on hospice services, as well as funding and why volunteers are so vital to the hospice.

Corinna paid tribute to them, saying, "We couldn't do what we do without our volunteers. Our staff are crucial, of course, but our volunteers add a richness, a quality and an additional power to the workforce that we couldn't do without. They save us about £1 million a year with what they raise charitably and with what they do."

She also spoke about how St Francis Hospice retail shops have been the hardest hit as almost a half of our shop volunteers haven't come back.

This has resulted in shops having to close at short notice and a loss of vital income which is desperately needed to fund care and support services. "We are really dependent on volunteers for our shops," said Corinna.

"Most of our workforce in our shops are volunteers with just a little bit of funded staff managerial support."

If you would like to become a volunteer, and help make a real difference to thousands of people with incurable conditions locally, visit www.sfh.org.uk/news/volunteer.

The Rotary Club of Brentwood raises £13,000 from Christmas activities

You can still book your place on the Rotary Club of Brentwood's annual charity golf day at Thorndon Park Golf Club on May 16th - contact Chris Rastin for more details on cm.rastin@btinternet.com.



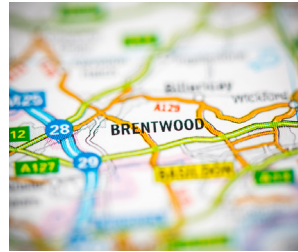
The Rotary Club of Brentwood collecting for local charities

At the High Street Events, organised by Brentwood Borough Council on the 18th December, they were there with Santa and his elves and also the traditional mulled wine stall.

Finally, in the run up to the big day, The Rotary Club of Brentwood managed to bring Santa and his sleigh to

But they've also revealed details of last year's Christmas activities, albeit slightly restricted, organised by Brentwood Borough Council.

After the lighting of the tree at the Town Hall in Brentwood, the Street Collections soon followed. Between the 6th and the 17th December, they were out with their sleigh around local streets.



Brentwood voted England's third-best place to live if you have teenagers

Anyone who's familiar with the sights and sounds of Brentwood knows it's one of the greatest places to live.

As well as having a supportive and nurturing business community, there are lots of great shops and restaurants, plenty of green spaces and the schools are top notch.

So it will come as no surprise our corner of the globe was voted England's third best place to live for families with teenagers.

Research by estate agents Savills included a house-hunting metric aimed for people with teenage children, examining English local authorities in the top half of the deprivation index, which ranks regions by measurements such as life expectancy.

Savills then sought out schools that were rated "good" or "outstanding" by Ofsted, concluding that Brentwood was the third best place to move to if you have teenage children in the whole of England.

The top spot was taken by North Lincolnshire which came in at the top with 13 good or outstanding schools, while Hertfordshire, which borders Essex, was second.

Brentwood most days, and he visited special friends at the Special Needs and Parents (SNAP) charity.

Rotary Club of Brentwood would like to say a special thanks to all the people who helped them return to a "near normal" Christmas this year:

- The volunteers, who towed the Sleigh through Brentwood and came out with them on all our Christmas activities!
- To Allen Ford, who offered the use of one of their new vehicles for the first two weeks of December to tow the sleigh
- To the local people of Brentwood who gave so generously to the Rotary Club of Brentwood's charities, the members who, year on year, give up their time to the festive activities, and Brentwood Borough Council who always support all their work

Rotary Club of Brentwood said: "We do not know at this stage how much money was raised – we are still doing the accounting – but we do know it was more than £13,000, which will go to local charities and good causes in Brentwood."

If you are interested in finding out more about the activities of the Rotary Club of Brentwood and are interested in helping on an ad hoc basis (Friend of Rotary) or become a Rotarian then please contact us at www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/page.php?PgID=358632&ClubID=1393

Events

Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Business Breakfast

April 8th, 7:30am - 9:00am, at Marygreen Manor Hotel

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 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 slot, which can include a Q&A providing interaction with attendees.
- The opportunity to include a video presentation in the 10 minute slot.

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 TEES LAW



FRIDAY 8 APRIL 2022 | 7.30AM - 9.00AM
MARYGREEN MANOR HOTEL | CM14 4NS

Price increase for Business Breakfast

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

The next event will be held on April 8th, between 7:30am - 9:00am, at our traditional venue of Marygreen Manor Hotel.

However, they too are not immune to the current economic realities and informed the Chamber that, from April, they will be increasing their rates, their first increase for at least eight years.

As a result, prices for our Business Breakfasts from April will be rising as follows:

- £14 Early bird member
- £17 Full price member
- £20 Non member

For more information or, if you want to sponsor a Business Breakfast and wish to reserve your month, contact the office at: chamber.office@brentwoodchamber.co.uk.

Kids Inspire plan London to Paris charity bike ride

Cycling from London to Paris has to be one of the best bike rides Europe can offer, so why not join us for a truly inspirational experience - and help raise valuable funds for Kids Inspire?

This three-day adventure begins in London and, at just over 180 miles, travels through some glorious undulating countryside on route to the ferry from Newhaven to Dieppe.

Whether you are a regular cyclist or simply a novice, as long as you are willing to train, then this event is perfect for you as Chapeau Events cater for all levels of ability.



The piece de resistance is the spectacular view of the 324-metre Eiffel Tower, marking the ride's finish and certainly evoking a huge sense of achievement, not to mention those unforgettable memories!

The trip will be led by experienced Chapeau Events crew, breakfast, lunch, and evening meals are provided as part of the event package. Accommodation will be mostly in 3-4* hotels, chosen for their proximity to the route.

You can find all the details and a link to register at www.chapeauvents.co.uk/?page_id=3802 - and don't forget to bring your bike!

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