



The results are in for the Sportstiks Brentwood Half Marathon and Fun Run

Last month, more than 1,500 people took to the streets for the 40th Sportstiks Brentwood Half Marathon and Fun Run - one of the landmark events in the Brentwood calendar.

Sponsored by Sportstiks, Chamber member Pinney Talfourd Solicitors and Sports Injury Clinic, it was the first to be held under the watchful eyes of a new organising team, comprising Chamber members Saint Francis Hospice and The Brentwood Theatre and with the support of the Brentwood Running Club, alongside the Brentwood à Becket Rotary Club.

The men's half marathon results saw Joshua Entwistle of Woodford Green AC with Essex Ladies achieve first place, with a time of 01:09:54, followed by Crispian Bloomfield of Billericay Striders RC at 01:10:53, while third place was taken by James Rygate, notching up an impressive 01:12:37.

Rebecca Bunting of London Heathside Runners AC claimed top spot in the women's race with a time of 01:18:16, followed by Charlotte Bishop of Basildon AC at 01:23:09, and Stephanie Migliorini of Leigh on Sea Striders with a time of 01:25:47.

While the top three in the men's and women's races won a respective £300, £200 and £100, everyone who completed the event received a commemorative medal.

The Chamber extends its hearty congratulations to the six winners and hopes everyone who took part had a wonderful time.

Watch this space for news about the final total raised by the plucky fun-runners.

Save the date: Meet the Chamber & AGM

Brentwood Chamber of Commerce warmly invite you to our annual Meet the Chamber & AGM event, which will be held on Thursday 19th May (venue tbc). The evening will commence with drinks and networking from 6:30pm until 7pm, followed by the AGM.

This year's guest speaker is Barry Hearn, OBE, who promises to deliver a positive and inspiring message to all our local businesses. If you heard Barry speak at last year's Brentwood Business Showcase, you cannot fail to have been inspired by the Matchroom President and we are very much looking forward to hearing his pearls of wisdom once again.

Full details of the event will be circulated asap but please do save the date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you in person at the event.

Provisional deal struck for a cinema at Brentwood's Baytree Centre

Chamber member Brentwood Borough Council, via its wholly owned company Seven Arches Investments Ltd, are a step closer to bringing the big screen to Brentwood following "productive" discussions with a major cinema chain.

Detailed talks took place in the last few months over a new three-screen cinema in the Baytree Centre as part of the phase one redevelopment and terms have been provisionally agreed, subject to formal sign off by the respective decision making boards, planning permission being granted and development.

Leader of Brentwood Borough Council, Councillor Chris Hossack, said: "The council's acquisition of the Baytree Centre was fundamental in enabling our regeneration and transformation plans for the town centre.

"We have talked about a cinema for too long in Brentwood, so it is great news to finally be able to announce we have a fantastic operator onboard to bring an exciting new facility for the long-term benefit of the town centre and our residents across the borough."



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Phoenix FM boss Paul Golder hits the road for St Francis' Hospice

Spare a thought for Phoenix FM boss Paul Golder if you're dodging April Fools pranks on the first of the month, because that's the date he kicks off his epic 874-mile challenge for Chamber member Saint Francis Hospice, aiming to raise £5,000.

His starting point is Cornwall's Lands' End and, 10 weeks, 874 miles (and several thousand pounds later) he aims to end his trek in John O'Groats in Scotland, walking around six hours per day, come rain or shine.

Paul says: "Walking from Lands End to John O'Groats is something I've always been interested in. I'd read blogs from people who've done challenges like this and it really inspired me. I wanted to be able to do something that I can look back on and feel proud of."

Brentwood residents braced for broadband

An extra 14,000 premises in Brentwood are set to be connected to BeFibre's full-fibre network after the company moved a team of engineers into the region.

BeFibre's sister firm, Digital Infrastructure, will deploy and operate the fibre-to-the-premises network, enabling users to download an hour-long TV show in seven seconds, or 500 Spotify songs in 25 seconds.

The roll-out, expected to be finished by the end of this year, aims to cover 80 locations and one million premises by 2027 using existing ducts to minimise disruption and reduce costs.

BeFibre sales director Tim Dagnell-Scott said: "It's important that we have a visible presence in Brentwood from an early stage in our broadband roll out – not least because we want to help bust the myths surrounding internet connectivity."

"So many consumers think they have full fibre but they actually don't. For instance, because our connectivity is full-fibre down the 'last mile' – right up to your door – customers enjoy the connectivity they pay for, not merely a proportion of it."

"The time is right in my life to do it now. I thought it would be fun to start south and follow the spring as I head up north with the sun on my back."

He goes on: "I'll also be raising money for Saint Francis Hospice as I go. We've worked closely with the hospice for many years and all the team at Phoenix FM are huge supporters of the charity."

"I've also seen the good work it does first-hand as the nurses and everyone at the hospice were very good to my mother in her final months and gave her and my father the support and comfort they needed."

"I'm excited and a bit nervous as the start date approaches but I know I'll have great support every step of the way." You can support Paul's fundraising efforts at www.justgiving.com/golder and find out more about St Francis' Hospice at www.sfh.org.uk.

BeFibre CEO Charlie Ruddy added: "We're providing local communities with a fit-for-the-future infrastructure that delivers the guaranteed speeds people need now and for years to come. This is a brand-new network that will leave a positive legacy in society."

Representatives from BeFibre will be speaking to residents who will be able to access the service in the coming weeks and months. To find out whether you can access BeFibre's full fibre broadband, input your postcode at www.be-fibre.co.uk/Brentwood.





Domestic abuse is costing your business time and money

Essex Chambers of Commerce and Industry, supported by Chamber member Alpha Vesta, the Deputy Police & Fire Commissioner for Essex, Jane Gardner, and Practical HR, are looking for SMEs in Essex to join them in their quest to raise awareness of domestic abuse in the workplace. While the focus is on domestic abuse, this is also part of a wider wellbeing agenda.

The organisation said: "We are aiming to produce an employer's charter and practical tools that can be provided to SMEs to help them raise awareness and provide support and training for employees around domestic abuse and its impact across their workforce and on their business."

"We want the initiative to take up minimum time and resources for the business as we know how busy SMEs are. However, this could benefit any company in terms of increased engagements, productivity, reduced absence and turnover. It will help SMEs to take a pro-active approach to wellbeing and genuinely provide help and support to those who may need it.

If you cannot make the Forum but are interested in helping raise awareness in your workplace, email enquiries@essexchambers.co.uk

Date: Friday 8th April 2022 11.00am to 2.00pm
The Holiday Inn, 77 Eastwoodbury Crescent, Southend-on-Sea SS2 6XG

Cost to attend: FREE - Only one attendee per company

Spaces are limited - book now at www.essexchambers.co.uk/events.htm

**saint
francis
hospice**



**Grab your
place for Saint
Francis' Ride
for London**

Cyclists across Brentwood will be thrilled to learn Ride London is back! It will take place on Sunday 29 May 2022, and has a new format, new routes and a new partnership with Essex County Council.

Chamber member Saint Francis Hospice has a limited number of places for this event that will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis, and asks those who sign up to pledge to raise a minimum of £450 in sponsorship.

RideLondon is organised by London Marathon Events, and is a unique opportunity to ride 100 miles on traffic-free roads through the heart of London and neighbouring Essex.

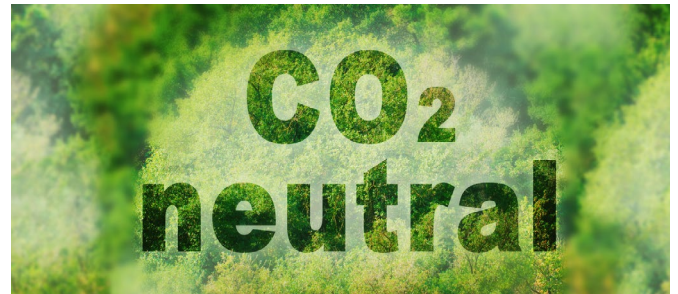
Participants will set off from Victoria Embankment in central London and into Essex via the historic Epping Forest.

Once in Essex, riders will glide past some of the county's most picturesque towns and villages, including Ongar, Fyfield, the Rodings and Great Dunmow, before joining a section of the 2014 Stage Three Tour de France route.

That part of the course will guide riders through Felsted and around the county town of Chelmsford before heading through Writtle and back towards Ongar and central London.

Once in central London, participants will then complete their ride to rapturous applause at Tower Bridge – a stunning finish line for the 100-mile challenge.

You can find out more details and register at www.sfh.org.uk/ride-london.



Brentwood Council commits to becoming carbon neutral by 2040

Chamber member Brentwood Council has pledged to become carbon neutral in under 20 years, and aims to encourage residents to change their behaviour to achieve the goal.

This is because although the Council is directly behind up to 5% of borough emissions, it has the ability to influence up to 33% of total emissions generated by people living and working here.

The Council's broad-ranging strategy includes using the Brentwood Environmental Business Alliance (www.brentwood-beba.co.uk) to encourage and educate local businesses to cut their environmental impact.

Brentwood Borough Council leader, Chris Hossack, said: "Wherever possible these objectives and these actions should be smart, they should be specific, they should be measurable and they should be time-bound and they should be realistic.

Events

Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Business Breakfast

April 8th, 7:30am - 9:00am,
at Marygreen Manor Hotel.
Tickets cost £14. Book [here](#).

SNAP Business Forum

26 April, 6:00pm - 8:00pm at The
SNAP Centre. £10 donation

Refreshments include an Indian buffet
from Chamber member Tastefully
Yours Catering. Book [here](#).

Brentwood Council signs up for Essex+ Rewards Scheme

Chamber member Brentwood Council has confirmed it is taking part in the new Essex+ Reward Scheme.

The free card enables users to build points and collect rewards across participating local businesses, while they are able to enhance community relationships, boost engagement, customer loyalty and, ultimately, sales.

Find out more information and to get your card visit www.yourcommunitycard.co.uk/essex-plus

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

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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

SNAP Business Forum

Tuesday 26th April 2022
The SNAP Centre

Come and join us for an informal networking session where you can meet new contacts and take a closer look at the valuable, award-winning work we do for the community.



■ Sarah Murphy, Birkett Long

Birkett Long welcomes Sarah Murphy to its residential real estate team

Chamber member Birkett Long (www.birkettlong.co.uk) is delighted to announce that solicitor Sarah Murphy has been appointed to its residential real estate team. She will be acting on behalf of clients in purchases and sales of leasehold and freehold residential properties, transfers of equity, re-mortgages, first registrations and legal charges.

Sarah qualified from Queen's University Belfast with a Bachelor of Laws degree in 2018 and qualified as a solicitor in 2021. As a Northern Irish qualified solicitor, Sarah has the benefit of blended learning. Her training contract constituted a mix of in office training, teaching, and both practical and written exams.

Sarah says: "I was always drawn to property law. Initially I thought I would be suited to family law practice, but I kept coming back to maps and deeds. I find the history of properties fascinating and for me there is nothing better than helping someone buy their first home."

Sarah said: "I was particularly drawn to Birkett Long because of their impact in the community. They care and want to give back. A firm that cares for their community is a firm for me!"

"I work in an amazing team of experienced, knowledgeable, and approachable individuals. I love gaining experience from working with other members of my team and look forward to working with them in the future."

Let's Connect:

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