



Brentwood Business of the year – Zest Recycling. Photo: Carmel Jane

Business Awards goes from strength to strength

Now in its 4th year the Brentwood Business Awards continue to get bigger and better. This year the Awards Ceremony returned to Brentwood, hosted by the Brentwood Centre and the excellent team at Everyone Active.

The main hall was transformed into a glamorous gala evening venue with the added attraction of the cluster of grass animals supplied by Easigrass Essex.

Over 200 people came together to enjoy a celebration of business success in Brentwood with nominations for 'Best in category' in no less than 12 categories.

The twelve category winners

Best Sole Trader – Sponsored by Nuffield Health

Winner — Chicken & Frog Book Shop

Best SME – Sponsored by You & I Care

Winner — Zest Recycle

Best Large Business – Sponsored by Easigrass Essex

Winner — Matchroom

Best Sales & Marketing – Sponsored by Blue Serif

Winner — Wylie Wellness Centre

Best Customer Service – Sponsored by Bennetts Funerals

Winner — Beauty of Heaven

Best Local Charity – Sponsored by Rainer Hughes

Winner — Snap

In addition as always the most prestigious award was for the Overall Business of the year sponsored by Pinney Talford. The runner up was Howe Chartered Surveyors – but the winner and therefore overall best business of the year 2022 was Zest Recycle.

Congratulations to all of the finalists, particularly the overall winner, Zest Recycle. We were also pleased to introduce two new categories this year, Rising Star, aimed at the under 25's (won by Freddie Foster); and People's Choice. People's Choice was sponsored by the Brentwood Open Facebook page - operated by Brentwood Business Partnership. This provoked a huge amount of interest and nominations came from a large number of its nearly 15,000 followers, finally whittling down to the winner, Sophisticated Entertainment.

The evening was a great opportunity to cast off the shackles of the last couple of years and demonstrate that business in Brentwood is in good health, and that the business people in Brentwood are as entrepreneurial and forward thinking as ever.

Planning and preparation for the 2023 Awards has already begun, with the first stage being confirmation of all the sponsors. If you would like to find out more about the benefits of sponsorship, then contact Leah Burke – Leah.Burke@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk

Best Community Engagement – Sponsored by Hallmark Care Homes

Winner — Minus Cloud Nine

Best Environmental Initiative – Sponsored by BEBA (Brentwood Environment Business Alliance)

Winner — Treehouse Club Forestry Nursery

Best Business Person – Sponsored by Tees Law

Winner — Kaye Thurgood

Rising Star – Sponsored by ERB Commercial Insurance

Winner — Freddie Foster Cotton Textile Co.

Employer of the year – Sponsored by AA&T

Winner — The Treehouse Club Forestry Nursery

People's Choice – Sponsored by Brentwood Open

Winner — Sophisticated Entertainment



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Carers First Sponsored the November Breakfast

Monthly Business Breakfast

After an enforced Covid break the monthly Business Breakfast at Marygreen Manor is back up and running, with attendances gradually increasing.

The Business Breakfast is held on the second Friday of each month, with informal networking from 7:30am till 8am followed by breakfast and structured networking from 8am till 9am.

There is a £14 charge for members (if booked and paid in advance), which includes a full breakfast. Non-members are also welcome to attend (£19), as it is an excellent opportunity to find out more about the Chamber.

We also have an excellent sponsorship package available for members...

Business Breakfast Exclusive Sponsorship Package

An exclusive high-profile Sponsorship Package is available for our Business Breakfast each month, which includes:

- A one-minute introduction at the previous month's Breakfast
- 5 free places at your sponsored Business Breakfast for your clients, employees or guests
- A ten-minute introduction and presentation slot for your company at the Business Breakfast
- An opportunity to display publicity at the event
- Publicity in the previous month's Chamber of Commerce newsletter
- Publicity on the Chamber of Commerce website.

All of the above for the price of £150, which represents an excellent opportunity to promote your organisation to the business people of Brentwood. Monthly Sponsorship is now available for 2023. For more information or to reserve your month, contact the Chamber office – Office@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk

The Newsletter returns

After an enforced break of a few months we are pleased to be able to bring you this edition of the newsletter.

Our newsletter editor Emma Goode had to step down from the Chamber Committee due to other work commitments and it has taken us a while to find a replacement. We would like to thank Emma for all that she did for the Chamber, both editing the newsletter and also managing our social media.

Our thanks, as always to James Dawson of JD Designs for designing the newsletter for us.

The newsletter is an opportunity for you to tell all the members of the Chamber what is happening in your organisation, so if you have any news or articles, which you think would be of interest to our members, then we would be happy to hear from you – Office@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk

Brentwood à Becket Rotary Club

Chamber member Brentwood à Becket Rotary Club talk about their recently created Corporate Membership category.

Corporate Membership is designed to appeal to local businesses, non-profits, educational institutions and local organisations to enable them to give back to the community while developing their employees' personal and professional skills through the worldwide Rotary network.

Within many businesses, management and other employees will want to add Rotary membership to their CV's because they recognize Rotary's worldwide reputation for combining business networking with community service. A corporate membership will give your employees the chance to learn about the needs of their community and to serve it well, while experiencing personal satisfaction knowing they're helping others. By offering the perk of Rotary membership, you show employees that your business cares about their personal and professional development.

How corporate membership works:

Two employees can join as members of Rotary, and both would be eligible to vote on Club matters.

Business entities are able to display the Rotary roundel on promotional material to indicate their community involvement with the organisation through their employees.

Other advantages of corporate membership include:

Community awareness and engagement - employees meet, socialise and have fun with other business minded people and expand their understanding of the community's needs and wants.

Rotary – has a global network of 1.2 million members around the world. Wherever you're travelling, there's likely a Rotary club with local business and community leaders nearby to welcome you.

Networking opportunities - through Rotary, businesspeople can make important contacts that can lead to profitable business ventures.

Commitment to service - employees recognize and appreciate the company's commitment to serving others; service becomes part of the corporate culture.

Interested?

Like to know more, then simply contact membership chairman, Greg Roberts, by either Mobile: 07976 351969 or by Email: greg_gr_roberts@talk21.com



Julian Goode on his Really Goode Walk

A Really (Long) Goode Walk

Chamber member Julian Goode of 'Goode Walks' recently returned from a mammoth sponsored walk.

Julian Goode has completed a 500-mile six-week sponsored walk across the UK to raise money for two charities that have helped him in his battle with Leukaemia.

'A Really Goode Walk' saw him trek across Wales, Northern Ireland, England and Scotland during October and November – which has already brought in more than £5,000 for Barts Charity and Anthony Nolan.

Starting off in Chepstow and walking to Prestatyn on the Offa's Dyke Path in north Wales, he then crossed Northern Ireland from Kilkeel on the Irish Sea to Derry on the north west coast; crossed northern England on the Hadrian's Wall Path, before walking from Dunbar on Scotland's North Sea coast to Helensburgh north of Glasgow.

"It was a real challenge, not least as I caught Covid two weeks before I set off, so the first couple of weeks were a struggle as a result," said Julian, whose Brentwood-based business offers corporate walks for companies, and guided walks for groups and individuals.

"Then I had to nurse my way through painful shin splints across Northern Ireland and again in the last few days in Scotland. But the scenery, the people I met along the way, and the donations coming in all helped to keep me going in those difficult moments.

"It was great to make it to the finish in Helensburgh, although on the worst weather day of the whole six weeks - I was soaked through, and freezing! But when you know how much you've raised for two amazing charities it's all worth it," explained the former Chamber executive committee member.

Diagnosed in May 2019, Julian has been under the care of Barts Hospital since; and received a stem cell transplant from an anonymous donor on Anthony Nolan's donor register.

"Without them I wouldn't be here now, wouldn't have been able to re-train as a Mountain Training qualified Lowland Leader and start Goode Walks, and wouldn't have been able to do the Walk," added Julian. "It was my way of being able to give something back; and to help those that will sadly come after me and need similar help."

You can find out more at: www.goodewalks.co.uk/a-really-goode-walk

And make a donation via: www.justgiving.com/team/AReallyGoodeWalk

New Admin Manager

Our Office Manager, Caroline Judd, has now stepped aside from her position as Office Manager. She will however continue to co-ordinate the Brentwood Business Awards, which now consume an increasing amount of her time.

It has become clear that managing the Business Awards as well as the administration of the Chamber is a considerable workload for one person.

As the only 'employee' of the Chamber, Caroline has done an excellent job over the past 5 years, and has played an integral part in the development of the Chamber.

We have now recruited a new Admin Manager, Donna Wilkes, who will be responsible for the day to day administration of the Chamber and our various events. Donna has a wealth of commercial experience in Administration and Sales & Marketing for various financial institutions in the City.

She is particularly pleased to be working for an organisation promoting business in Brentwood, as she and her family are Brentwood based.

Teamwork

With the World cup underway Chamber Chairman, Colin Barber provides some insights into teamwork –

All for one, One for all

Teamwork is a common phrase in business and, undoubtedly, good teamwork is synonymous with a successful organisation.

The basic philosophy behind a team is that the sum of the whole is more effective than the sum of the parts. In other words six people working together towards a common goal are more likely to achieve their goal than those six people working individually towards the same goal.

However there are some important criteria, which would have to be true in order for a team to be totally effective:

- The team must have a clear and common goal and each team member must be striving towards that goal to the exclusion of their personal goals.
- There must be total harmony within the team, with each team member clear about their role and how that role interacts with the rest of the team.
- There must be a high level of rapport among the team, with each member aware of the needs of others and willing to support when necessary.
- There must be no external distraction, so that the team can be totally focussed on achieving their goal.

In a working environment it is unlikely that all four of these criteria would be totally true, but the closer you can get to achieving these, the more effective your team will be.

How effective is your team?

If you are interested in finding out more about teamwork training and team building events, then contact Colin Barber: ColinBarber@ManagementMechanic.com

www.ManagementMechanic.com

'Meet the Members' Returns

Following on from a protracted Covid enforced break one of our most popular events 'Meet the Members' is returning in January.

'Meet the Members' is what the Chamber is all about. It gives us all an opportunity to go and see a member at their place of business and gain a much greater understanding of what they do. At the height of its popularity in 2019 we were running these events twice a month.

The event is completely free – we do not charge anything for members to attend and we do not charge the member for the privilege of hosting the event, we simply recommend that they provide some refreshments for the guests

The first 'Meet the Members' event will be hosted by Nuffield Health at the Nuffield Hospital in Brentwood on 26th January.

We have several more members wanting to host an event, and we will be circulating more dates shortly. We would particularly like to hear from members who have the facilities to host an outdoor 'Meet the Members' in the summer.

Subscriptions

Now is the time when we send out our annual subscription renewal invoices. After several years without an increase, we have reluctantly had to make some increases this year. In comparison to subscription rates charged by Chambers of Commerce in similar sized towns, we believe that our rates offer good value for money and hope that membership of the Chamber will continue to grow.

Do remember that we do not receive any government grants, and we rely solely on your subscriptions to cover the cost of running the Chamber.

We would appreciate it if you could pay your subscription as soon as possible, and if paying by bank transfer, remember to quote your membership number.

Brentwood Chamber of Commerce
Town Hall
Ingrave Road
Brentwood
Essex
CM15 8AY
01277 214814
office@brentwoodchamber.co.uk
www.brentwoodchamber.co.uk

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SPONSORED BY TEES
WITH GUEST SPEAK MICHAEL CONYER MBE
WINNER OF THE COMMUNITY HERO AWARD @ BRENTWOOD BUSINESS AWARDS 2021
Thursday 15 December 2022 | 12pm - 3pm | Mount Avenue Banqueting Suite
brentwoodchamber.co.uk/event/chamber-christmas-luncheon

Upcoming Events

December

Friday 8th - Business Breakfast at Marygreen Manor Hotel, sponsored by Zest Recycling

Book Here: www.brentwoodchamber.co.uk/event/december-business-breakfast

Thursday 15th - Christmas Lunch at Mount Avenue Banqueting Suite sponsored by Tees

Book Here: www.brentwoodchamber.co.uk/event/chamber-christmas-luncheon

January

Friday 13th - Business Breakfast at Marygreen Manor Hotel, sponsored by I&BA events

Book Here: www.brentwoodchamber.co.uk/events/category/chamber-networking-events

Thursday 26th January - Meet the Members hosted by Nuffield Health at Brentwood Hospital

Book Here: www.brentwoodchamber.co.uk/events/category/chamber-networking-events

February

Friday 10th - Business Breakfast at Marygreen Manor Hotel, sponsored by Resolve Building Claims

Book Here: www.brentwoodchamber.co.uk/events/category/chamber-networking-events

Brentwood Open Facebook Group

A lot of you will be familiar with the Brentwood Open Facebook group, and when we posted in the group recently to publicise our search for a new Admin Manager, we had a huge response.

The group was set up by the Brentwood Business Partnership in 2020 as a means of helping local businesses publicise their products and services during and after Covid. It is free to use, and anyone who has a business based in Brentwood can use it to promote their services. It is also an excellent resource if you are looking for a supplier of a particular product or service in Brentwood.

Let's Connect:

Twitter: @BwdChamber

Facebook: @BrentwoodChambers

Instagram: @brentwoodessexchamber

LinkedIn: /company/brentwood-essex-chamber-of-commerce

YouTube: youtube.com/channel/UC39BxChrewL2v9P1KYEE8Jw

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