

Annual Chamber of Commerce Awards nominations are open

Your platform to shine in prestigious awards



Overall Business of the Year 2022 - **Zest Recycle**

The well-respected Chamber of Commerce Awards represent a great opportunity to recognise and celebrate fantastic local businesses throughout Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone. Entering can help raise your profile and there is still an opportunity to enter; submissions close on 14th July, 2023.

Entering the awards gives you a chance to take stock and reflect on your successes and what you have achieved and can help you benchmark your business against your peers.

Entering is easy and online. Many of the categories have just a few questions about your business and information which can be saved and finished off at a later date. Here's a reminder of the categories:

- **Best Sole Trader**
- **Best Small/Medium Business**
- **Best Large Business**
- **Best Sales & Marketing**
- **Best Customer Service**
- **Best Local Charity**
- **Best Community Engagement**
- **Best Business Person of the Year**
- **Rising Star**
- **Best Employer**

The Awards ceremony will take place on 10th November at **Stock Brook Manor**.

To submit or recommend a business, plus view the 2022 winners, nominees and awards night show reel visit- brentwoodchamber.co.uk/brentwood-business-awards-2022-finalists/



Charity of the Year 2022 - **SNAP**

"We were so thrilled and honoured to win Charity of the Year. To be recognised in the community for our dedication and support to over 3,800 Essex families, was such an honour and truly gave the whole **SNAP** team such a boost. It helped us to take a step back and be proud of our work as a local charity."

Karen Boath, CEO

Rising Star 2022 - **Freddie Foster, The Cotton Textile Company**

"At the **Cotton Textile Company** and **Branded Workwear** we believe in growing the team from within and ensuring that everyone is constantly developing.

Freddie had shown huge prowess since he joined us and it seemed logical to put him forward. Freddie's award was totally justified and a great achievement.

Commercially for the business the publicity in both the lead up and post event has created a lot of awareness locally for us, in particular our **Branded Workwear** business."

Richard King, CEO



Nominations have also now opened for the 'People's Choice Award'. This is a chance to vote for your favourite Brentwood based business until 31st August, 2023. To vote click [here](#)

"Winning the People's Choice Award 2022 really helped my business. It gave myself and the team a huge boost and a feeling of support whilst growing our business. I would highly recommend taking part, it has definitely helped

put **Sophisticated Entertainment Ltd** on the map amongst the wonderful people of Brentwood!" **Sophia-Marie Hornsey, Founder and Director**





AGM reflects on resilience and spirit of local business



The Chambers AGM in May, hosted at Brentwood Theatre, was well attended by members.

Below: The new BID logo.



A big thanks to everyone who attended this year's AGM held at [Brentwood Theatre](#). Attendees were greeted on arrival by fantastic singing provided by Sophisticated Entertainment before the audience heard positive views on the prospects for local businesses and the economy as the recovery from Covid continues.

The message from Chairman Colin Barber was upbeat, highlighting the programme of support for business and networking events which the Chamber has lined up in the coming months. 'Meet the Members' events offer the opportunity for companies to showcase their businesses; training courses being offered such as the recent one designed to help businesses get the best use out of the Brentwood Open Facebook Group with other workshops being planned. Colin also announced that a new category of membership is to be introduced – Associate Member. More details will follow shortly.

The meeting also heard from guest keynote

speaker, Alex Burghart MP, who also had a positive message about prospects for local businesses in this post-covid recovery period; he praised the 'get up and go spirit' always shown by Brentwood businesses, well known for their resilience and enterprise.

Brentwood Theatre took centre stage as a great venue, with delegates also enjoying networking opportunities over refreshments courtesy of [CJ Patisserie](#).

The Chair of the Brentwood Business Partnership, Kaye Thurgood, also spoke about the extensive work that has been done, in a partnership effort by the Council and local businesses, to create a Business Improvement District (BID).

LATEST NEWS: Businesses in Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone have voted in favour of forming the Brentwood Connected Business Improvement District (BID).

The total turnout by eligible ratepayer for the election was 35%. The votes cast in favour were 140 (80%) and the total value of the hereditaments for the votes cast in favour was £9,273,250 (87%).

The BID's first term will run from 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2028. For more information brentwood.gov.uk/brentwood-connected-bid-ballot

New Chamber members welcomed

If you are a local business and have not yet been to a Chamber of Commerce event, you are very welcome to come along to take advantage of the Chamber's programme. To find out more visit the website at brentwoodchamber.co.uk. If you would like to join the Chamber and have not yet joined email us at: Office@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk

Thanks to April's Meet the Members host

DiemX Ltd (formerly I&BA) is a dynamic and innovative business development firm dedicated to helping companies grow and succeed. The company offers a wide range of services: planning, market research, entrepreneurial coaching, marketing, recruitment, consulting, and business events - diemx.co.uk/

Thanks to May's Business Breakfast sponsor

Brentwood á Becket Rotary Club has recently created a new Corporate Membership category. Designed to appeal to local businesses, professional practices, non-profits, government entities, 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 - brentwoodabecketrotary.org/

These monthly events are an excellent opportunity to meet your fellow members, increase connections, build collaborations but most importantly to support each other. [See page 4 for upcoming events and enquiry contact information.](#)

Welcome Councillor Steve Mayo



Brentwood Chamber of Commerce would like to take the opportunity to welcome recently appointed, Steve Mayo, to the Chambers committee as the Council representative.

Steve was elected as representative for Brentwood West for the Liberal Democrats in the local elections in early May.

He has lived in Brentwood for more than 50 years and attended Brentwood Country High School where he has also previously served as a school governor for six years.

Steve now wants to build on his contribution to the local community, including working closely with the Chamber and representing business.

Steve's new role comes after the May council elections resulted in a new administration run by a Liberal Democratic and Labour coalition.

Councillor Barry Aspinell is now leader of Brentwood Council with Will Russell the new leader of the Conservative group in opposition.

Steve Mayo said he was delighted to represent the council on the Chamber.

"I am privileged to have been appointed as the new Council representative and, after almost 30 years in IT and retail management, I hope to add to the considerable experience on the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Executive in support of our town's businesses. The Borough will be a better place the more businesses of all sizes thrive."

Leah is our new Vice Chair

After serving for seven years as Vice Chairman, Peter Clements, has stepped down to be replaced by Leah Burke, who many of you will know through her efforts in ensuring the ongoing success of the Brentwood Business Awards.

Peter has agreed to remain as Treasurer for the time being, but we are looking for a replacement. If any members are aware of any accountants who would be interested in the role, please get in touch.

Chairman, Colin Barber, said: "I would like to thank Peter for his hard work and support and am pleased to see Leah taking up the role of vice Chair, I look forward to working with her to ensure the continued success of the Chamber."



Leah Burke (right) alongside committee member, Sandy Brown, at a recent business showcase at the Brentwood Centre.

First 'Independents' Day

A recent initiative aimed at raising the profile of local independent businesses reached its pinnacle over the first weekend in July with a flurry of social media shout-outs to help make residents aware of the value independent businesses bring to the local community.

The campaign encouraged residents to Browse Brentwood's Businesses, Indulge in Ingatestone and Savour Shenfield's Shops so that the local community can reap the benefits of having small, independent businesses in the Borough. Independents that help to grow the number of jobs in the local area, and make for an even better place to live and work.

The campaign was supported by Brentwood Borough Council and the [Brentwood Business Partnership \(BBP\)](#), which is sponsored by [Beresfords](#) and [Tees Law](#). As part of the campaign, participating retailers were photographed at their business by local agency, [Blue Serif](#) who also created the campaign branding and social media content. The BBP have ambitious plans to grow this initiative. For more about the campaign and a list of 2023 participating businesses - discoverbrentwood.co.uk/independents-day This page will be updated with future opportunities too.



FREE health and wellbeing support for Essex businesses

This support - commissioned by Essex County Council - consists of a main offer of the Working Well Accreditation, alongside other related guidance such as HR support and training.

The Working Well accreditation is a holistic health and wellbeing accreditation that allows you to build, maintain and evidence a robust programme for your employees. As well as being recognised

for your commitment to health and wellbeing via this accreditation, your organisation will also gain a range of other benefits for free such as online training and access to specialists.

The actions required for accreditation are centred around the things that you may already be doing as an organisation to promote, educate, and support employee health - essexworkingwell.co.uk

Annual BBQ promises to be a real griller!

The Chambers annual Summer BBQ on 12th July from 6.00pm onwards is fast approaching; make sure you book a ticket.

Barry Hearn OBE, is hosting the BBQ in the grounds of [Matchroom's](#) HQ Mascalls Lane, Brentwood, with ticket sales raising funds for [Saint Francis Hospice](#). It promises to be a fun and relaxed evening, with food, drinks and performances from local band [FUNK2K](#) and [Sophisticated Entertainment](#).

With stunning views of London, the grounds are the perfect venue for a summer evening business event. For tickets please visit: eventbrite.co.uk/e/summer-bbq-tickets-642068192247. The ticket price includes food and drink (beer, wine and soft drinks.)

Please note that there will only be a limited number of parking spaces available, allocated on a first to book first to reserve basis.

Training Opportunities

The Chamber's recent workshop 'How to grow your business through Brentwood Open' was a great success. Local social media expert, Villene, answered questions from attendees relating to their individual businesses. Follow the Chamber's social media channels and website for news on upcoming workshops and seminars on men's mental health, cyber security and menopause in the workplace.

At a glance



July 2023

Business Breakfast sponsored by [Brentwood Borough Council](#)
Friday 7th July 7.30am, [Marygreen Manor](#)
Hear the latest news from your local council.

Meet the Members – Bennetts Funerals

Thursday 19th July 6:00pm - 8:00pm
"Fern House" 120 High Street, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4AS

Bennetts will be welcoming Chamber members and friends for a tour of their premises; see their vehicles and listen to informative talks on how the dedicated team work. Afterwards there will be further opportunity to catch-up with the team and enjoy a glass of Pimms and some light refreshments. Their ice cream cart will be centre stage, offering a limited range of flavours.

August 2023

Business Breakfast *Sponsorship opportunity*
Friday 11th August 7.30am, [Marygreen Manor](#)

September 2023

Business Breakfast sponsored by [Mullis and Peake](#)
Friday 8th September 7.30am, [Marygreen Manor](#)

Two great ways to showcase your business

Host your own Meet the Members event - whether you have an entertaining space at your company or hiring a local venue it's a chance to put the spotlight on your company's services and products to a wide audience of peers. Alternatively, sponsor one of the monthly networking breakfast meetings which includes a presentation spot at the event and team places. For enquiries contact Office@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk

Football tournament's charity pledge

[Bennetts Funerals](#) is organising a football tournament and family fun day in support of men's mental health awareness and suicide prevention on July 15th at [The Brentwood Centre](#), and there is still time to get involved as a business.

Beneficiaries [The Craig Tyler Trust](#) and [Andy's Man Club](#) - both work towards breaking down the stigma of men's mental health and who have teams trained to offer essential help and advice to those seeking support.

[Brentwood Town FC](#) have donated their facilities, including bar area, and the day will finish with a pre-season friendly against Potters Bar FC. There will be both an adult and junior football tournament as well as a

smaller veterans football event. Each game will be refereed, with winners' trophies presented to the junior teams and medals for all participants.

With family entertainment and ample catering, it promises to be a fantastic event.

If you are interested in business opportunities, entering an adults team, sponsorship, having a trade stand or advertising please contact Jane Bennett via jane@bennettsfunerals.co.uk or mobile 07808 470305.



Brentwood Chamber of Commerce

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