



Playing a game of Christmas True or False at the Christmas Lunch

Christmas Lunch 2023

On Friday 15 December we had a delicious Christmas Lunch at Warley Park Golf Club. The room was packed and we had plenty of fun; answering true or false Christmas questions and singing the 12 days of Christmas! Thank you Tees for sponsoring such a successful event.



Tees Law, this year's Christmas Lunch sponsor.

Paul Clement from Locus was our guest speaker and he shared his thoughts on the local BID (Business Improvement District). He said that high streets across Britain are changing; more people shop online, rising overheads are making traditional retail increasingly expensive, a lack of staff means reduced opening hours and shoplifting causes a real loss. The Brentwood BID is looking into bringing change to our high street through collaboration and offering customers what they can't find online. We look forward to seeing the progress on our local high streets.

We wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year

We hope that 2023 has been a successful year for you and your organisation. We have certainly enjoyed partnering with you. Here's to a happy and prosperous 2024 for you and yours!

Work underway to improve M25 junction 28

As you will be aware a major construction project is currently taking place with the intention of improving M25 junction 28. Daniel Cawthra, of the construction company, Graham, shared the following:

"In late 2022, we started work to improve M25 junction 28. This busy junction forms a key route between the M25 and A12, as well as providing local access to Brentwood and the A1023 Brook Street. At peak times up to 7,500 vehicles per hour pass through this junction.

We're carrying out a number of improvements to improve the flow of traffic, providing a safer and more integrated network for everyone, and bring real benefits to the drivers who use this junction daily.

We've been busy within our site between the M25 and A12, and you may have noticed lots of changes above ground, with piling machines, beam lifts, culverts being installed, and the landscape being reshaped. But there's also been a lot happening below ground, with our tunnel boring machine Tina helping divert a gas main; other service pipes and cables being moved; and protection installed over a fuel line.

We understand road closures can be frustrating, so we're doing as much work as we can within our site. We'll still need to have some closures, and we currently have a lane closed on the M25 anti-clockwise entry slip to allow us to safely build the new slip road. We'll make sure we give plenty of notice when any closures are planned.

Thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding as we work to improve this busy junction."

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Essex County Council and Brentwood Borough Council areas of responsibility

Essex County Council and Brentwood Borough Council work very closely together but have different responsibilities. We have sourced this helpful table to clearly show you which areas each council covers.

	Essex County Council	Brentwood Borough Council
Education	✓	
Highways	✓	
Transport planning	✓	
Passenger transport	✓	
Social care	✓	
Housing		✓
Libraries	✓	
Leisure and recreation		✓
Environmental health		✓
Waste collection		✓
Waste disposal	✓	
Planning applications		✓
Strategic planning	✓	
Local taxation collection		✓



Artist's impression of what Junction 28 will look like.

Member's News

Mullis & Peake LLP Solicitors - Local Wills and Probate team win two national awards

Mullis & Peake LLP Solicitors is delighted that their Wills & Probate team has won two national awards. The team won the Team of the Year (individual law) and Hazara Patel took home the award of Rising Star (under 35 years of age) at the LawNet awards 2023.

The LawNet awards took place on 10th November during the annual conference dinner at Celtic Manor Resort, Newport. LawNet member firms are part of a nationwide network committed to rigorous quality standards and best practice.

This is the third award their Wills & Probate department has been nominated for this year; they were nominated for Best Probate Law Firm (medium firm) at the UK Probate Research Awards 2023 and the head of the team, Manzurul Islam, was a finalist for Lawyer of the Year – Wills & Probate at the Modern Law Awards 2023.

Hazara has proven herself to be an excellent lawyer operating to a consistently high standard within their Wills and probate team. She has sought to stand out by undertaking the gruelling STEP qualification, which she passed with the highest grade of distinction.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Team of the Year (individual law) from left to right: Chris Marston from LawNet, Yvonne Hiron from Perfect Portal, Martyn Trenergy Chairman at Mullis & Peake, Manzurul Islam Head of Wills & Probate team, Hazara Patel Associate Solicitor in the Wills & Probate team and Helen Hamilton-Shaw from LawNet.



Paul Gulley, Chamber Executive Committee member

Meet the Committee

We thought that you would like to find out a bit more about the members of the Chamber Executive Committee, so each month we will be interviewing a different person. Starting this month with Paul Gulley, one of the longest serving members of our committee.

What is your role on the Chamber Committee?

Business Mentoring and Support, which is to support members with their business plans/aspirations and any issues that arise in the day to day management of their business.

Tell us about your current job.

I am employed by Swedish Bank, Handelsbanken Plc, we have 168 branches across the UK and I head up the corporate banking team located at our Chelmsford Branch.

What do you like about Brentwood?

I have lived in Brentwood for over 50 years and love the location, albeit it there have been many changes over those years, but the good points include the ease of commuting to London, the local road connections and most of all the open spaces and 'feel' of the town, which is friendly and family orientated.

What was your first job?

When I was at school I worked in a local garage washing cars, and then progressed to selling cars!

What job did you think you would like to do when you were a child?

I was always a car fanatic and dreamt of being a racing driver!

Who do you admire in the business world?

Brentwood has had a number of successful and self made businessmen over the years, including John Bairstow, John Carroll, Don Moody, Alan Sugar and Alan Cherry.

Have you had any mentors and if so, what did you learn from them?

I have had several mentors during my working life in the Banking and Finance sector, each has provided valuable guidance and best practice, but overall it is to 'trust your instinct'.

What advice would you give to someone just starting up in business?

Always have a solid well thought through Business Plan, review it regularly and adapt your business as your market conditions change and develop, but always remember your core goals and aims for the business.

How do you handle setbacks or frustrations?

Tomorrow is another day, and despite set backs or frustrations, you can always move forwards and rise to the challenges that your business gives you. Overall remain positive and determined to see things through.

What are your hobbies and interests outside of work?

I am a keen motor sport enthusiast, have a collection of classic cars and enjoy music, good food and socialising with friends.

Who would you like to spend one day with and why?

Alan Sugar, a self made billionaire and successful businessman!

Speed Networking

Brentwood Chamber and Brentwood Borough Council have joined forces to run this event. Most of you will be familiar with networking, but have you experienced Speed Networking? The benefit of Speed Networking is that it enables you to meet a lot of people in a short space of time, with the objective of finding a few people who you would like to connect with further. The format is structured, so no need to worry about who to talk to or how to approach them.

A light buffet lunch will be available after the event, which will give you the opportunity to continue networking.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Meet the Members

Meet the Members is a simple and effective approach to networking, with the unique attraction being that each event is hosted by a different member at their business premises.

It is an opportunity for a member to showcase their business and of course for other members to get ideas and inspiration by seeing how other businesses are run.

Another positive aspect is that there is no charge to either host an event or to attend one. All we suggest is that the host supplies some light refreshments.

Recent Meet the Members events have been hosted by a wide variety of members, including Nuffield Health, Blue Serif, DiemX and Reach Hippotherapy.

The events are normally held from 6pm till 8pm on a weekday evening, and we are flexible on dates. If you are interested in hosting an event or would like to hear more about what is involved please let us know.

office@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk

Upcoming Chamber Events

12 JAN

Friday

Business Breakfast at Marygreen Manor Hotel

Sponsored by Brentwood a Becket Rotary Club

[BOOK HERE](#)

24 JAN

Wednesday

Speed Networking at Old Brentwoods Club

Join us for a Speed Networking event jointly hosted by the Chamber and Brentwood Borough Council.

[BOOK HERE](#)

9 FEB

Friday

Business Breakfast at Marygreen Manor Hotel

Sponsored by SNAP

[BOOK HERE](#)

Upcoming Member Events

Pinney Talfourd - Wills & Lasting Power of Attorney Seminars

Pinney Talfourd are hosting a free seminar in their Brentwood High Street office discussing Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney.

10 February 2024

09:45 - 11:30am

30 High Street, Brentwood, Essex CM14 2AJ

[More information](#)

Brentwood Council - South Essex Business Expo

14 March 2024

10:00 - 15:00

The Brentwood Centre

If you would like to register your visit (free), book an exhibitor space or sponsor the event, [click here](#).

Let's Connect:

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