

## Meet the Chamber and AGM

**Thursday 9 May at 6:30pm**

Our annual *Meet the Chamber and AGM* will be held at the Old Brentwoods Club on Ashwells Road on 9 May at 6:30pm. We welcome members and non-members to attend. This will be an excellent opportunity for you to network and hear about the Chamber's plans for the forthcoming year. The fascinating Fraser Donaldson from [Easigrass](#) (Winner of The Brentwood Business Awards *Business Person of the Year*) will be our speaker.

There is no charge for attending, but please register on our website in advance, so that we know how many people to cater for.

We look forward to seeing you there.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & MEET THE CHAMBER

WITH GUEST SPEAKER  
FRASER DONALDSON FROM EASIGRASS

THURSDAY 9TH MAY  
6.30-9PM, OLD BRENTWOODS CLUB



## BUSINESS BREAKFASTS ARE MOVING TO WEDNESDAYS

### Business Breakfasts Moved to Wednesdays

Our Business Breakfasts have historically been held on the second Friday of every month. However, a market research exercise conducted earlier this year by [Gillian Brooks Ltd](#) highlighted to us that moving our Business Breakfasts from Friday to Wednesday will ultimately serve you better. More of the findings from this research project can be found further on in this newsletter.

Starting from June, we will be changing our monthly Business Breakfast day to every second Wednesday of the month. The first one will be on Wednesday 12 June and the details of how to book a place can be found [here](#). Please feel free to contact us with your thoughts on this change at [office@brentwoodchamber.co.uk](mailto:office@brentwoodchamber.co.uk).

### Sponsorship Opportunity

We have sponsorship opportunities available for our Business Breakfasts. These events are held at Marygreen Manor Hotel on the second Wednesday of each month, with informal networking from 7:30am - 8am followed by breakfast and structured networking from 8am - 9am.

For more information or to reserve your month, contact the Chamber office at [office@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk](mailto:office@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk)

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## Brentwood Business Barbecue

### Wednesday 17 July

As the weather warms up, we turn our attention to this year's eagerly anticipated summer barbecue. It is shaping up to be a major social and networking event and all businesses in Brentwood are invited. Chamber members will of course have discounted tickets so bring your colleagues and friends.

The Brentwood Business Barbecue will be held at Warley Park Golf Club on Wednesday 17th July. Many of you will remember that we held a very successful barbecue there two years ago. This is also the venue for our Christmas Lunch.

This will be a great event and we look forward to enjoying the sunshine with you.

A variety of sponsorship packages are available. Please contact us at [office@brentwoodchamber.co.uk](mailto:office@brentwoodchamber.co.uk) for further details.

Tickets will be available soon.

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## Market Research -

### What Do Other Chambers Do?

Earlier this year, we commissioned a market research project to better understand what other chambers do. We wanted to know if there were any gaps in what we offer you in comparison to what other chambers offer. We also wanted confirmation of what we are doing right. [Gillian Brooks Ltd](#) conducted this research for us and these are some of the findings:

1. Our membership fees are very competitive. The average annual starting fee is £234.52 while our fees start at £72.
2. Our membership levels are fair and comparable.
3. Wednesday is the most popular day for Business Breakfasts.
4. We offer a comparable level of networking opportunities.
5. Our members' directory requires updating.
6. Training is generally offered by members for members and there are a few opportunities that we can take hold of here.



This was a healthy exercise and we will be considering all the findings from this Market Research report and will update you on our progress. We are committed to offering affordable and effective support to businesses in Brentwood to help you start, grow and develop confidently.

We would like to hear from you so we can continue to improve. Please contact us at [office@brentwoodchamber.co.uk](mailto:office@brentwoodchamber.co.uk) if you have any feedback on these insights.

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## Lower Thames Crossing

Balfour Beatty has been awarded a £1.2 billion contract by National Highways to deliver the proposed Lower Thames Crossing. This crossing will create a new connection under the River Thames to increase capacity and ease congestion in the South of England.



Computer generated image of the Lower Thames Crossing A13 junction

Balfour Beatty will be responsible for the design and delivery of over 10 miles of new highways, connecting the M25 at Junction 29 and the A13 with the Lower Thames Crossing tunnel at Tilbury, Essex. In addition, the company will deliver 49 structures including bridges and major viaducts. Balfour Beatty will utilise modular construction techniques to build the structures offsite in a controlled factory environment, significantly reducing carbon emissions by minimising the number of lorry movements and material deliveries to and from site.

Throughout construction, Balfour Beatty will look to spend £500 million with local businesses and supply chain partners and will set up an 'Operator Skills Hub' to provide innovative training programmes to up-skill plant operators and inspire the next generation of talent in the UK.

The project is currently in its planning phase and completion is expected between 2029 and 2030. Balfour Beatty will directly employ a workforce of c.2,000 including c.150 apprenticeship, graduate and trainee positions.

If this is something you would like to get involved with, register your interest directly with National Highways using this link below.

[REGISTER YOUR INTEREST](#)

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## Meet the Member The Treehouse Club

The Treehouse Club are opening their doors to Chamber members. You are invited to enjoy a free activity using Thriftwood Scout Camp's facilities followed by a short walk back to the nursery for snacks and a look around the nursery setting.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Colin Barber,  
Chamber Chairman

## 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. This month, we have chosen to introduce you to our Chairman, Colin Barber.

### What is your role on the Chamber Committee?

I have been Chairman of the Chamber since 2016.

### Tell us about your current job?

I run a business called The Management Mechanic, offering training, consultancy and coaching, specialising in the application of psychology in business – ‘Helping you understand how people work’.

### What do you like about Brentwood?

The town has a strong sense of community, and a positive feel about it. Plus it is close to London, but surrounded by countryside.

### What was your first job?

When I was 16 I set up a window and floor cleaning business to finance my way through college, but my first full time job was as a trainee shop manager.

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

When I was very young I wanted to be a train driver (in the days of steam trains!), then later I wanted to be an airline pilot.

## Training: How To Grow Your Business Through The Brentwood Open Facebook Group

### Wednesday 22 May at 10am online

With over 15,000 members Brentwood Open has become the go to place for the people of Brentwood when looking for a product or service.

How can you utilise the group to attract some of those 15,000 members to your business?

Villene Hyam is a social media consultant and administrator of the Brentwood Open group. She has a wealth of experience and knowledge of social media and will demonstrate to you how to use this rapidly expanding group to your advantage.

Included in the session:

- Current trends and developments on social media platforms
- Examples of good and bad Facebook posts
- Answers to your questions, which can be submitted in advance
- Live Q&A slot towards the end of the session
- The session will be recorded and distributed to attendees afterwards

MORE INFORMATION

### Who do you admire in the business world?

Two of my current favourites are Tim Martin of Wetherspoons, who is always prepared to stick to his beliefs and Michael O’Leary of Ryanair, who has revolutionised the airline industry.

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

I have had many mentors, some people who I knew personally and some who I admired from a distance. I learnt a lot from mentors, but the two strongest messages were – Be prepared to swim against the tide and if you really believe something is possible, then you are much more likely to achieve it.

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

Know your target market. Don’t be afraid of failure – life is a learning curve.

### How do you handle setbacks or frustration?

I take a step back from the situation, look for the positive and then look for an alternative route to the solution.

### What are your hobbies and interests outside of work?

My primary hobby is travelling, I have an ambition to visit 100 countries (82 so far). Although I never became an airline pilot, I did get a private pilot’s licence a few years ago. I also enjoy skiing, snowboarding, cycling and kayaking.

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

I have studied many successful entrepreneurs, and the one who interested me the most was Walt Disney I would love to talk to him about the secrets of his success.

If it has to be someone who is still alive, then it would be the investment guru Warren Buffet, but it would have to be soon as he is 93!

## Promote Your Business With Us

Promotion is part of your many Chamber Membership Benefits so we won’t charge you a penny more for it.

You can promote your business in our monthly newsletter that reaches nearly 600 local subscribers, our socials (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter), our Business Directory and our website.

Please get in touch if:

- You have an event coming up and would like to invite others
- You’ve won an award and want others to know
- You’re new and would like to introduce yourself
- You simply have something to share

Contact us at [office@brentwoodchamber.co.uk](mailto:office@brentwoodchamber.co.uk) to add your news to our newsletter.

# Member's News

## Welcome To Our New Members



**ALEX KEAY**  
EXECUTIVE COACHING

Alex Keay from Kintra Wellbeing coaches business owners to gain clarity on what matters most.

- Tailored business & personal growth strategies
- Wellbeing habits to reduce stress
- Confidence to make sustainable changes

[CONTACT](#)

## REDIGITISED

In today's dynamic digital landscape, staying ahead requires more than just technology - it demands strategic vision. Redigitised specialises in crafting tailor-made digital solutions that propel businesses to new heights. From optimising infrastructure to harnessing the power of data analytics, their expert team will align your technology roadmap with your business objectives, ensuring seamless integration and maximum efficiency. Elevate your business to the next level with Redigitised.

[CONTACT](#)



**ASCENT RESILIENCE**

Ascent Resilience Limited, based in Essex, offers organisational resiliencies and training in emergency response, first aid, and fire awareness. Their experienced

team, led by veterans of the Emergency Services, delivers practical, real-world training designed to empower organisations to effectively manage risk and enhance safety. They're committed to evolving their services to exceed current standards, helping build safer, more resilient communities and work environments.

[CONTACT](#)



Personal Business Mentor that helps business owners gain clarity, focus and direction and also implement the fractional differences to really accelerate

their business forward and put them in a winning position.

They work with leaders and their teams to help them traverse from where they are to where they want to be to help them achieve the wealth and the work-life balance that they started their business for.

[CONTACT](#)

## Upcoming Chamber Training

**14 May** TikTok Workshop  
Tuesday Online [BOOK HERE](#)

**22 May** How to grow  
Wednesday your business  
through the  
Brentwood Open [BOOK HERE](#)  
Facebook group  
Online

**13 June** Customer Service  
Thursday Excellence [BOOK HERE](#)  
Online

## Upcoming Chamber Events

**09 May** Meet the Chamber and AGM  
Thursday at Old Brentwood's Club [BOOK HERE](#)

**16 MAY** Meet the Members -  
Thursday The Treehouse Club [BOOK HERE](#)  
Thriftwood Scout Centre,  
Orchard Avenue, Brentwood

**12 June** Business Breakfast at  
Wednesday Marygreen Manor Hotel [BOOK HERE](#)  
Sponsored by  
Brentwood Business Awards

**17 July** Brentwood Business  
Wednesday Barbecue at Warley Park [BOOK HERE](#)  
Golf Club  
Tickets available soon

## Upcoming Member Events

### Rotary Club of Brentwood - Annual Charity Golf Day

13 May 2024 - Thorndon Park Golf Club.

We welcome Chamber Members to enter teams of business contacts, friends, and family, or consider sponsoring a hole at the event.

[More information](#)

### PhoenixFM - Charity Fun Casino Night

Friday 17 May 2024 - Brentwood Rugby Club

[More information](#)

### Let's Connect:

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