

General Election Meet the Candidates

There was a full house at Old Brentwoods Club for our recent 'Meet the Candidates' event, which was a unique event, being the only hustings in the Brentwood and Ongar constituency for the general election.

The panel consisted of 5 of the parliamentary candidates, with questions being posed by the audience.

Chamber Chairman, Colin Barber, who chaired the event explained that the Chamber continues to endeavour to be the gateway to local politicians, raising issues which affect Brentwood businesses at both a local and national level. He said that this was a great opportunity for members to meet the candidates in person and to put their questions to them.

Hopefully a few people in the audience went away with a clearer idea of who would win their vote.

Colin was interviewed by PhonenixFM about this event and you can listen to the interview using the link below.

[LISTEN TO THE INTERVIEW](#)

If you missed the event, then you can still watch it on YouTube using the button below.

[VIEW THE EVENT ON YOUTUBE](#)



Candidates engaging with people from Brentwood and Ongar.
Photo by Ian Davidson.

Brentwood Business Barbecue

Wednesday 17 July

The Brentwood Business Barbecue will be held at Warley Park Golf Club on Wednesday 17 July. All businesses in Brentwood are invited and Chamber members will have discounted tickets so bring along your colleagues and friends.

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 for further details.

[BOOK YOUR TICKETS](#)



BRENTWOOD BUSINESS Awards - 2024 -

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS Awards 2024 BEST SOLE TRADER SPONSORED BY Nuffield Health

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS Awards 2024 BEST SMALL/MEDIUM BUSINESS SPONSORED BY

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS Awards 2024 BEST LARGE BUSINESS SPONSORED BY MJBushell

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS Awards 2024 BEST SALES & MARKETING SPONSORED BY

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS Awards 2024 BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE SPONSORED BY Bennetts Funerals

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS Awards 2024 BEST CHARITY SPONSORED BY M.O.I.

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS Awards 2024 BEST COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPONSORED BY BRENTWOOD

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS Awards 2024 BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR SPONSORED BY Tes

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS Awards 2024 RISING STAR SPONSORED BY matchroom.

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS Awards 2024 BEST EMPLOYER SPONSORED BY HOBART

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS Awards 2024 THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD SPONSORED BY BRENTWOOD Building Better Business

Brentwood Business Awards

The Brentwood Business Awards is happening again in 2024 with Headline Sponsor, [Pinney Talfourd LLP Law](#) and Media Partner, [Phoenix FM](#)

ENTER THE 2024 BRENTWOOD BUSINESS AWARDS

PhoenixFM interview with Colin

Chairman, Colin Barber, was interviewed on PhoenixFM (Media Partner and 2023 Best Community Engagement Award Winner) about the Brentwood Business Awards.

LISTEN TO THE INTERVIEW

The People's Choice Award

Nominate your favourite business for The People's Choice Award.

The People's Choice Award celebrates the outstanding contribution, commitment and added value that our Brentwood Borough-based businesses (Shenfield, Ingatestone and Brentwood) bring to our community. This is an opportunity for you to nominate a business or organisation that has gone the extra mile, supporting, contributing and giving back to our community. Voting opens in August.



A Date For Your Diary

Christmas Lunch: 17 December

On Tuesday 17th December at 12pm we will be having our Christmas Lunch at Warley Park Golf Club. Please put this date in your diary. More information on sponsorship and booking will be out soon.

Cllr Louise McKinlay

Louise McKinlay, Deputy Leader at Essex County Council, joined our June Executive Committee meeting and explained the projects she is working on across Essex: levelling up, communities and business engagement.

She shared a toolkit with us which contains a high-level list of services and packages of support that Essex County Council offer the Essex business community. The toolkit includes advice and support, networks, membership forums and working groups, skills and training, recruitment, health and wellbeing, access to ECC opportunities, funding and grants, etc.

We thought you might find this toolkit interesting so have shared it with you.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT

Business Breakfast

Sponsored by Attract & Engage

Join us for breakfast on Wednesday 10th July, and not only will you leave with a full stomach, you'll also receive a free, bespoke marketing plan tailored to your business.

[Attract & Engage](#) the growth marketing agency are hosting us for a chamber breakfast with a twist.

Be sure to book onto this unique event as you'll be taken through the steps to audit your current marketing plan and identify where there might be some obvious gaps to help fuel growth.

Arrive open minded, and you'll leave full of ideas.

BOOK NOW

A promotional graphic for a business breakfast. It features a yellow and white color scheme. At the top left, it says "Grow your business with smarter marketing plans" next to the Attract & Engage logo. Below this is an image of a yellow and white airplane with the quote "People buy an adventure, not a plane ticket!". At the bottom, it states the event is on "JULY 10" at "Marygreen Manor, Brentwood" and includes a "BOOK NOW" button. The Brentwood logo is also present at the bottom right.

Speed Networking

2 October

Back by popular demand, together with Brentwood Council, we will be hosting yet another Speed Networking event.

Speed Networking 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.

BOOK NOW

June Business Breakfast

Our June Business Breakfast was sponsored by Brentwood Business Awards to mark the launch of the 2024 Awards.

Guests had the chance to discuss which local businesses they would recommend to enter the Awards.



June Business Breakfast

Meet The Committee



Noelle Hones, Executive
Committee Member

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 Noelle Hones.

What is your role on the Chamber Committee?

I represent the interests of businesses and residents in Ingatestone, where I live and where I served as the Borough Councillor for the ward for 16 years, from 2007 – 2023.

Tell us about your current job.

I am a freelance interviewer for a not-for-profit social research organisation which carries out surveys on behalf of government departments.

What do you like about Brentwood?

Brentwood is a great place to live, shop and socialise. The close proximity to London, country parks, quaint villages and beaches means there is ample opportunity to get out and about. It also has a rich history involving Romans, Tudors and lots more besides.

What was your first job?

At 16, I left school and started work in the City for JP Morgan. I started as a clerk in the bookkeeping department. I rose to Assistant Vice President in the Futures and Swaps markets before leaving to start a family of three boys.

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

I always wanted to travel – either as an air hostess, holiday rep or on cruise ships like my two elder brothers. Nursing was never on the cards – I'm far too squeamish!

Who do you admire in the business world?

Tim Martin, who founded Wetherspoons. He has created a great business model and he gives his staff many opportunities to progress.

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

A couple of lovely bosses from JP Morgan stand out. They encouraged me to progress and I was rewarded with promotions for working hard.

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

Do your sums and keep control of your overheads. Get a good accountant.

How do you handle setbacks or frustrations?

I try not to worry about things beyond my control as it won't change things.

What are your hobbies and interests outside of work?

Zumba, golf and walking my dogs are the main things I do to keep fit. I'm a member of a book club and I love doing puzzles and playing card games on my phone.

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

Queen Camilla. She seems to have a warm personality and a great sense of humour. I admire her for her work with domestic abuse sufferers, The Osteoporosis Society and encouraging children to read books.

Upcoming Chamber Events

10 July

Wednesday

**Business Breakfast at
Marygreen Manor Hotel**
Sponsored by Attract & Engage

[BOOK HERE](#)

17 July

Wednesday

**Brentwood Business Barbecue
at Warley Park Golf Club**

[BOOK HERE](#)

14 August

Wednesday

**Business Breakfast at
Marygreen Manor Hotel**
Sponsorship available

[BOOK HERE](#)

11 September

Wednesday

**Business Breakfast at
Marygreen Manor Hotel**
Sponsorship available

[BOOK HERE](#)

Let's Connect:

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