

The Dux Digital

Brentwood Business Awards Full Circle: From Winners to Sponsors



"This year, The Dux Digital had the privilege of sponsoring the Best Sales and Marketing category at the prestigious Brentwood Business Awards. For us, this wasn't just a sponsorship – it was the

culmination of a truly remarkable journey that started last year when we were honoured to win the very same category.

2023 Winners...

Reflecting on our experience as winners, the process of entering the awards provided us with the opportunity to look at our business through a fresh lens. Stepping back from the day-to-day operations allowed us to assess what we were doing, how we were doing it and where we could improve. It was a valuable exercise that brought tangible benefits to our business, helping us fine-tune our strategies and solidify our vision for the future.

...to 2024 Sponsors

This year, as sponsors and judges for the category, we had the incredible opportunity to experience the other side of the awards process. It was fascinating to see the dedication, passion and ingenuity that local businesses bring to their sales and marketing efforts. Reading the applications and meeting the finalists not only reinforced how much talent exists within our community but also inspired us to continue striving for excellence in our own business.

Being part of the judging process was both rewarding and eye-opening. It gave us a deeper appreciation for the work and thought that goes into presenting a business's achievements. It also reminded us of the importance of taking stock of our progress, something we've carried forward since our own win last year.



The Dux Digital presenting the Best Sales and Marketing Award at the Brentwood Business Awards Ceremony.

Sponsoring this category was about more than just giving back – it was about celebrating the innovation and drive of Brentwood's business community. It was also a chance to connect with like-minded professionals and share in the excitement of recognising outstanding achievements.

As we look back on this experience, we're immensely proud to have played a part in the Brentwood Business Awards for two consecutive years – first as winners and now as sponsors. The journey has been nothing short of transformative, both for our business and for us personally.

To anyone considering entering these awards, we can't recommend it enough."

Jason Windle, Co-Founder of The Dux Digital

Invoices for 2025

As you will know, we are a membership organisation, and rely on members' subscriptions to fund our activities for the benefit of Brentwood businesses.

Invoices for your 2025 membership have been sent. Unfortunately, because of inflation over the past two years, we have had to make a slight increase in our rates for 2025. However our subscription rates still remain low compared to other Chambers of Commerce, and offer excellent value for money.

Workshop: Menopause at Work

A Strategic Business Investment: Thursday 6th February



Dr Alice Scott from Essex Private Doctors

Dr Alice Scott from [Essex Private Doctors](#) is a GP and recognised menopause specialist with the British Menopause Society. She will be presenting on this topic and covering aspects of management and treatment of the perimenopause and menopause. In particular she will focus on the approach and management of

menopause as it relates to individuals in the workplace. The talk will be informative for both men and women, for individuals, and for business leaders.

This event, supported by the Chamber, will be held at Holiday Inn Brentwood on 6th February at 6pm. It will be a unique opportunity to hear from an accredited expert and obtain a greater understanding of this key area of health.

BOOK HERE

Workshop: Maximise Your Brand

Thursday 6th March



Matt Barry, Director of [Blue Serif](#) creative design agency based in Brentwood, will be leading this workshop and sharing his extensive knowledge about how to get the most from your brand.

Blue Serif consists of a team of highly skilled designers and digital specialists, with decades of industry experience and niche expert knowledge between them. They're a fun, passionate bunch who strive to go above and beyond for each and every one of their brands.

This event, supported by the Chamber, will be held at Holiday Inn Brentwood on 6th March at 6pm.

BOOK HERE

Member Spotlight

Fraser Donaldson - Easigrass Essex & Herts



Fraser Donaldson, Director of Easigrass Essex & Herts.

Our 'Member Spotlight' feature gives you the opportunity to find out more about other Chamber members. This month our spotlight is on Fraser Donaldson from [Easigrass Essex & Herts](#), winner of the 2023 Brentwood Business Awards Business Person of the Year.

Tell us briefly about your business and how long you have worked there?

Easigrass Essex & Herts, supplies and installs premium artificial grass. I started the company in January 2016, so 8 years now and counting.

What is your role in this business?

I am the Director of the business.

What was your first job?

My first ever job was working as a waiter for the Hilton International hotel group. After finishing university (my parents were living in China at the time) I went to Hong Kong and worked at the Hilton in Hong Kong. My role was working at the Windows of the World restaurant there, which was based on the 59th floor of the hotel.

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

My Italian grandparents were in the restaurant business and had a string of fish and Italian restaurants. Growing up working in these restaurants during holiday time, I wanted my own. It would be another 25 years before that dream was realised.

Who do you admire in the business world?

I admire people with vision and success that has come from that vision. For example, Jeff Bezos from Amazon, Steve Jobs from Apple and Elon Musk from Tesla are a few people who have great vision and look where their companies are now. The person I probably admired the most is Richard Branson.

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

I had a mentor when I was going to be a panel Rugby referee for the ERFU. Russell Graham was my mentor. He taught me the best positioning for a referee and how to engage better with the teams through the captains. I still have full admiration for this person and how he helped me achieve one of my life goals. I have been a full panel referee for 7 years.

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

No matter what business you are starting up, research that market sector and it's competition. You will never be able to compete in the market place if you don't know who you are up against.

How do you handle setbacks or frustrations?

I see setbacks and frustrations as opportunities to learn and grow. When I face a challenge, I take a moment to assess the situation calmly and identify the root cause. I focus on finding solutions rather than dwelling on the problem and I always seek input from others if it's a collaborative situation. Importantly, once I address the issue, I reflect on the experience to ensure I can handle similar situations even more effectively in the future.

What are your hobbies and interests outside of work?

I have two sons who are into their football and rugby, this keeps me busy at the weekend. One of my sons has taken up golf which has given me the excuse to get back into the game. I share my other hobby with my wife, travelling. This hobby is a little bit more expensive.

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

Neil Armstrong. Space has always fascinated me. I once saw Neil in a restaurant in France and it gave me goosebumps. I think meeting him and spending a day discussing that first landing on the moon and space in general would be fascinating.

Member's Words

"Joining the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce has been a game-changer for us at [Marillac Neurological Care Centre](#). As a local charity that had not previously pursued meaningful community engagement, becoming a member has opened up opportunities we hadn't imagined.

Through the Chamber, we've been able to build invaluable connections with local businesses and individuals, raising awareness for our cause in ways that simply weren't possible before. Sponsoring Chamber Business Breakfasts and hosting our own successful in-house Meet the Members event have allowed us to showcase the vital work we do; while attending events like speed networking, the annual Business Awards ceremony, the summer BBQ, and the Christmas lunch has helped us cultivate professional relationships and build meaningful partnerships.

The support and enthusiasm from the Chamber community have been incredible, and it's had a real impact on our ability to highlight the importance of what we do. I would wholeheartedly recommend membership to any organisation looking to grow their network, raise awareness, and make a meaningful impact in the local community."

Liesbeth Newman, Fundraising & Partnerships Manager at Marillac Neurological Care Centre.

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 email us at: office@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk

Sponsor a Business Breakfast



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.

Our Sponsorship Package costs £100 and includes:

- Short introduction at the previous month's Breakfast
- 2 free places
- Ten-minute introduction and presentation slot
- Opportunity to display publicity
- Publicity in the previous month's Chamber of Commerce newsletter
- Publicity on the Chamber of Commerce website

For more information or to reserve your month, contact the Chamber office – office@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk

Bringing Businesses Together



The Chamber exists to support local businesses, including bringing them together for real benefits. Here is one way the Chamber has done just that.

Phil Scott from [Green Tornado](#) said, "I joined the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce to connect with other local businesses and be part of a community that supports growth and collaboration. I met Neil at a Chamber of Commerce Breakfast meeting, where we had a great conversation about some challenges he was facing with his business branding and online presence.

Since then, it's been a pleasure working with Neil and helping him achieve a cohesive look across his website, printed materials, and promotional items. I'm thrilled to see his project coming together so well and to know he's happy with the results so far."

[Neil Patrick Celebrant](#) said, "I met Phil from [Green Tornado](#) at my first chamber Business Breakfast and Phil, as the sponsor that month, answered questions that had been rattling around in my own head. How do I improve my SEO so people can find me? Where locally can I get my website and printed materials done so I have consistency across all my materials. I went in to speak with Green Tornado just after Christmas and I've been looked after well and the project is now up and running. Cards and flyers designed and printed, roller banners and website on the way. Couldn't be happier!"

Have you successfully connected with someone through the Chamber? Please share your story with us at office@brentwoodchamber.co.uk.

Welcome to Our New Members



[SADS UK](#)

SADS UK is a national cardiac charity aiming to prevent sudden cardiac death in young and apparently fit and healthy people. The charity funds research into SADS and supports people who have been affected, sadly through the death of a relative or a sudden cardiac arrest in the family.



[Premald Care Ltd](#)

Premald Care offers a professional, reliable and flexible home care and supported living service whilst respecting the privacy, dignity, independence and choice of their customers. The quality of service provision is central to their business and is measured at every stage by communicating with the customer and by ongoing effective staff supervision.

Member's News

Marillac Neurological Care Centre

Food & Wine Pairing Fundraiser : Friday 28th February

Marillac Neurological Care Centre are thrilled to announce their upcoming fundraiser in collaboration with Holiday Inn Brentwood and Accolade Wines.

Enjoy an evening of exquisite food and wine pairings, exciting auction prizes, and exclusive Marco's goodie bags, in support of Marillac Neurological Care Centre. Don't miss this unforgettable evening of fine wine, great company, and community spirit – all for a good cause.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

SNAP

Wine Tasting Fundraiser : Friday 28th February

SNAP has teamed up with Labelnet for an evening of alcoholic frolic to sample a variety of wines with the help of Shenfield Wine Company and Lady Penelope Wines.

Bring your family, friends and work colleagues along to try and beat our bluffers by spotting the expert from the phoneys. Join them for a corking evening of no-frills wine tasting, all while raising funds and awareness for SNAP.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Attract & Engage

[Attract & Engage](#) are always on the lookout for new people to feature in future podcast episodes with interesting stories & successes, Chamber members are invited to email recommendations to info@attractandengage.co.uk.

This month, Jill Willis from Attract & Engage talks to Ryan Bell, founder of Tech Balance, a Brentwood-based startup creating the world's most student-centric wellbeing app. Focused on addressing mental health challenges in universities, Ryan shares his journey from initial concept to achieving the Essex Tech 50 status.

[LISTEN HERE](#)



[Attract & Engage](#) are offering free SEO website audits for all while sharing their latest blog where they break down the 11 most common SEO mistakes that businesses make.

They address why they matter and most importantly, how to tackle them. It might be the small SEO mistakes holding your website back.

[READ THE BLOG](#)

Sawyers Church

New Bereavement Support Ministry

Sawyers Church are hoping to launch a new bereavement support ministry and outreach in partnership with the Havering and Brentwood Bereavement Service (HBBS).

The project will be based at Sawyers Church and be an access point for people to find help and support through the services of Sawyers Church, HBBS and the local community including MIND. The project will run from the church facilities and café where people from the local community will be able to speak to wellbeing ambassadors and be sign posted to relevant organisations and ministries that are able to provide counselling, support and wellbeing.

They are currently applying for funding for this project from the "Reaching Communities" fund. If you can support the funding bid for this application, please contact [Louise Munday](#) from HBBS or [Pastor Peter Jordan](#) from Sawyers Church.

Upcoming Chamber Events

6 February
Thursday
Workshop: Menopause at Work
Holiday Inn Brentwood
[BOOK HERE](#)

12 February
Wednesday
Business Breakfast at Marygreen Manor Hotel
Sponsorship Available
[BOOK HERE](#)

6 March
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Workshop: Maximise Your Brand
Holiday Inn Brentwood
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12 March
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Business Breakfast at Marygreen Manor Hotel
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Upcoming Member's Events

28 February
Friday
Food & Wine Pairing Fundraiser
Marillac Neurological Care Centre
Holiday Inn Brentwood
[BOOK HERE](#)

28 February
Friday
Beet the Wine Bluffers Fundraiser SNAP
Holiday Inn Brentwood
[BOOK HERE](#)

Let's Connect:

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