

## Speed Networking

Together with [Brentwood Borough Council](#), we hosted another popular Speed Networking event at [Old Brentwoods Club](#). It was an energetic morning with everyone making some new connections.

This form of networking enables you to meet a lot of people from local businesses in a short space of time, with the objective of finding a few individuals who you would like to connect with further. Speed Networking is a structured environment, which removes the fear of walking into a crowded room, so is particularly popular with people who are new to networking.

Look out for the next Speed Networking event in June.



## New Chamber members welcome

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](http://brentwoodchamber.co.uk). If you would like to join the Chamber email us at: [office@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk](mailto:office@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk)

## Workshop Menopause at Work

Essex Private Doctors kicked off our 2025 workshop series hosted by Holiday Inn, Brentwood.

Dr Alice Scott, a GP and accredited Menopause expert, gave an informative presentation about Menopause and how to support it both at home and in the workplace. The workshop was well attended by men and women who found the presentation insightful and posed many questions to Dr Alice at the end.

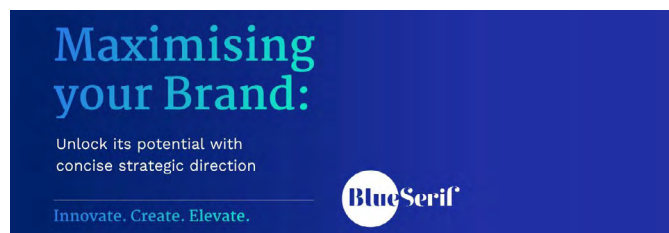
For further information on menopause or to request Essex Private Doctors to present in your workplace, please contact Keith Haywood: [khaywood@essexprivatedoctors.com](mailto:khaywood@essexprivatedoctors.com)



*Dr Alice Scott (left), a GP and recognised menopause specialist with the British Menopause Society explaining menopause at work alongside her colleague and Office Manager, Keith Haywood (right).*

## Workshop: Maximising Your Brand

Thursday 6th March



Join us for this workshop to hear from the [Blue Serif](#) team on how to maximise your brand, define your business and leverage more sales.

They will be talking about strategies that can build, elevate and sustain your success as well as looking at crucial steps in the brand building process.

All business of all sizes are welcome! Whether you are new to business or already established, use this workshop to learn more.

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

BOOK HERE

## Workshop: LinkedIn

Thursday 3rd April



**ATTRACT & ENGAGE**  
Smarter Growth Marketing

Are you a business owner looking to unlock the value of LinkedIn to win more and better work? Join our upcoming LinkedIn Workshop to discover how!

Hear from Richard Willis from [Attract & Engage](#) on how to unlock LinkedIn marketing communications to gain more followers, increase visibility and credibility, and build brand reputation with potential customers.

What can you expect?

- Which LinkedIn content will work, and which won't
- 3 essential steps for raising your profile
- How to make sure you're seen by prospective clients that matter (to you)

BOOK HERE

## Member Spotlight

Kamal Magecha - Guided Learning Ltd



*Kamal Magecha, Director at Guided Learning Ltd*

During the COVID lockdown we introduced a popular series on YouTube called 'Member Spotlight'. These videos are still available to view on our [YouTube channel](#). Following on from this series we have decided to introduce a 'Member Spotlight' feature in our newsletter, which will give you the opportunity to find out more about other Chamber members. This month our spotlight is on Kamal Magecha from [Guided Learning](#), finalist of the 2024 Brentwood Business Awards Business Person of the Year.

### Tell us briefly about your business.

At [Guided Learning](#) we work with the whole child to support them in building their self-confidence first and then work on their knowledge and skills. We know that if a child feels uncomfortable in their learning, they will not gain as much, either from us or in school and will continue in a downward spiral of lacking confidence in themselves.

### What is your role in this business?

My role has evolved from being a tutor to supporting the staff, students using coaching and other methods, to improve emotional well-being and mental health. I am now working on the strategic direction of the business, whilst also being the go to person to talk to the young people, parents and staff about the mental wellbeing of the children who use our services.

### What was your first job?

My first "proper" job was working for BT and I stayed in that company working within the engineering and planning section for over 19 years.

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

My dream was to be a teacher or work with computers and I achieved both of these.

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

I admire many people in the business world and if I had to choose only one person then that would have to be Anita Roddick, for identifying that good business was not just about making money but being ethical and fair was just as important.

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

I have not had mentors, and I have learnt a great deal from reading and networking, at the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce and other networking organisations. I have learnt that people buy from people – that building lasting relationships, building trust, being authentic, and "that how you are perceived to do one thing, is how you are judged to do everything".

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

Hang in there and just keep going. It is hard work – just because you are the boss, it doesn't mean that you're going to be able to take the day off just because you want to. Ultimately, you are the face of the business, enjoy it, learn from it and at times, do it afraid!

### How do you handle setbacks or frustrations?

I use setbacks and frustrations as lessons to learn from. Not immediately, but once I've calmed down! I will always try to be calm in front of clients and young people and will then spend some time reflecting on what happened and how to fix it. I will always seek answers as to what I could have done differently. Looking to improve what we do, how we deliver, what else would help and then putting it in practice.

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

I love to cook and explore new cuisines. I love to read and have just started to learn to knit and crochet. My mum is teaching me the basics.

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

I would love to spend one day with Brene Brown. Brene researches vulnerability, courage, empathy and shame. It would be incredible to talk to her, to see her work and discover more about her that is not public knowledge.

## The South Essex Business Expo

**WE ARE EXHIBITING AT**

**SOUTH ESSEX BUSINESS EXPO**

Thursday 13th March  
10am - 3pm

The Brentwood Centre,  
Doddinghurst Road,  
Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood  
CM15 9NN

**BRENTWOOD CHAMBER**  
Building Better Business

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Register for a stand: [www.networking-essex.co.uk/events](http://www.networking-essex.co.uk/events) Follow us

The South Essex Business Expo will be held on Thursday 13 March 2024 from 10am-3pm at the Brentwood Leisure Centre. This promises to be a great networking opportunity with nearly 200 stands and thousands of visitors are expected.

The Chamber will have a stand at this event and many of the Executive Committee members will be there to continue supporting you in any way they can. Bring your business cards and we look forward to seeing you there.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

## Do you have a free Google Business Profile?

### Google Business Profile

Having a strong online presence is imperative in today's business world. If you haven't already set up your Google Business Profile, you should! It's free, easy to do and improves your SEO (Search Engine Optimisation). That's just the beginning.

Having a GBP (formerly known as Google My Business) has many benefits including:

- Greatly increasing your online visibility by prioritising you on the first page of local search results,
- Offers you an opportunity to accurately display and control information about your business,
- Gives you a platform to engage with customer reviews which improves customer satisfaction and loyalty,
- Puts you on Google Maps which makes it easy for your customers to find you,
- Can be used as another way to communicate with your customers.

[SET UP A GOOGLE BUSINESS PROFILE](#)

## Welcome to Our New Members

### Avenue Celebrant Services



**Avenue Celebrant Services**

Established in January 2025, Louise Day is an independent celebrant and runs Avenue Celebrant Services. As an Independent Funeral Celebrant she is able to help families create a unique and personalised funeral to celebrate the life of a loved one. Together, you can start with a blank page and go from there. She believes calling herself an Independent Celebrant is an absolute honour. She brings many skills to her role, including active listening, compassion and writing skills. It's really important to her to provide a service for people where they do not fear judgement.

### Halo Creative Media

## Halo Creative Media

Halo Creative Media are passionate about turning bold ideas into impactful results. Whether you're a startup looking to make your mark or an established business seeking to refresh your identity, they bring creativity, collaboration, and expertise to every project. They're with you every step of the way from concept to strategy to execution ensuring your ideas come to life with flair and purpose. Create something remarkable together: branding, website design, graphic design, digital marketing, campaign strategy or social media management.

### The Live In Care Company

## the live in care company

The Live In Care Company is dedicated to providing high-quality live-in carers nationwide. These carers support people living with dementia, parkinsons, brain injury, spinal injury, cerebral palsy, neurodegenerative and many other conditions. Their team work closely with clients, their families and healthcare professionals to ensure they understand the unique situation and requirements of each individual. They operate a thorough matching process, which carefully considers the client's needs and personality, alongside the carer's skills and experience.

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# Member's News

## 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](mailto:info@attractandengage.co.uk).

In this month's podcast, Jill is back for Part 2 with Andy Thorne, CEO of Stansted-based Kestrel Group, the King's favourite international shipping agency. Andy shares the real truths behind running a global shipping business, from navigating economic challenges to building a reputation that reaches royal heights. Expect candid insights, leadership lessons, and a deep dive into what it takes to succeed in the fast-moving world of international trade.

[LISTEN HERE](#)

## Brentwood Rotary Club Annual Charity Golf Day

Monday 12th May

The Rotary Club of Brentwood are pleased to invite you to join them on their Sponsored Annual Charity Golf Day on Monday 12th May with the opportunity to entertain your friends, family, and clients at Thorndon Park Golf Club.

Thorndon Park Golf Club is an excellent parkland golf course designed by the legendary golf architect, Harry Colt, and is rated as No 1 in Essex.

The entry fee for a 4-Ball team is £400 which includes green fees, a coffee and bacon sandwich on arrival, halfway house juices, and a rolling buffet lunch on completion of play.

Monies raised will be distributed to local charities including Saint Francis Hospice, Little Havens Hospice and SNAP. They are also looking for sponsorship of individual holes of £95 per hole.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT CHRIS RASTIN AND DAVID CHARLES

## Bennetts Funeral Directors: Grief Seminars with Bill Webster

Tuesday 18th March

Dr Bill Webster will be share some of the insights he gained from his 40 years of experience as a grief counsellor. In partnership with Bennetts Funeral Directors Ltd, Bill will be holding two local seminars, one entitled When Life Changes - For the longer term bereaved and for employers looking to support colleagues and will be held at Old Brentwoods Sports Hall. The second seminar is entitled Grief: The Unwelcome Journey - For the bereaved and will be held at St John's Church in Billericay.

[CONTACT BENNETTS FUNERAL DIRECTORS FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

## Upcoming Chamber Events




<b>6 March</b> Thursday	<b>Workshop: Maximise Your Brand</b> Holiday Inn Brentwood	<a href="#">BOOK HERE</a>
<b>12 March</b> Wednesday	<b>Business Breakfast at Marygreen Manor Hotel</b> Sponsorship Available	<a href="#">BOOK HERE</a>
<b>3 April</b> Thursday	<b>Workshop: LinkedIn</b> Holiday Inn Brentwood	<a href="#">BOOK HERE</a>
<b>9 April</b> Wednesday	<b>Business Breakfast at Marygreen Manor Hotel</b> Sponsorship Available	<a href="#">BOOK SOON</a>


## Upcoming Member's Events

<b>12 May</b> Monday	<b>Annual Charity Golf Day</b> Brentwood Rotary Club Thornton Park Golf Club	<a href="#">CONTACT CHRIS RASTIN AND DAVID CHARLES</a>
<b>18 March</b> Tuesday	<b>Seminars with Bill Webster</b> Bennetts Funeral Directors Old Brentwoods & St John's Church	<a href="#">CONTACT BENNETTS FUNERAL DIRECTORS</a>

### Let's Connect:

Brentwood Chamber of Commerce  
Town Hall  
Ingrave Road  
Brentwood  
Essex  
CM15 8AY

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 @BrentwoodChambers  
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