

## Meet The Neighbours and Barry Hearn

Monday 9th June



As part of our plans to work closer with Havering Chamber of Commerce, we are pleased to announce a joint networking event at [The Holiday Inn, Brentwood](#), on Monday 9th June from 6pm till 9pm.

Our Guest speaker on the night will be the well-known local personality, Barry Hearn OBE, president of [Matchroom Sport](#). Barry started out on the path to sports promotion with the purchase of a snooker hall in Romford, and Matchroom's worldwide headquarters are now in Brentwood, so he is the ideal speaker for this event.

A portion of proceeds from the event will be donated to [St Francis Hospice](#), which provides such an important service to the people of Havering and Brentwood.

We will be inviting all of the Chambers of Commerce in Essex and East London to join us for what should prove to be an entertaining evening. We are expecting a full house, so do book early.

The event will also be open to non-members, so feel free to invite friends and clients.

[BOOK HERE](#)

## The Brentwood Business Awards 2025 Are Officially Open for Applications

Get ready to shine! We're thrilled to announce the return of the prestigious Brentwood Business Awards for 2025, and applications are now being accepted.

Whether you're an individual, a thriving company, or a dedicated organisation of any size or sector based in or doing business within the Borough of Brentwood, this is your chance to be recognised!

You're invited to enter a maximum of two categories from our diverse selection:

- Apprentice of the Year
- Business Person of the Year
- Charity Worker
- Community Engagement
- Customer Service
- Employer of the Year, Green Business of the Year
- High Street Impact
- Hospitality
- Sales & Marketing
- The People's Choice



Don't miss your opportunity to celebrate your success and gain valuable recognition.

[APPLY HERE](#)

## Your Moment to Shine:

### The 2025 Brentwood Business Awards are Calling!

What makes your Brentwood business exceptional? The Brentwood Business Awards are here to celebrate those very qualities, recognising the best of our local community across 11 exciting categories, including plus the ultimate "Brentwood Business of the Year" title.

**Picture This: Your Business in the Headlines.** Becoming a shortlisted finalist opens doors to fantastic publicity, with the awards consistently generating buzz on local social media and in the press. Envision the power of being able to say you're an "award-winning" business!

**Invest in Reflection, Reap the Rewards.** The straightforward application process provides a valuable opportunity to pause, appreciate your successes, and spark ideas for future growth. See how you measure up against the leading businesses in our area and beyond.

**Unlock Recognition - For Free!** There's no cost to enter, making this a risk-free opportunity with potentially huge rewards. Just reaching the shortlist is a testament to your hard work and can significantly boost your local profile.

**Celebrate with Us!** Shortlisted finalists receive a complimentary ticket to the prestigious awards evening – a night of celebration, connection, and well-deserved recognition. **Ready to take your business to the next level?**

ENTER THE 2025 BRENTWOOD BUSINESS AWARDS

## Neurodiversity Workshop: Essential Knowledge & Strategies

Thursday May 1st

Join Lisa Christie, Coaching Psychologist and founder of [genpotential](#), as she helps us understand more about ADHD and Autism, and gives us strategies to support neurodivergent individuals.

This is relevant for businesses of all sizes given that employers are legally required to provide reasonable adjustments, and especially as 1 in 5 people are estimated to be neurodivergent.

Lisa also welcomes anyone who is interested in raising their personal understanding of neurodiversity, as all the insights she shares are relevant to home life as well as to work.

BOOK HERE

## AI Workshop

Thursday 5th June

We have invited David Bell of [Simboc](#) to share his knowledge of AI at this workshop. He has vast experience and knowledge in communications, IT solutions and technology, backed by a solid understanding of business management, leadership and communication.

In 2013, David founded [Simboc Limited](#), a business, technology consultancy and management company that provides bespoke services to other organisations. Motivated by his passion for seeing others reach their potential, David enjoys mentoring and coaching others to help them realise their dreams and business goals.

BOOK HERE

## LinkedIn Workshop: Unlock the Value of LinkedIn

Thank you to Richard Willis, Co-Founder of [Attract & Engage](#), for hosting our April workshop about unlocking the value of LinkedIn for marketing communications.

Running your own business while keeping up with social media can be a real challenge. We hope you found the workshop informative and useful and can now write content that works, raise your LinkedIn profile and ensure you're seen by the prospects that matter to you.



Richard Willis, Co-Founder of [Attract & Engage](#)

## Brentwood Business Barbecue

Wednesday 16th 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.

This year's Brentwood Business Barbecue will be held at [Brentwood Brewing Company](#) on Wednesday 16th July. What better place for a summer social and barbecue than a brewery! Don't worry if you are not a beer drinker, they have a well stocked bar with a good selection of gins, spirits and wine.

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.

## Lower Thames Crossing Approved

Brentwood Chamber of Commerce are excited to hear that the [Lower Thames Crossing](#) has received planning permission and will now be moving onto the next stage.

The new road will have a tremendous benefit to the people of Brentwood who regularly use the Dartford Crossing.

However in the shorter term, the construction project will potentially bring a major economic boost to Brentwood and south Essex in general.

We are planning to work closely with the main contractor, Balfour Beatty, and with the sub-contractors to ensure that the businesses of Brentwood can be involved in the supply chain as much as possible.



Lower Thames Crossing

## Member Spotlight

Kevin Coombes - Holiday Inn Brentwood



Kevin Coombes,  
General Manager  
Holiday Inn Brentwood

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

The Holiday Inn Brentwood has 149 guest bedrooms, 9 meeting rooms, Marcos New York Italian Restaurant, IHG's Open Lobby and a Health Club including a 14m indoor pool, steam room, jacuzzi, sauna, and fully equipped gym. I have been here since June 2024, having worked for the Holiday Inn brand for the last 20 years.

### What is your role in this business?

I am the General Manager, accountable for all aspects of the hotel.

### What was your first job?

My very first job was delivering papers for a newsagent in the old Brentwood Arcade. Then I got a Sunday job working for Mr and Mrs Greene at Warley Park Golf Club before working for Jeff Butterfield's Rugby Club of London in Hallam Street.

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

I loved art and wanted to do something in advertising – but hospitality got a hold of me – and that was that!

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

Kemmons Wilson. He opened the first Holiday Inn in 1952, Memphis Tennessee, which would become part of IHG, a world leading company with over 6000 hotels throughout the globe.

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

Many over the years, most recently emotional intelligence is high on the agenda. I'm also reading "The Multiplier Effect" by Andy Cope which is an easy read with a different take on things.

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

Enjoy it and have fun.

### How do you handle setbacks or frustrations?

Usually, have a drink!

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

Cycling. Last year I was one of four founders who formed Newhall Cycling Club based in Harlow. We have 3 clubs rides a week and 4 trips away each year, usually to Mallorca, Calpe and closer to home in Wales and the Isle of Wight.

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

I wouldn't mind meeting Walt Disney – I bet he was a fascinating man, determined to see his passions and dreams come true.

## Chamber AGM

The Chamber AGM will be held on Thursday 8th May at the Council Offices. If you have any points, which you would like us to discuss or if you are interested in joining the Chamber Executive Committee, then please let us know at [Office@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk](mailto:Office@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk).

## Speed Networking

Wednesday 4th June



### Speed Networking

Most of you will be familiar with Speed Networking as we've run a few successful sessions. 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. Tea & coffee will be provided on arrival and there is chance to stay on for some informal networking after the event when the bar will open. We look forward to seeing you there.

Liesbeth from [Marillac Neurological Care Centre](#) said. "I've found Brentwood Chamber's speed networking events incredibly beneficial - meeting face-to-face with local business leaders and making meaningful connections have been invaluable in raising awareness for and promoting Marillac's cause. In an age dominated by digital platforms, nothing beats the impact of in-person events."

[BOOK HERE](#)

## Welcome to Our New Members

### Beaconstead t/a McDonald's Brentwood



Beaconstead is a franchise of McDonald's, the world's largest fast food restaurant chain. Operated by Joey Antwi Kusi and established in September 2023, Beaconstead is based in East London and Essex. Their vision is to be an ever-growing Leading-Edge Operator known for their customer obsession, their great people and their close working relationship with the communities they operate in.

### Navigating Life



A Wellbeing Coach and Corporate Mental Health Advocate providing tailored support and consultation to local businesses and individuals. A certified EFT Tapping Practitioner and Qigong Vitality Coach, specialising in emotional wellbeing, stress management, and resilience building.

### T8 Accountants & Business Advisors



Provides accountancy services to small/medium size entities. Anything from year end tax compliance to full outsourced FD/CFO services, specialising in start ups and high growth. They have recently obtained an office in the Regus in Great Waresley and are looking to connect and understand local businesses in the area.

# Member's News

## Brentwood Borough Council

### Economic Growth Strategy 2025-2028 Consultation.



Brentwood Borough Council has refreshed its Economic Growth Strategy for

2025 – 2028. The strategy provides a strategic overview of the council's key areas of focus across three economic growth pillars:

- Start-ups: Entrepreneurial Spirit at the Core
- Skills: Building a Workforce for a Modern Economy
- Sustainability: At the Heart of Growth

The strategy identifies the key priorities for the council over the next three years and an action plan outlining deliverables. The action plan will be subject to annual review. The current draft action plan covers April 2025 - March 2026.

Brentwood Borough Council are seeking the views of the local business community on the three growth pillars identified above and the accompanying action plan for 2025-26.

Your insights will help shape the future direction of our local business community. The survey closes on Sunday 18 May 2025.

[COMPLETE THE CONSULTATION SURVEY](#)

## 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.

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.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

## Attract & Engage: Podcast

Listen [here](#) to this month's podcast where Jill Willis speaks to Lee Cowen of Milbank Concrete, the UK's leading manufacturer of precast concrete products.

Contact [Attract & Engage](#) if you would like to feature in future podcast episodes.

## SNAP Fundraiser

Saturday 10th May

Enjoy an evening of spice and blackjack at Marco Pierre White's New York Italian in aid of SNAP. A Vegas-style casino experience with a charitable twist. The fun money will flow as attendees try their luck at the tables, with a chance to win exciting prizes and, most importantly, help make a difference in the lives of those supported by SNAP.

Each guest will receive a welcome drink, curry, glass of wine and their first 10 casino chips. The event will also feature an extraordinary auction and raffle, with exclusive items and experiences up for bid and music from SNAP's own Music Therapist, Emily Grimes!

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

### Upcoming Chamber Events

|                             |  |                           |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <b>1 May</b><br>Thursday    | <b>Workshop: Neurodiversity in the Workplace</b><br>Holiday Inn Brentwood                    | <a href="#">BOOK HERE</a> |
| <b>14 May</b><br>Wednesday  | <b>Business Breakfast at Marygreen Manor Hotel</b><br>Sponsored by Brentwood Business Awards | <a href="#">BOOK HERE</a> |
| <b>4 June</b><br>Wednesday  | <b>Speed Networking</b><br>Old Brentwood's Club  | <a href="#">BOOK HERE</a> |
| <b>5 June</b><br>Thursday   | <b>Workshop: AI</b><br>Holiday Inn Brentwood   | <a href="#">BOOK HERE</a> |
| <b>9 June</b><br>Monday     | <b>Meet The Neighbours and Barry Hearn</b><br>Holiday Inn Brentwood                          | <a href="#">BOOK HERE</a> |
| <b>11 June</b><br>Wednesday | <b>Business Breakfast at Marygreen Manor Hotel</b><br>Sponsorship Available                  | <a href="#">BOOK HERE</a> |

### Upcoming Member's Events

|                           |  |                           |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <b>10 May</b><br>Saturday | <b>Fundraiser SNAP</b><br>Holiday Inn Brentwood                              | <a href="#">MORE INFO</a> |
| <b>12 May</b><br>Monday   | <b>Annual Charity Golf Day Brentwood Rotary Club Thornton Park Golf Club</b> | <a href="#">MORE INFO</a> |

#### Let's Connect:

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

Phone/WhatsApp: +44 7849704037  
office@brentwoodchamber.co.uk  
www.brentwoodchamber.co.uk



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