

## A Sizzling Success: Our Summer Barbecue at Brentwood Brewery

What a truly fantastic evening we had at our recent summer barbecue. Bathed in glorious Brentwood sunshine, the event drew a wonderful crowd, making it a resounding success. We were delighted to see so many of you come out to enjoy the evening together. This event was a brilliant opportunity for our community to connect. We truly hope that new acquaintances were made, existing bonds were strengthened, and fresh friendships blossomed throughout the event.

We extend our sincere gratitude to [Brentwood Brewery](#) not only for providing the perfect backdrop for our summer gathering but also for keeping our thirst quenched with their fantastic selection of drinks. Their venue, with its welcoming ambiance, was the ideal setting for a networking event. Thank you to [JP's Kitchen](#) who outdid themselves, providing an array of mouth-watering barbecue food. Our taste buds were certainly in for a treat.

We had a wonderful time, and we hope you did too. The success of this barbecue inspires us to plan even more engaging events in the future. Keep an eye out for announcements – we can't wait to see you again.



## Vote for the People's Choice Award



Take a moment to consider the local businesses that consistently go above and beyond, provide exceptional service, or simply make Brentwood a better place to live, work, and visit. Whether it's your go-to coffee shop, the friendly independent retailer, or the local service provider you rely on – your vote truly counts.

By actively engaging in these awards, we're not just celebrating individual successes, we're investing in the collective prosperity of Brentwood. We're helping our local businesses gain the recognition they deserve, encouraging them to continue innovating, creating jobs, and contributing to the vibrant tapestry of our community. Now is the time to vote – your support could be their key to thriving.

The People's Choice Award winner 2024, Donna Parrish from [Hanz & Tanz](#) said, "It was such an honour to win the People's Choice Award. It has made a great impact to my business as people know that they can trust us to provide them with the best service and treatments possible after receiving such a prestigious title and award. Trust from our new and former clients is a reward in itself that we are so grateful for."

[VOTE HERE](#)

## Re-Launched Business Breakfast



Re-launched business breakfast.

[Holiday Inn Brentwood](#) hosted our first new and improved Business Breakfast and it was a wonderful success. Read the feedback here:

"It was great to attend the relaunch of the Brentwood Chamber Breakfast and see so many local businesses in attendance. I will certainly be attending the next one and it was a very enjoyable and worthwhile event". Paul Atkinson - Partner, [FRP Advisory Trading Limited](#)

"It was so lovely to see more people there. It was very well organised and a lovely warm and friendly atmosphere". Kirsten Vincent, Associate, Residential Property, [Tees Law](#)

"We were very pleased that we had taken the small amount of time out of our work schedule to join the chamber for the breakfast re-launch at the Holiday Inn. We have been chamber members for a very long time and it was clear that we hadn't been making the most of it. We made some good contacts there and found it to be a very relaxed and enjoyable event. We are already booked in for the next one at Figo, where we are sure to make more contacts and also strengthen the ones that we already have. It's not worth over thinking it. Just go!" Steve & David Harley, [Harley Carpets](#).

"It was a very informative and dynamic meeting with lots of business energy! The meeting set a professional yet friendly networking space which enabled us all to connect". Linda Casey, UK Manager, [SADS](#).

"It was lovely to see so many local businesses all in one place, each with so much passion for Brentwood and so much energy to work better together". Kevin Coombes, General Manager, [Holiday Inn Brentwood](#).

"I have attended many business networking meetings over the years, this one was special. There was a real buzz and positive energy from everyone, lots of relevant information on future events and plenty of opportunity to make new connections. It was great to see so many local businesses, charities and members of Brentwood Council attending, all committed to helping each other. Looking forward to the next one." Alex Keay, [Succession Plan Coach](#).

"The relaunched and refreshed Chamber breakfast meeting was well attended, lively and productive, and we look forward to again being regulars." Chris Jones BSc(hons) ACII Chartered Insurance Broker, Joint Managing Director, [Bretns Insurance](#).

"My first Chamber breakfast event and overall a very positive experience. Although it was busy with 50 or so attendees, the format meant I could speak to several people and have useful conversations. Those initial conversations at the event has since led to further meaningful connections and opportunities. I am looking forward to attending further Chamber events." [Sharon De Torres Photography](#).

"It was great to see so many people, some familiar and some new, at a fantastic location. A friendly and helpful route to new contacts and, hopefully, friends." Richard Rushworth CeMAP, Mortgage and Protection Adviser, [Worths Mortgage Advisers](#).

Join us for our next Business Breakfast.

[BOOK HERE](#)

## Workshop: CPR Familiarisation by SADS UK

Thursday 4th September

If you would like to know how to do CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) and/or use a defibrillator in the case of an emergency, please join [SADS UK for a workshop](#) on Thursday 4th September between 6pm – 7pm at the Holiday Inn.

SADS UK (Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome) is a National Cardiac Charity based in West Horndon, Essex. SADS UK provide Defibrillators, Cabinets and Bleed Kits throughout the UK. The Charity supports and offers counselling to people who have been sadly bereaved and affected by SADS. They support those who have been diagnosed, living with an inherited cardiac condition and those who have witnessed and/or performed CPR.

[BOOK HERE](#)

## Speed Networking:

Wednesday 1st October



Speed Networking June 2025.

Looking for a better way to network? Our Speed Networking events, a partnership with [Brentwood Borough Council](#) at the [Old Brentwood's Club](#), prove to be incredibly popular. Participants find them invaluable for building networking confidence, discovering new business connections, and putting faces to the names they knew.

Speed Networking is your chance to meet numerous professionals efficiently. The structured approach takes the guesswork out of introductions, ensuring you connect with plenty of people in a short amount of time. Enjoy complimentary tea and coffee when you arrive, and feel free to stay for relaxed, informal networking at the bar after the main event.

Mark your calendar for our next session on Wednesday 1st October. It's the perfect opportunity to step out of the office, re-energise your networking efforts, and grow your professional community. We can't wait to see you there!

[BOOK HERE](#)



## Meet the Committee



*Samuel Mason, member of the Chamber's Executive Committee.*

We're excited to introduce our new Chamber Executive Committee member, Samuel Mason.

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

Elected member to represent [Brentwood School](#).

### Tell us about your current job?

I am the Director of Development at Brentwood School. We strongly believe that Brentwood School should be an integral part of Brentwood and there is huge opportunity in working collaboratively. At the core of my work is the School Foundation - which solely raises funds for transformation bursaries - I am passionate about creating access and opportunity through education.

### What do you like about Brentwood?

Having moved to the area with my family, I think Brentwood is a very welcoming community. It has stood out to me just how many hard working entrepreneurial people live and operate in the area.

### What was your first job?

My first 'proper' job after university was working at Bank of Scotland after joining the corporate banking graduate scheme.

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

I always thought I would follow my father into the legal profession.

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

I most admire business people who make an impact with their successes, so the likes of Bill Gates and Warren Buffett, who have made hugely ambitious commitments to philanthropic endeavours.

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

My first boss was a great mentor, a gent called Peter Gooden. He taught me that business was founded on great relationships and having the right people around you.

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

Have a clear long term plan that considers what you want from the business.

### How do you handle set backs or frustrations?

I like Matthew Syed's 'Black Box Thinking' which is about having a culture and systems that encourage openness and learning from mistakes. This approach helps you react proactively and improve going forward.

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

Most of my spare time is spent with my wife and two young daughters, normally involving something active and outdoors. I carve out a good amount of time for golf, which can also be an excellent opportunity for a meeting.

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

I'd like to spend one more day with my late Grandfather, Stanley. He was the patriarch of our family and a great man. I'd like him to meet my family, especially my daughters, and we'd just spend the day all talking, listening to stories, and sharing some time together.

## Mark Reed



*Mark Reed, when he was Mayor back in 2015, alongside former Chamber Vice Chair, Sue Page.*

All of us at the Chamber were shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of Councillor Mark Reed.

Mark was a kind and caring man and a politician who obviously had the people of Brentwood at the heart of everything that he did. We will miss you Mark.

## Brentwood Business Briefing



*Brentwood Council's Business Briefing held at Warley Golf Club.*

The Chamber attended and exhibited at the Brentwood Borough Council's Business Briefing at Warley Park Golf Club - A new initiative from Brentwood Council to support local businesses. It was well attended and highly informative.

Summaries from the speakers are below:

- Councillor Louise McKinley, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities, Economic Growth, and Prosperity at Essex County Council, emphasised the underestimated potential of Essex, highlighting its £51 billion economy, larger than Northern Ireland's. She invited businesses to share their needs and work closely with the County Council to create conditions for growth and thriving businesses. She also mentioned the Essex Growth Hub which provides tailored support to businesses, including small businesses and startups.
- Pete Smith from National Highways, Partnership Director for The Lower Thames Crossing explained the importance of the Lower Thames Crossing project for businesses, highlighting the guaranteed revenue stream and the potential for innovation and sustainability. He also introduced the Lower Thames Crossing Supply Chain Directory, where businesses can register their interest and be part of the project.
- Councillor David Kendall, Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee at Brentwood Borough Council emphasised his pride in launching Brentwood Borough Council's economic growth strategy, aiming to grow the local economy from 25 to 28. The first priority is supporting startups, aiming to make Brentwood a hub for entrepreneurs in Essex. The council runs regular network events to provide updates and bring the business community together. He encouraged businesses to approach the economic development team with ideas and to seek support for growing their business.

## Welcome to Our New Member

ERB Commercial Risks Ltd

erb

COMMERCIAL INSURANCE  
& RISK MANAGEMENT

ERB understands that managing insurance for a business isn't just about finding a policy—it's about securing a partnership that understands the ins and outs of your specific needs. That's why ERB tailor their services to act as an extension of your own team, ensuring that you receive not only top-quality insurance coverage but also the value and service that your business deserves.

## Member's News

### Rotary Club of Brentwood

#### Bring Christmas Magic to Brentwood

As the festive season approaches, the [Rotary Club of Brentwood](#) is once again preparing to bring joy and community spirit to our town through the cherished Christmas Campaign—and they warmly invite your business to be part of it. This campaign is more than just festive fun, it's a vital fundraiser. 100% of the proceeds go directly to local charities and community initiatives, supporting those most in need during the winter months and beyond. There is a range of sponsorship opportunities to suit businesses of all sizes.

LEARN MORE

### Attract & Engage Podcast

[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 the latest episode Jill sits down with Joe Denham, Co-founder of VegTrug, to explore how the business has scaled from garden shed beginnings to global distribution. Joe shares the decisions, setbacks and breakthroughs that have shaped VegTrug's journey – plus the values that keep it grounded.

LISTEN HERE

## Bennetts Funerals

### Smashing the Stigma: Saturday 13th September

An afternoon entitled 'Smashing the Stigma' will run on 13th September from 1pm - 4.30pm at the Butterfly Meadow Hall Lane, Shenfield, CM15 9AN. As part of National Suicide Prevention Week, this event will be held for those who have lost loved ones, friends or colleagues to suicide.

The original idea of Smashing the Stigma came about after a local minister contacted [Bennetts Funerals](#) about working together on an event following a death by suicide within their family unit; this was the trigger they needed as they had wished to confront this tragic subject for some time.

MORE INFO

## Marillac Neurological Care Centre

### Musical Bingo Night: Friday 24th October

Join in on a fun-filled Musical Bingo Night to support the [Marillac](#)! Bring your friends and family for a musical twist on the classic game - instead of numbers, they'll be playing tunes. It's going to be a night of great music, laughter, and friendly competition for a good cause. Make a positive impact together.

MORE INFO

### Upcoming Chamber Events

5 August Tuesday	Business Breakfast Figo Restaurant	BOOK HERE
2 September Tuesday	Business Breakfast Brentwood School	BOOK HERE
4 September Thursday	Workshop : CPR Familiarisation by SADS UK Holiday Inn, Brentwood	BOOK HERE
1 October Wednesday	Speed Networking Old Brentwoods Club	BOOK SOON

### Upcoming Member's Events

13 September Saturday	Bennetts Funerals Smashing the Stigma	MORE INFO
24 October Friday	Marillac Neurological Care Centre Musical Bingo Night	MORE INFO

#### Let's Connect:

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

Phone/WhatsApp: +44 7849704037  
[office@brentwoodchamber.co.uk](mailto:office@brentwoodchamber.co.uk)  
[www.brentwoodchamber.co.uk](http://www.brentwoodchamber.co.uk)



@BwdChamber



@BrentwoodChambers



@brentwoodessexchamber



/company/brentwood-essex-chamber-of-commerce



@brentwoodchamberofcommerce

#### Newsletter Design:

JD Designs  
[www.jddesigns.co.uk](http://www.jddesigns.co.uk)