

Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 17th December



Mark your calendar. Our popular annual Christmas Lunch is returning to the beautiful Warley Park Golf Club on Wednesday, 17th December.

We invite you to join us for a festive afternoon of relaxed networking centred around a traditional Christmas Lunch. This event offers a fantastic, stress-free environment to connect with the local business community. If you run a small business, this is the perfect opportunity to make it your main festive celebration.

We are excited to announce there will be festive entertainment throughout the lunch, ensuring a wonderful, celebratory atmosphere.

Tickets are on sale now for both members and non-members. However, the clock is ticking on our best offer: Member Earlybird Tickets are only available until 3rd December. Grab these discounted tickets quickly before the deadline.

Planning to bring your team? We are pleased to offer whole table bookings for groups of 8 to 12 people at a special discounted price. To secure your group booking and take advantage of this saving, please email us directly at office@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk.

Book your spot today and ensure you don't miss out on the perfect festive networking opportunity.

Brentwood Chamber Breakfasts – A Fresh Approach



John Wallace from [Agile Success](#) sponsored the November's Business Breakfast.

When Phil took on helping to organise the Brentwood Chamber Breakfast Meetings, he wanted to shake things up a bit. We moved away from a single venue and introduced a rotating schedule around Brentwood, which has brought new energy and variety to each event. Every meeting now has a clear format — breakfast, a sponsor presentation, and plenty of time for genuine networking. The response has been brilliant, with an average attendance of 47.5 people per meeting and 106 individuals already joining us. There's a real buzz in the room each month, and I think the success comes down to keeping things fresh, friendly, and focused on real business connections. Members can now also secure their place each month with our new Season Ticket — a simple, flexible way to stay connected throughout the year.

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to [Old Brentwood's Club](#) for hosting last month's breakfast.

Turn the page to find out more about our upcoming Breakfasts.

Breakfast Season Ticket Offer

Are you looking for a cost-effective and consistent way to build valuable connections in the local business community?

The Chamber is delighted to offer an incredible deal when you commit to regular networking - 2 free Breakfast Meetings when you sign up for your breakfasts by annual Direct Debit.

This outstanding offer means you receive 12 months of high-quality, focused networking opportunities for just £200. That's a significant saving and a powerful investment in your professional growth over the next year.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Time: 7.30am – 9.30am (unless stated otherwise)

Business Breakfasts Upcoming Schedule

3rd December – Country Café
49 High Street, Ingatestone.



3rd June – Brentwood Town FC
Doddinghurst Road, Pilgrims Hatch.



7th January – Brentwood Theatre
15 Shenfield Road, Brentwood.



1st July – Holiday Inn
Brook Street, Brentwood.



4th February – SNAP
Pastoral Way, Brentwood.



5th August – FIGO Restaurant
92 High Street, Brentwood.



4th March – Masons Restaurant
155-157 Ingrave Road, Brentwood.



2nd September – Brentwood School
Middleton Hall Lane, Brentwood.



1st April – King George's Playing Fields
1-3 Hartwood Pavilion, Brentwood.



October – T.B.C

6th May – Brentwood Kitchen
Wilsons Corner, Brentwood.



November – T.B.C

◆ Professional Venues ◆ Great Food ◆ New Contacts Every Time ◆ Friendly & Welcoming ◆

Email: office@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk to find out more.

Member spotlight

Joey Antwi-Kusi - McDonald's Brentwood



Joey Antwi-Kusi, Director
McDonald's Brentwood.

Tell us briefly about McDonald's and how long you have worked there?

McDonald's is the world's leading restaurant brand, serving millions of customers daily through great food, people, and service. I started my journey with McDonald's as a part-time crew member while studying for my Master's degree over 15 years ago. Today, I'm proud to be a Franchisee, owning and operating three McDonald's restaurants in Dagenham and Brentwood.

What is your role in this business?

As a Franchisee, I oversee the strategic and operational direction of my restaurants. My focus is on people development, operational excellence, and community engagement, ensuring we create opportunities for our teams and make a positive impact in the communities we serve.

How long have you worked there?

Altogether, I've been part of the McDonald's family for almost 5 years, progressing from crew member to business owner.

What was your first job?

My first job was actually at McDonald's, which taught me teamwork, resilience, and the value of customer service. Lessons that still guide my leadership today.

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

As a child growing up in Ghana, I dreamt of becoming a business leader and creating jobs. I didn't know how it would happen, but I always felt called to build something that would empower others.

Who do you admire in the business world?

I deeply admire leaders like McDonald's founder Ray Kroc, who turned a small operation into a global brand, and African business icons such as Strive Masiyiwa, whose innovation and integrity continue to inspire me.

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

Yes, I've been fortunate to have mentors who taught me the importance of patience, strategic thinking, and investing in people. Their wisdom continues to shape how I lead and grow my business.

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

Start small, stay consistent, and focus on your people. Business success comes from mastering the basics; discipline, service, and continuous improvement.

How do you handle setbacks or frustrations?

I view setbacks as feedback. Every challenge holds a lesson that helps me improve systems, strengthen leadership, or develop resilience.

What are your hobbies and interests outside of work?

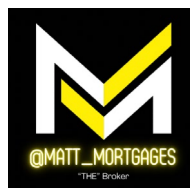
I enjoy storytelling with my children, photography, and mentoring young entrepreneurs. I'm also passionate about community projects that empower youth through education and employment.

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

I'd love to spend a day with Barack Obama — to learn how he stayed grounded while leading with vision, empathy, and purpose.

Welcome to Our New Members

[SX Mortgages LTD / Matt Mortgages](#)



Finance Broker Service specialising in Property Investment Mortgages and Bridging Loans. Also able to assist with Residential Mortgages, Invoice Finance, and Business Loans.

[Allen Motor Group](#)

Allen Motor Group



A car rental service specialising in providing a wide range of Kia vehicles for short-term and long-term rentals. Our fleet includes popular Kia models known for their reliability, fuel efficiency, and modern features, catering to customers seeking affordable and comfortable transportation options. We serve individuals, families, and businesses.

Workshop: Introducing AI Into Your Business



We are pleased to report on the success of our recent all-day Artificial Intelligence (AI) workshop, conducted in partnership with [Brentwood Council](#).

The session was expertly delivered by [David Bell of Simboc](#), who provided a compelling overview of AI and, crucially, introduced us to several highly useful AI tools.

The sheer power and potential of current AI technology is astounding. A big thank you to David who showed us how to integrate these exciting tools into our daily operations to enhance and streamline our businesses. One delegate said that it was the best £10 that they have ever spent.

Join Us For The New Look Business Breakfast

Wednesday 3 December

This month, we're serving up breakfast in Ingatestone at [The Country Cafe](#). Whether you're a long-time member or new to our Business Breakfasts, this is a great chance to connect, collaborate, and grow your local business in a professional and welcoming environment. Both members and non-members are welcome.

[BOOK HERE](#)

Lock in Your 2025 Subscription Rate: Pay by Direct Debit and Save

To continue providing the high level of service and quality you expect, our standard annual rate will be increasing for 2026. Invoices will be sent out early in December.

However, we are pleased to offer a substantial benefit to our members who choose to pay by Direct Debit.

Sign up for Direct Debit and secure the 2025 rate. By paying via Direct Debit, you will receive a discounted rate equivalent to the current 2025 pricing, ensuring you are shielded from the upcoming increase. It's the simplest way to save. Keep an eye on your inbox as we'll be sending you instructions on how to do this shortly.

Member's News

Smart Start Brentwood: Helping local entrepreneurs to turn business ideas into reality

Brentwood Borough Council, in partnership with the Let's Do Business Group, has launched Smart Start Brentwood, a new support programme designed to help local residents and early-stage entrepreneurs start, grow and scale their businesses.

The fully funded initiative offers a comprehensive package of free workshops, expert one-to-one mentoring and access to a Start-Up Grant Scheme to help participants bring their business ideas to life and take existing ventures to the next level.

The programme is free and is open to anyone in Brentwood looking to explore self-employment or strengthen an existing small business. Participants will gain practical, hands-on experience in areas such as marketing, finance, business planning and growth strategy.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Brentwood Connected Lighting Up Brentwood

Brentwood Connected, the [Business Improvement District \(BID\)](#) across Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone is working in partnership with [Brentwood Borough Council](#) to host three free Christmas events for families this festive season. Lighting Up Brentwood has already happened but here are the remaining two events:

Ingatestone Festive Fair:

Sunday 7 December from 12-6pm

Festive Shenfield:

Sunday 14 December from 12-6pm

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Meet the Marillac

Friday 5th December

Join [Marillac Neurological Care Centre](#) for a special festive event. Enjoy seasonal refreshments and relaxed networking, followed by a short introduction to the work of Marillac Neurological Care Centre – supporting adults rebuilding their lives after serious neurological injury or diagnosis.

You'll then be invited on a guided tour of our specialist Centre, beautifully decorated for Christmas and full of seasonal magic for our residents.

Whether you're looking to grow your network or discover ways your business can support a much-loved local cause, we'd love to welcome you.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

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: Podcasts

[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

In their latest episode of Made in Essex, Jill Willis meets with Paul Bleck, MD of Bartech Marine, the family firm that grew from a Mersea Island garage to a £10m engineering powerhouse. A story of legacy, leadership and scaling with purpose.

[LISTEN HERE](#)

In another series called Stories of Essex Limited they sat down with Darren Locker, Managing Director of BEW Electrical Distributors, to explore how a second-generation family firm climbed to No. 41 in the Essex Top 100 and No. 17 in the Fastest Growth list. From leading an eight-figure management buyout to expanding into solar, site lighting, and heat pumps. This episode is part of a collaborative mini-series created by Grant Thornton UK LLP, Birketts LLP, and Attract & Engage Ltd to amplify the voices of Essex's privately owned businesses.

[LISTEN HERE](#)

Figo: A Night of the Musicals at Christmas

Thursday 11th December

The glitz and glamour is returning to Figo. Professional West End performers will take you on a journey through the musicals and finish the evening with everyone up, dancing and joining in. The perfect Christmas night out with friends or Christmas party occasion with work colleagues.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Upcoming Chamber Events

3 December Wednesday	Business Breakfast Country Café, Ingatestone.	BOOK HERE
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17 December Wednesday	Christmas Lunch Warley Golf Club	BOOK HERE
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7 January Wednesday	Business Breakfast Brentwood Theatre	BOOK HERE
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Upcoming Member's Events

1-31 December	Holiday Inn Christmas Party Night	MORE INFO
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5 December Friday	Marillac Neurological Care Centre Meet the Marillac	MORE INFO
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11 December Thursday	Figo Italian Restaurant A Night of the Musicals at Christmas	MORE INFO
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