

Are You Ready for MTD?

If you're a sole trader or a landlord and your annual turnover is above £50,000, the way you handle your taxes is about to get its biggest makeover in over 30 years. [HMRC](#) is officially moving away from the "once-a-year" rush and transitioning to Making Tax Digital (MTD) for Income Tax. Instead of filing everything in one go, you'll be spreading the admin across the year to keep your records more accurate, and your Januarys a lot less stressful.

What's changing for you?

Under the new rules, the traditional paper-trail or manual filing system is being replaced by a digital-first approach. Here is what the new workflow looks like:

- **Digital Record Keeping:** You'll use HMRC-recognised software (like a phone app or laptop program) to track every penny of income and expenses as you go.
- **Quarterly Updates:** Instead of waiting until the end of the year, you'll send a summary update to HMRC through your software every three months.
- **The Final Declaration:** You will still need to finalise your tax position and submit your return by 31 January each year.

3 Steps to Get Your Business Ready

Change can be daunting but being prepared is the best way to avoid a last-minute scramble. Here's how:

1. **Check your date:** If your annual turnover is above £50,000, your start date is 6 April 2026.
2. **Pick your tech:** Explore HMRC's software guidance. There are free apps, paid subscriptions, and "bridging software" for those who want to keep using spreadsheets.
3. **Sign up early:** Don't wait for the deadline. Signing up early ensures your software is linked and you're comfortable with the new rhythm before it becomes mandatory.

[MORE INFO](#)

Workshop: Let's Tackle "Making Tax Digital (MTD)" Together

Wednesday 6 May : Holiday Inn



The latest updates from HMRC regarding Making Tax Digital (MTD) have left many business owners feeling a bit overwhelmed. If you've been scratching your head over the new requirements and deadlines, you aren't alone and you don't have to navigate them in the dark.

To help clear the confusion, we are hosting a dedicated workshop designed to strip away the jargon and provide a clear roadmap for the road ahead. We've invited [Sammy](#), a specialist known for her unique ability to translate complex "tax-speak" into plain, actionable English.

Transitioning to a digital tax system doesn't have to be a source of stress. This session is specifically tailored for sole traders and landlords who need to understand how these changes impact their day-to-day operations.

What we'll cover:

- **The MTD Essentials:** A simplified breakdown of what HMRC actually expects from you.
- **Step-by-Step Guidance:** Sammy will walk us through the transition process, ensuring you know exactly which tools and records you need.
- **Interactive Q&A:** We'll conclude with an open floor session. No question is too small. Bring your specific concerns and get the answers you need in real-time.

Our goal is to help you reach full compliance without the headache. Let's tackle these changes together.

[BOOK HERE](#)

Consider Entering The Brentwood Business Awards in 2026



Nuclear Races wins the Business of the Year 2025 award.

"Winning both the Customer Service Award and the Business of the Year Award has been an incredible honour and a huge boost for our team. These awards are a true reflection of our team's dedication, enthusiasm, and teamwork, all of which drive our continued success." Sam Alexander, Manager, Nuclear Wild Forest.

Consider entering the Brentwood Business Awards this year. You could win too! It's open to individuals, companies and organisations of all sizes and sectors as long as you are based in, or doing business in, the Borough of Brentwood.

Reasons to apply

- **Free Publicity** on social media and in the local press. Consider the impact that placing the phrase 'award winning' could have on your PR and marketing efforts.
- **Opportunity to reflect on your achievements.** It can spark ideas for taking your business to the next level.
- Help you **benchmark your business** against your peers both locally and nationally.
- **Free to Enter.** You have nothing to lose. Just being shortlisted for the final is a remarkable achievement and it could lead to local success and recognition.
- Shortlisted finalist are offered a **free place to attend the awards ceremony**, which is always a fantastic evening.

Applications open on Thursday 26th March 2026.

Launch: Brentwood Business Awards 2026

Thursday 26th March



2025 Brentwood Business Awards Ceremony

We are excited to announce that the official launch event for the Brentwood Business Awards is just around the corner.

Join us for an evening of networking, inspiration, and celebration as we kick off the most prestigious event in the local business calendar. This will be an exclusive first look at this year's award categories and a chance to connect with Brentwood's leading businesses.

Whether you represent a seasoned local business or run a rising startup, the launch event at FIGO Loft Bar is the perfect opportunity to learn how you can get involved and showcase your success.

We can't wait to see you there and start the journey toward celebrating the best of Brentwood business.

[BOOK HERE](#)

Review: February Business Breakfast



February's Brentwood Chamber Business Breakfast was one of our busiest yet, with all 50 seats filled and a fantastic mix of members, guests and local organisations in the room.

We were delighted to be hosted by SNAP in Warley, who not only looked after us brilliantly but also delivered a short and genuinely insightful presentation on neurodiversity in the workplace. It was a thought-provoking reminder of how small changes can make a big difference for both employers and employees.

As always, the focus of the morning was simply to help local businesses connect and win work. These breakfasts aren't just about coffee and conversation, they're about opportunities.

Several referrals were exchanged on the day, including:

- Care Provider Telecoms Company
- Chartered Surveyor → Creative Agency
- Carpet Cleaning Company → Accountant
- Insurance Claims Company → Mortgage Broker
- Creative Agency → Insurance Broker
- Golf Course → Insurance Broker

We also saw a number of 1-2-1 meetings arranged between attendees, including photographers, events companies, insurance brokers, creative agencies and professional services. That's exactly what we'd like to encourage, members supporting members and keeping business local.

Join us for Breakfast

Wednesday 4 March

Brentwood Chamber of Commerce
BUSINESS BREAKFAST
MASONS RESTAURANT

MEETING
Weds 4th March
7.30am-9.30am

Join us for the
March Business Breakfast at
Masons Restaurant, Brentwood

✓ New structure ✓ Open to members & non members

This month, we're serving up breakfast at Mason's Restaurant, 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.

Please book early to guarantee your place. We're looking forward to seeing you there.

[BOOK HERE](#)

Launch: Chamber Live

Thursday 30th April



We are excited to debut Chamber Live, a new series of informal evening networking events. We aim to provide a professional spotlight for local performing artists while giving local businesses a relaxed space to connect.

Our first event takes place on Thursday, 30th April, at The Essex Arms. We are proud to announce our guest performer, local singer-songwriter, [Annie Alice](#). Annie brings a soulful blend of blues and vintage pop to the stage.

Leave the office and join us for a twilight networking experience. Meet like-minded professionals, and build community through the power of live performance.

[MORE INFO](#)

South Essex Business Expo

Thursday 12th March



Donna and Kimberley at the Chamber stand in 2025.

The South Essex Business Expo will be held on Thursday 12th March 2026 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 INFO](#)

Workshop: How to Shoot Reely Good Reels

Wednesday 4 March

Learn how to make your videos for your socials look and feel more professional with some simple tips. Join James from [HNE Media](#) as he takes us through various camera techniques to take your reels to the next level. This will be hands on so bring your phone.

[BOOK HERE](#)

Netwalking: In Memory of Julian Goode

Wednesday 13th May

We were very sorry to hear that former Chamber Executive Committee member, Julian Goode, passed away recently. Julian contracted Leukemia a few years ago, and had a bone marrow transplant, which was successful initially, but his health later deteriorated.

To honour Julian's memory and his contributions to our community, we are hosting a 'Netwalking' event on Wednesday 13th May. All proceeds from the walk will be donated to his two chosen charities: [Bart's](#) and the [Anthony Nolan Trust](#). We hope you will join us in celebrating Julian's life while supporting these vital causes.

Welcome to Our New Member

[VLD Finance](#)



VLD Finance provides expert mortgage, protection and insurance advice for both residential and commercial needs. They will discuss your specific requirements and help get the right mortgage for you. They also provide advice on a wide range of insurance services. Your lifestyle, home and wallet will be reliably protected.

Better Together: Strengthening Our Ties with Havering Chamber



They say good fences make good neighbours. We believe good partnerships make a better business community. We are thrilled to highlight our ongoing and flourishing relationship with the [Havering Chamber of Commerce](#).

As our immediate neighbours, working closely with Havering isn't just a matter of geography, it's a strategic advantage for all our members. By combining our networks, we're opening doors to regional opportunities that transcend the borders of Brentwood.

Havering is currently a hub of industrial and commercial evolution, offering unique insights and prospects, including:

- **New Data Centre:** A massive leap forward for the local tech infrastructure that promises to attract secondary service industries.
- **Strategic Connections:** Their robust relationship with the London Chamber provides a direct pipeline to the capital's wider economic pulse.
- **Retail Excellence:** With an abundance of shopping centre management knowledge, they offer invaluable expertise for members in the retail and consumer sectors.

We have a history of hosting successful joint events and sharing knowledge. Whether you are looking to expand your footprint into Havering or simply want to tap into their specialised industry knowledge, we are here to bridge that gap.

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. If you would like to join the Chamber email us at: office@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk

Breakfast Season Ticket Offer

The Chamber would like to offer you 2 free Breakfast Meetings when you sign up for breakfasts by Direct Debit. That works out to be 12 months networking for just £200.

If you can't attend, you can send a colleague, supplier or friend in your place. Email office@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk to find out more.

Member's News

Promote Your Events With Us

As a Chamber member, one of your key benefits is the ability to leverage the Chamber's network to get the word out about your upcoming events.

Don't miss the chance to join fellow members who are already amplifying their reach through our channels. When you share your event with us, we don't just stop at this newsletter, we'll also feature your events on our website and across our social media platforms.

When you are ready to boost your audience, simply send the details to office@brentwoodchamber.co.uk, and we'll help you get the spotlight your event deserves.

Brentwood Council:

Beyond the High Street Grant Fund

Funding of up to £2k is available for businesses outside of the Borough's town centres to make shop front and accessibility improvements.

[MORE INFO](#)

Brentwood Connected

Local Creatives Invited To Apply For Brentwood Art Trail

This year's annual Brentwood Art Trail from Brentwood Connected, the Business Improvement District (BID), will take place from Saturday 30 May to Sunday 28 June, bringing a whole month of creativity to Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone.

Artists or groups who would like the opportunity to have their artwork exhibited in a location in Brentwood, Shenfield or Ingatestone during the Trail are invited to apply before Sunday 1 March on the Brentwood Art Trail website.

[APPLY HERE](#)



If you would like to access an electronic version of this newsletter, try this QR code.

Upcoming Chamber Events

4 March Wednesday	Business Breakfast Masons Restaurant	BOOK HERE
4 March Wednesday	Workshop: How to Shoot Reely Good Reels Holiday Inn Brentwood	BOOK HERE
12 March Thursday	South Essex Business Expo	MORE INFO
26 March Thursday	Launch: Brentwood Business Awards 2026	BOOK HERE
1 April Wednesday	Business Breakfast King George's Playing Fields	BOOK HERE
30 April Thursday	Launch: Chamber Live	BOOK HERE
6 May Wednesday	Workshop Making Tax Digital (MTD)	BOOK HERE
13 May Wednesday	Netwalking	BOOK SOON

Upcoming Member's Events

7 March Saturday	Brentwood à Becket Rotary Annual Quiz Night	MORE INFO
7 March Saturday	Pinney Talfourd Free Wills & Powers of Attorney Seminar	MORE INFO
11 March Wednesday	Brentwood Council Workshop : Scale my Biz	MORE INFO
17 March Tuesday	Brentwood Council Workshop: Marketing for Beginners	MORE INFO
19 March Thursday	SNAP Curry Night	MORE INFO
24 March Tuesday	Brentwood School Careers Convention	MORE INFO
Easter	Nuclear Essex Just get over it	MORE INFO
11 April Saturday	REACH Bonkers Bingo	MORE INFO
24 April Friday	SNAP Beat the Wine Bluffers	MORE INFO
11 May Monday	The Rotary Club of Brentwood Annual Charity Golf Day	MORE INFO

Let's Connect:

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