

## Win a Brentwood Business Award



2025 Brentwood Business Awards Ceremony

"Winning both the *Customer Service Award* and the *Business of the Year Award 2025* 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](#).

Ashley Wilson, Managing Director of [The Treehouse Club](#), won the *Brentwood Business Award* in 2024 and said, "We were completely shocked to have won this prestigious award; all the team are beaming with pride and we can't wait to share this with all our community. Winning this award really tells us that we are doing the right thing for our team, children and parents and we can't thank everyone enough!"

Consider entering the Brentwood Business Awards this year. You could win too! Individuals, companies and organisations of all sizes and sectors based in, or doing business in the Borough of Brentwood are eligible for entry.

Reasons to apply

- **Free Publicity** on social media and PhoenixFM.
- **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.
- Shortlisted finalists are offered a **free place to attend the awards ceremony.**

[APPLY HERE](#)

or use this QR code



## Brentwood Business Awards 2026 Launch



2026 Brentwood Business Awards Launch

The journey toward celebrating local excellence is officially underway. Last month, the Brentwood business community gathered at [FIGO Loft Bar](#) for the launch of the Brentwood Business Awards. The evening served as a springboard for the most prestigious event in the Brentwood business calendar and it provided an exclusive first look at the 2026 award categories, sparking hype amongst attendees.

Now that the launch has concluded, the focus shifts to the nomination period. Whether you were at the Launch event or missed out, the opportunity to enter an award is now officially open. This is your chance to tell your story, highlight your team's hard work, and take your place among the best of Brentwood.



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

Wednesday 6 May : Holiday Inn



WORKSHOP

### Making TAX Digital

Sammy Hunt  
from LETS LAUNCH ACCOUNTS



Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May  
6-7pm

Holiday Inn, Brentwood  
£5 Members £19 Non Members

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

## Workshops : AI

Following on from a successful Introduction to AI workshop held last November, the Chamber, working in partnership with [Brentwood Council](#), are bringing back David Bell from [Simboc](#) to present a series of five focused sessions on AI:

- Friday 15th May - AI Productivity Hacks for Busy Business Owners
- Friday 19th June - AI for LinkedIn Growth
- Friday 10th July - AI Tools for Sales and Lead Generation
- Friday 4th September - Smarter Social Media with AI
- Friday 9th October - AI-Powered Video Creation for Beginners

Workshop fees will be £10 for Chamber members, £15 for non-Chamber members. Any non-members must be based in the Borough of Brentwood. Spaces will be limited to 20 per workshop so please book early. All workshops will be held at the [Holiday Inn Brentwoods](#).

MORE INFO

## March Business Breakfast Highlights



Photo taken by Tina Wing Business Photography: March Business Breakfast at Masons Restaurant

Another sell-out Brentwood Chamber Business Breakfast, this time at [Masons Restaurant](#), proved once again why these events have become such a popular fixture in the local business calendar.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make it such a vibrant morning.

## Make Every Second Count

Those who have attended our Business Breakfasts know that you only have between 30 and 45 seconds to present your organisation to the room. We understand that this can be quite daunting so have gathered some pro tips to help you make the greatest impact.

Pro Tips

- **The Power of One:** Focus on one person, one problem, and one solution. If you try to talk to everyone, you end up talking to no one.
- **The "So What?" Test:** After every sentence you write, ask yourself "So what?" If the answer isn't "because it makes/saves the client money or time," cut it.
- **Record and Review:** Use your phone to record yourself. You'll likely find that you're either rushing or um-ing away precious seconds. Aim for about 75-90 words total.

Speak clearly, try not to rush and use words your audience will understand. Maintain eye contact with those in the room and remember to enjoy yourself.

See you at our next breakfast!

## Join us for Breakfast

Wednesday 1st April

This month, we're serving up breakfast at [King George's Playing Fields](#), 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.

Brentwood Chamber of Commerce  
**BUSINESS BREAKFAST**  
King George's Playing Fields

MEETING  
Weds 1<sup>st</sup> April  
7.30am-9.30am

Join us for the April Business Breakfast at  
Hartswood Pavilion,  
King George's Playing Fields

✓ New structure ✓ Open to members & non members

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. This event features singer [Annie Alice](#) singing Soulful Blues and Vintage Pop followed by band [The Six](#) performing everything from 60's classics to the now.

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](#)

## Workshop Review: How to Shoot Reely Good Reels



How to Shoot Reely Good Reels workshop

A big thank you to James from [HNE Media](#) for leading our recent workshop on professional camera techniques. We explored how to utilise pans, tilts, and reveals to elevate social media content. There was a diverse group who attended, ranging from sole traders with limited camera knowledge to experienced social media professionals. We even went outside to apply these skills.

We also appreciate the [Holiday Inn Brentwood](#) for hosting the event.

## Chamber Connects at South East Business Expo



The Chamber returned to the South East Business Expo last month where attendance remained high and consistent with previous years.

Our team spent the day reconnecting with long-term members and meeting several local business owners for the first time. These conversations highlighted the variety of industries currently operating across our region and beyond.

The event served as an effective platform for regional networking and business development.

## Netwalking: In Memory of Julian Goode

Wednesday 13th May



We are pleased to announce the re-launch of our popular Netwalking evenings with our first walk scheduled for Wednesday 13th May.

This event will also be in memory of former Chamber Executive Committee member, Julian Goode, who passed away recently. Julian was a keen walker and a regular participant at our Netwalking evenings.

To honour Julian's memory and his contributions to the Chamber, we will be raising funds for Julian's two chosen charities: [Bart's](#) and the [Anthony Nolan Trust](#).

Networking events can be a little daunting for some, as you 'work the room' in order to network. However Netwalking is a totally different concept, combining the relaxed informality of a walk in the countryside with a chance to share the experience with some different people. Walking tends to encourage conversation, and there is a natural tendency to chat and mingle with fellow walkers.

The walk will commence from a pub car park, and we will walk at a leisurely pace, for approximately an hour and a half, followed by an opportunity to enjoy a drink. If you can't join us for the walk, but would like to come along for a drink later, you would be very welcome.

Non-members are welcome to join us and discover one of the many benefits of being a member of Brentwood Chamber of Commerce.

Feel free to bring a guest with you. Dogs are also welcome. There is no charge for the event, but please register in advance through our website so that we have an idea of how many people to expect.

The first walk on Wednesday 13th May will commence at [The Greyhound pub](#) in Warley and give you an opportunity to explore the beautiful surroundings of Thorndon Country Park.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## 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)

## Welcome to Our New Members


[Everyone Active King George's Playing Fields](#)

 King George's Playing Fields offers activities for the whole family to enjoy. The playing fields boasts a splash pad with fountains that are perfect for children to enjoy on a hot summer's day, while the adventure playground offers kids the chance to climb, slide and explore to their hearts content. The centre provides a café and reception area, a Ninja Tag Active facility, a soft play area, a sensory room, changing facilities and a new golf club house with accessible toilets and changing facilities.


[Sam's Sweets n Shakes](#)

 Sweet, shake, coffee and cake shop using only the finest quality ingredients. They are here to fulfil all your sweet tooth needs, no matter your age.

[Bonnies Cafe Hutton](#)

 Family run Café situated in a local garden centre, where all the food is homemade and the selection of cakes is amazing.

[Khoya Restaurant](#)

 Khoya is a modern Indian bistro in Brentwood, blending authentic flavours with contemporary dining. Built by a local family, it began as a shared dream, shaped by challenges and is now proudly open.



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

## Member's News

### 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

The Easter Bunny Trail from Brentwood Connected Business Improvement District (BID) takes place from Friday 3 April to Sunday 26 April 2026.

Visitors to Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone town centres can take part in a free, family activity funded by BID Member businesses by spotting 10 giant bunnies and more than 30 secret painted Easter Eggs in business windows for the chance to win prizes. Easter Event days with the Easter Bunny in attendance will take place in all three High Streets.

[MORE INFO](#)

### Upcoming Chamber Events




<b>1 April</b> Wednesday	<b>Business Breakfast</b> King George's Playing Fields	<a href="#">BOOK HERE</a>
<b>30 April</b> Thursday	<b>Launch: Chamber Live</b>	<a href="#">BOOK HERE</a>
<b>6 May</b> Wednesday	<b>Workshop</b> Making Tax Digital (MTD)	<a href="#">BOOK HERE</a>
<b>6 May</b> Wednesday	<b>Business Breakfast</b> Brentwood Kitchen	<a href="#">BOOK HERE</a>
<b>13 May</b> Wednesday	<b>Netwalking</b> The Greyhound Pub	<a href="#">BOOK HERE</a>

### Upcoming Member's Events

<b>Easter School Holidays</b>	<b>Nuclear Essex</b> Just get over it	<a href="#">MORE INFO</a>
<b>11 April</b> Saturday	<b>REACH</b> Bonkers Bingo	<a href="#">MORE INFO</a>
<b>24 April</b> Friday	<b>Beat the Wine Bluffers</b>	<a href="#">MORE INFO</a>
<b>11 May</b> Monday	<b>The Rotary Club of Brentwood</b> Annual Charity Golf Day	<a href="#">MORE INFO</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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