

## Enter the Brentwood Business Awards 2026

Consider entering the Brentwood Business Awards this year. 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. 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 finalists are offered a **free place to attend the awards ceremony**, which is always a fantastic evening.

APPLY HERE

or scan this QR code



## AI Workshops



We have partnered with [Brentwood Council](#) to bring back David Bell from [Simboc](#) to present a series of five focused half day sessions on AI.

Workshops in the series will run from May through to October and include:

- **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

For attendees who attend all 5 workshops there will be a certificate of completion available at the end of the series.

Brentwood Borough Council have funded these workshops and the Chamber are charging a small fee to cover administration costs.

BOOK HERE

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

Wednesday 6th 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 £10 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

## AI Workshops : AI Productivity Hacks for Busy Business Owners

Friday 15th May



Following on from a successful Introduction to AI workshop held last November we have partnered with [Brentwood Council](#) to bring back David Bell from [Simboc](#) to present a series of half day sessions on AI.

The first workshop will focus on AI Productivity Hacks for

Busy Business Owners. Learn the best AI tools for automating admin, managing tasks and freeing up time to focus on growth.

Remember to bring your laptop as these workshops are hands on and practical. Arrive from 8.30am for teas, coffees and pastries and informal networking. The cost is £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 and a maximum of 2 people from the same business.

BOOK HERE

## Workshop: Men's Mental Health in the Workplace

Wednesday 3rd June

This workshop will focus on the important and increasingly discussed topic of men's mental health.

As awareness continues to grow around mental wellbeing in professional environments, there is a clear recognition that men's mental health remains a sensitive and often under-addressed issue. Cultural expectations, stigma, and workplace pressures can make it more difficult for men to seek support or openly discuss challenges, which in turn can impact both personal wellbeing and organisational performance.

This workshop aims to provide a constructive and practical space for discussion. It will focus on increasing awareness, reducing stigma, and equipping attendees with tools to better support themselves, their colleagues, and their teams. Topics under consideration include recognising early signs of stress and burnout, fostering open conversations, and creating workplace cultures where mental health is treated with the same importance as physical health.

BOOK HERE

## April Business Breakfast Highlights

Last month's Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Business Breakfast at [King George's Playing Fields](#) delivered exactly what these events are designed to do, bring local businesses together in a way that leads to real opportunities.

This morning produced a number of targeted referrals and 1-2-1 requests across a wide range of sectors:

- Surveyor → Telecoms Company
- Chamber → Podcaster
- Utilities Provider → Community Project
- Utilities Provider → Telecoms Company
- Funeral Director → Hospitality Company
- Care Company → Tree Surgeon
- Website & SEO Business → Electrician
- Electrician → Telecoms Company

The attendee list included professionals from financial services, legal, telecoms, marketing, hospitality, charity organisations and trades, creating a well-rounded room with plenty of crossover opportunities.



Photo taken by Tina Wing Business Photography: April Business Breakfast at King George's Playing Fields

## Netwalking

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](#).

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.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## Summer BBQ

Wednesday 8th July

We're excited to invite both Chamber members and non-members to our upcoming Summer BBQ — a perfect opportunity to relax, connect, and celebrate summer together.

Join us on Wednesday 8th July at the Green Man Pub in Herongate for an informal evening of great food, refreshing drinks, and even better company. Whether you're looking to catch up with familiar faces or build new local connections, this is an event not to miss.

More details will follow soon, but for now, please mark your calendars and keep the date free.

We look forward to seeing you there for a fantastic summer gathering.

## Chamber AGM

Thursday 14th May

The Chamber AGM will be held on Thursday 14th 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)

## 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

[Krystal Architecture Limited](#)



Their rigorous internal standards guarantee excellence in every line they draw. Whether you are a homeowner or a developer, they tailor their meetings to fit your schedule and your goals. They meet you where you are, explaining every detail of your plans

in person to ensure you're always in the loop. Their drawings aren't just beautiful, they are accurate, providing contractors with the clear specifications needed for a seamless build.

[Buckingham James Financial Services Ltd](#)



Independent Home Finance Adviser. Specialising in Equity Release and Mortgages as well as insurance, protection, estate planning. For over 14 years, Buckingham James

Financial Services has been a trusted name in financial guidance across Brentwood, Colchester, London and beyond. Backed by decades of combined industry experience, this independent firm has built a reputation for delivering honest, approachable and expert advice across a comprehensive range of services.

## Join us for Breakfast

Wednesday 6th May



Join us for the May Business Breakfast at  
**The Brentwood Kitchen,**  
Wilson's Corner, Brentwood

✓ New structure ✓ Open to members & non members

The next Brentwood Chamber Business Breakfast will take place on Wednesday 6th May at [The Brentwood Kitchen](#).

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.

If you have not attended before, it is well worth coming along.

[BOOK HERE](#)

# 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 : Brentwood Art Trail

Saturday 30 May - Sunday 28 June

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

Schools are currently signing up for the opportunity to take part in a free Brentwood Art Trail online art lesson, sponsored by Chicken and Frog Bookshop, Guided Learning and Key Tuition, and delivered by Sue Mills of Curly Cloud Art, where children will have the opportunity to create content for their own 'Zine'. Some of these creations can then be displayed as part of the Brentwood Art Trail.

There will be an official Brentwood Art Trail Pop-Up Gallery located at The Baytree Shopping Centre, open daily from 10am to 4pm, with different artists in residence each day. The Pop-Up Gallery officially opens on Saturday 30 May, and members of the public are encouraged to attend and join a series of guided tours hosted by artist Lucia Hardy to enjoy artwork and discover businesses.

Free Brentwood Art Trail Event Days will take place from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 6 June (Brentwood), Saturday 13 June (Shenfield) and Saturday 20 June (Ingatestone) with artists live in action, more guided tours, musical performances, and interactive activities for all ages. Some of the creatives taking part in this year's activities include Alison Cook, Amelia Hart, Create Yourself Calm, Dani Davison, James Fraser, Lucia Hardy, Nancy Walker, Michael Young, Nicola Osborne, and Peque Artists.

[MORE INFO](#)



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

## Nuclear Races: Nuclear Rush

Saturday 9 May - Sunday 10 May

Prepare for the ultimate muddy obstacle course race at Nuclear Rush. Choose your challenge: 1.5k, 6k or 12k courses. There are over 40 obstacles on the 6k course and over 70 obstacles on the 12k course, including the famous Deathslide and para-plunge zip lines. These exciting courses are designed to test every fitness level, whether you're a beginner, a seasoned mud racer, an individual, Rookie or family. This event is a must-do race!

Set in the heart of the Secret Nuclear Bunker Estate in Essex, and it's open to participants aged 4+ (adult accompaniment may be required) and welcomes all fitness levels.

[MORE INFO](#)

## Upcoming Chamber Events

6 May Wednesday	<b>Business Breakfast</b> Brentwood Kitchen	<a href="#">BOOK HERE</a>
6 May Wednesday	<b>Workshop: Making Tax Digital (MTD)</b> Holiday Inn	<a href="#">BOOK HERE</a>
13 May Wednesday	<b>Netwalking</b> The Greyhound Pub	<a href="#">BOOK HERE</a>
14 May Thursday	<b>AGM</b> Council Office	<a href="#">BOOK HERE</a>
3 June Wednesday	<b>Business Breakfast</b> Brentwood Town FC	<a href="#">BOOK HERE</a>
3 June Wednesday	<b>Workshop: Men's Mental Health in the Workplace</b> Holiday Inn	<a href="#">BOOK HERE</a>
8 July Wednesday	<b>Summer BBQ</b> Green Man Pub	<a href="#">BOOK SOON</a>

## Upcoming Member's Events

9-10 May	<b>Nuclear Races</b> Nuclear Rush	<a href="#">MORE INFO</a>
11 May Monday	<b>The Rotary Club of Brentwood Annual Charity Golf Day</b>	<a href="#">MORE INFO</a>
May - June	<b>Brentwood Connected</b> Brentwood Art Trail	<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  
 @brentwoodessexchamber

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