

Congratulations to the Brentwood Business Awards Finalists



A huge congratulations to all the finalists of the Brentwood Business Awards!

These awards celebrate the outstanding businesses, organisations and individuals that make such an important contribution to our local business community. With 10 award categories, including the coveted Brentwood Business of the Year, there are plenty of opportunities to recognise the talent, innovation and success of businesses across Brentwood.

Every category is independently judged and proudly sponsored by local businesses, helping to showcase the strength and diversity of our local business community. You can find a full list of this year's finalists on the next page.

We're delighted that [Pinney Talfourd Solicitors](#) continues to be our Headline Sponsor and [PhoenixFM](#), our Media Partner. Both have been steadfast supporters of the Brentwood Business Awards since they began in 2018, and we're incredibly grateful for their continued support.

The winners will be announced at the prestigious Brentwood Business Awards ceremony on Friday 16th October at Stock Brook Manor.

To all our finalists – congratulations! We look forward to celebrating your achievements on the night.

Make sure you've got your tickets and we'll see you there!

[MORE INFO](#)

Never Miss a Chamber Breakfast with a Season Ticket



Join us for the September Breakfast at
Brentwood School, Middleton Hall Lane

Our Chamber Business Breakfasts continue to prove hugely popular, with this month's breakfast, hosted by [Brentwood School](#), selling out three weeks in advance. Our breakfasts are now regularly selling out, so don't miss the opportunity to connect with other local businesses.

For Chamber members, our Breakfast Season Ticket is the easiest way to guarantee your place at every meeting. For just £200, you'll receive 12 breakfasts for the price of 10, giving you a full year of networking for an excellent value price.

Sign up by Direct Debit and we'll give you two breakfasts absolutely free. You'll also benefit from a guaranteed place at every monthly breakfast without having to remember to book each time, plus the opportunity to visit a different local venue every month.

Can't make a breakfast? No problem – you can send a colleague, supplier or friend in your place. Email office@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk to find out more.

2026 FINALISTS

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS AWARDS

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2026 FINALISTS

BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

- CARLA TAYLOR
Taylor Maid Cleaning
- SAM BANTICK
Sam's Sweets N Shakes
- SAMI GOLDRING
Simply Teeth

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS AWARDS

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2026 FINALISTS

CHARITY WORKER OF THE YEAR

- ANNE LANCASTER
Saint Francis Hospice Orangeline
- EILEEN DAMSELL
Hutton U3A
- RICHARD BARKER
Haven House Hospice

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS AWARDS

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2026 FINALISTS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- BLACK AND BEING ESSEX
- ENDEAVOUR ACADEMY
- MERIDIAN KUNG FU

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS AWARDS

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2026 FINALISTS

CUSTOMER SERVICE

- LAURYN JAMESON TRAVEL
- TAYLOR MAID CLEANING
- THE LOUNGE HAIR

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS AWARDS

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2026 FINALISTS

HIGH STREET IMPACT

- MCDONALD'S
- BED SHENFIELD
- THE LOUNGE INGATESTONE

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EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

- BEAUMONT HOME CARE
- CARMEL JANE PHOTOGRAPHY
- ENDEAVOUR ACADEMY

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HOSPITALITY

- BONNIES CAFE
- CHANTILLY
- SAM'S SWEETS N SHAKES

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS AWARDS

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2026 FINALISTS

SOLE TRADER

- LILY'S YARN AND CRAFTS
- MERIDIAN KUNG FU
- THE ACADEMY OF NAILS AND BEAUTY

HEADLINE SPONSOR

Pinney Talfourd

ORGANISER

BRENTWOOD CHAMBER

Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Newsletter / **SEPTEMBER 2026**

MEDIA PARTNER

phoenix98

Meet The Committee



Chamber Executive Committee member, Alex Keay, Founder of Succession Plan Coach

We're excited to introduce our new Chamber Executive Committee member, Alex Keay, Founder of [Succession Plan Coach](#).

What is your role on the Chamber Committee?

I support Phil Scott and Gillian Brooks with running the monthly Business Breakfast meetings. I've also been gathering direct feedback from members to ensure their priorities are well represented as we move forward.

Tell us about your current business.

As [Succession Plan Coach](#), I help Essex business owners protect their legacy and plan their next chapter. Around 61% of UK businesses have no succession plan in place, which puts everything the founder built at risk. I help owners de-risk their operations so they can transition smoothly on their own terms.

What do you like about Brentwood?

Having moved here two years ago, I've found the community remarkably welcoming. There is a real spirit of collaboration among local business owners. I also love all the greenery, especially Thorndon Park.

What was your first job?

I helped our school caretaker during the holidays, doing painting, lifting, carrying, and general odd jobs. And yes, I was once sent to the local DIY store for a "skyhook"!

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

I grew up in Portsmouth and my dad was in the Royal Navy, so I fully expected to follow in his footsteps and join up too.

Who do you admire in the business world?

I had the privilege of working with Adrian Moorhouse (Olympic gold medallist swimmer turned business leader). He was down to earth, genuine, and showed that great leadership involves backing your team and leading by example.

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

I've had a few over the years. One former boss stood out by showing complete belief in me, handing me opportunities before I even thought I was ready. It taught me the power of placing genuine trust in people.

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

Ask for help early. You don't have to figure everything out on your own, between the Chamber, the local council, and experienced business owners who've been through it, people are genuinely willing to help.

How do you handle setbacks or frustrations?

Theory is great, but frustration still happens! Luckily, my wife is a counsellor, so she's good at listening, cutting through the noise, and giving me a grounded perspective. But don't tell her that.

What are your hobbies and interests outside of work?

Golf, gardening and photography.

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

Noel Gallagher. I love his music, but I also respect his wit & straight-talking approach, and the fact that he's built an incredible career entirely on his own terms.

Join us For Breakfast

Wednesday 3rd September or 7 October



This month, Thursday 3rd September, we're serving up breakfast at [Brentwood School](#). This event has sold out but you're welcome to book the following Breakfast on 7th October at the [Brentwood Theatre](#).

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

Business Briefing & Chamber Live

Join [Brentwood Borough Council](#) and the [Chamber](#) at [Zebrano](#) for a free evening of business updates, networking, and live entertainment.

The Brentwood Business Briefing kicks off the night with an exclusive update on the Baytree Centre development, followed by complimentary nibbles and networking opportunities with local professionals. Starting at 8 PM, Chamber Live takes the stage featuring high-energy music from The Multitones, who will be performing mod, ska, and 60s soul classics.

Guests are welcome to attend either session or stay for the full evening.

BOOK HERE

AI Workshops



Delivered in partnership with [Brentwood Borough Council](#) and David Bell of [Simboc](#), we are pleased to continue supporting local businesses in exploring the practical benefits of artificial intelligence (AI).

Upcoming workshops in the series:

- Friday 4 September – Smarter Social Media with AI
- Friday 9 October – AI-Powered Video Creation for Beginners

Participants who attend all workshops will receive a Certificate of Completion at the end of the programme.

BOOK HERE

Workshop: Public Speaking

Wednesday 2nd September



Confidence in Public Speaking

by Neil Patrick, Celebrant

Wednesday 2nd September
6-7pm
Holiday Inn, Brentwood
£5 Members £10 Non Members

Public speaking is one of the most valuable skills for personal and professional success, and it's no surprise that this workshop has been one of our most requested topics.

We are thrilled to announce that this interactive session will be delivered by [Neil Patrick](#), an experienced independent celebrant who knows exactly what it takes to command a room, capture hearts, and deliver unforgettable speeches.

Join us to learn from a master storyteller and develop the skills and confidence you need to become a more effective, authentic speaker.

[BOOK HERE](#)

Workshop: Market Insights

Wednesday 7th October



Stop Guessing. Start Growing:
Turn Market Questions into
Business Opportunities

Are you struggling to understand why sales have stalled, which customers to target, how to stand out from competitors, or whether a new product or service will succeed?

Join freelance Market Insights Consultant, [Gillian Brooks](#), for an interactive workshop designed specifically for local SMEs. Discover practical, cost-effective ways to gather and use market insight to make smarter business decisions. Learn how to identify growth opportunities, understand customer needs, test ideas before investing, strengthen your marketing, and gain confidence in your strategy. Leave with actionable techniques and a clearer path to informed business growth.

[BOOK HERE](#)

Members' News

Beaumont Care Home is Hiring!

[Beaumont Care Home](#) is looking for caring, dedicated Carers to join their fabulous team. As an independent, family-owned provider, they deliver outstanding, personalised home and live-in care across Brentwood, Chelmsford, Basildon, Epping Forest and surrounding areas.

[MORE INFO](#)

Welcome to Our New Members

TAU Advisory Limited for WPA Healthcare



WPA offer groundbreaking personal and business health insurance policies that have truly revolutionised healthcare in the UK. From funding cancer drugs not readily available on the NHS, the first benefit of its kind, to being recognised by the World Health Organisation as leading in the development of new policies that reduce costs for clients. As a Healthcare Partner we focus on the service we provide to our clients. We are trained first and foremost to listen and ask questions, so we truly understand the needs of our clients.

Kings Cuts



[Kings Cuts](#) are a dedicated, family-run business who care about helping you and ensuring your trees are looked after in a responsible way. They are passionate about arboriculture and take pride in every job they do, be it big or small. Their tree surgeons are all fully qualified, have many years' experience and are insured so you can rest assured you are in safe hands.

Upcoming Chamber Events

2 September Wednesday	Workshop: Public Speaking Holiday Inn	BOOK HERE
3 September Thursday	Business Breakfast Brentwood School	BOOK HERE
4 September Friday	Workshop: Smarter Social Media with AI Holiday Inn	BOOK HERE
1 October Thursday	Business Briefing & Chamber Live Zebrano	BOOK HERE
7 October Wednesday	Workshop: Market Insights Holiday Inn Brentwood	BOOK HERE
7 October Wednesday	Business Breakfast Brentwood Theatre	BOOK HERE

Upcoming Members' Events

6 September Sunday	Reach Family Fun Day and Dog Show	MORE INFO
12 September Saturday	Pinney Talfourd Wills and Lasting Power of Attorney Seminars	MORE INFO
18 September Friday	Marillac Charity Music Bingo	MORE INFO
24 September Thursday	Pinney Talfourd Breakfast, Bites and Business	MORE INFO
7 October Wednesday	Brentwood Council 2026 Brentwood Jobs, Skills & Volunteering Event	MORE INFO

Let's Connect:

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