BRENTWOOD CHAMBER
Building Better Business

Newsletter

Bringing you the latest business news from Brentwood

NOVEMBER 2026

Celebrating Excellence at the Brentwood Business Awards

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS AWARDS

The annual Brentwood Business Awards returned to celebrate the outstanding talent, dedication and entrepreneurial spirit of Brentwood. As a highlight of the local business calendar, the atmosphere throughout the evening was charged with anticipation as finalists eagerly awaited results across 10 distinct categories, culminating in the announcement of the prestigious Brentwood Business of the Year 2026 Award.

Congratulations to Carmel Jane Photography for winning the highly coveted Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year 2026 Award.

Reflecting on the achievement, Kate from Carmel Jane Photography shared:

"Winning Business of the Year has given our whole team such a wonderful boost. It's a proud moment that recognises the care and commitment behind our work, and it inspires us to keep growing and supporting even more schools and families with these special memories."

This well-deserved accolade highlights the team's relentless drive for excellence. The award promises to further raise their profile, laying the groundwork for continued growth and even greater success in the years ahead. Congratulations to all of this year's impressive finalists and winners!

Headline Sponsor Pinney Talfourd Solicitors and Media Sponsor PhoenixFM were recognised with heartfelt thanks for their continued support having backed the event since its inception in 2018 to make this community celebration possible.





Carmel Jane Photography wins the overall Business of the Year Award 2026.





2026 WINNERS

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS AWARDS

SPONSORED BY Tees

2026 WINNER

BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

CARLA TAYLOR

Taylor Maid Services Ltd

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS AWARDS

SPONSORED BY matchroom.

2026 WINNER

CHARITY WORKER OF THE YEAR

EILEEN DAMSELL

Hutton U3A

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS AWARDS

SPONSORED BY

2026 WINNER

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MERIDIAN KUNG FU

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS AWARDS

SPONSORED BY Bennetts Funerals

2026 WINNER

CUSTOMER SERVICE

TAYLOR MAID SERVICES LTD

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS AWARDS

SPONSORED BY Brentwood School

2026 WINNER

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

BEAUMONT HOME CARE

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS AWARDS

2026 WINNER

HIGH STREET IMPACT

BED SHENFIELD

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS AWARDS

SPONSORED BY Holiday Inn

2026 WINNER

HOSPITALITY

CHANTILLY

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS AWARDS

SPONSORED BY BRENTWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL

2026 WINNER

SOLE TRADER

ANDY DENNIS

Meridian Kung Fu

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS AWARDS

SPONSORED BY BRENTWOOD CHAMBER

2026 WINNER

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

BONNIES CAFE

BRENTWOOD BUSINESS AWARDS

SPONSORED BY Pinney Talfourd

2026 WINNER

OVERALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

CARMEL JANE PHOTOGRAPHY LTD

HEADLINE SPONSOR

Pinney Talfourd

ORGANISER

BRENTWOOD CHAMBER

MEDIA PARTNER

phoenix98

Member Spotlight
Jay Gandesha - Partner at Gravita



Tell us briefly about your business.

Gravita Essex is an ambitious accountancy firm built around people, relationships and practical advice. Based in Kings Road, Brentwood, we support owner-managed businesses, entrepreneurs, individuals and organisations of all sizes with accounts, audit, tax and advisory services. Our experienced teams are close to our clients, understand their challenges and help them to move forward achieving their goals.

What is your role in this business?

I'm a Partner in Member Business Services, advising businesses from start-ups to established SMEs. I specifically help clients navigate everything from HMRC disputes to long-term tax planning, providing practical, straightforward advice and support as a trusted business partner.

How long have you worked there?

I've been with Gravita for three years, after Davis Grant became part of Gravita having been a Partner there for 30 years.

What was your first job?

My first job was at the age of 12 as a shop assistant in a supermarket while still at school. It helped me build confidence, develop customer service skills and learn the importance of teamwork and responsibility.

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

Growing up in a family of entrepreneurs, business was a regular topic at the dinner table. Helping my parents with their bookkeeping from an early age shaped my career, while their experiences taught me that hard work and kindness go a long way.

Who do you admire in the business world?

I admire Gopichand Hinduja of the Hinduja family and Lakshmi Mittal for their entrepreneurial achievements and business success.

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

My senior partner taught me the importance of listening before making assumptions and empowering people to grow. Giving your team the space and support to develop brings out the best in everyone.

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

Building a business can be challenging, and you'll often be juggling many priorities. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Having trusted professionals and a reliable sounding board around you can make a real difference to your growth.

How do you handle setbacks or frustrations?

I focus on staying calm, learning from the experience and using it as an opportunity to grow before moving on to the next challenge.

What are your hobbies and interests outside of work?

I enjoy watching football, particularly as a keen Arsenal supporter, alongside rugby and cricket. I also love spending time with family, travelling and exploring different cultures.

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

Mahatma Gandhi, for his humility and teachings. I'd love to learn from his perspective and gain inspiration on how to become a better human being.

Join us For Breakfast

Wednesday 4th November



This month, Wednesday 4th November, we're serving up breakfast at Old Brentwoods Club.

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

Workshop: Public Speaking

Wednesday 4th November



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

Christmas Drinks

Thursday 17th December

Join us at Figo Brentwood for a relaxed evening of holiday cheer, great conversation and wonderful networking opportunities with local businesses. Whether you wish to toast to a successful year or build new connections for 2027, this is the perfect way to kick off your holiday celebrations.

Admission is free but we ask if you you could please register your interest. We look forward to raising a glass with you!

BOOK HERE

Members' News

Brentwood Connected

Lighting Up Brentwood: Saturday 21 November (12-6pm)
Ingatestone Festive Fair: Sunday 29 November (12-5pm)
Festive Shenfield: Sunday 6 December (12-5pm).

All events are free to attend and funded by businesses. There will be live performances across multiple stages at Lighting Up Brentwood, along with market stalls, food, drink, gifts, funfair rides, festive walkabout acts and entertainment.

MORE INFO

Welcome to Our New Members

Geldards LLP

Geldards is a strong and successful full-service national law firm with offices in Cardiff, Chelmsford, Derby, Nottingham and London. They offer high quality and practical legal advice to a broad range of private and public sector organisations including, local authorities, public bodies, charities, and government agencies as well as private individuals and families. They are an open and friendly business with unshakeable integrity.

VAW

Virtual assistants that streamline your business. Virtual Assistant Whiz is an award-winning executive VA consultancy. They'll introduce you to their highly experienced support professionals who have the skills, the training and the drive to help your company thrive.

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

Upcoming Chamber Events

4 November Wednesday	**Business Breakfast** Old Brentwoods Club	BOOK HERE
4 November Wednesday	**Workshop:** Public Speaking Holiday Inn	BOOK HERE
2 December Wednesday	**Business Breakfast** The Country Café	BOOK HERE
17 December Thursday	**Christmas Drinks** Figo Restaurant	BOOK HERE

Upcoming Members' Events

6 November Friday	**SNAP** Coffee, Cake and Catch-up	MORE INFO
19 November Thursday	**SNAP** Holiday Inn Brentwood's Musical Bingo in aid of SNAP	MORE INFO
21 November Saturday	**Brentwood Connected** Lighting Up Brentwood	MORE INFO
29 November Sunday	**REACH** Christmas Wreath Workshop	MORE INFO
29 November Sunday	**Brentwood Connected** Ingatestone Festive Fair	MORE INFO
6 December Sunday	**Brentwood Connected** Festive Shenfield	MORE INFO

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