



Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

April 2017

www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk

Dear Member

With this Newsletter you will find a formal agenda for our **Open Evening and AGM**, to be held on Thursday 18th May 2017, 6.30pm onwards.



This is taking place at Brentwood School and will start with a drinks reception and finish with a buffet, all of which are free to attendees. The intention is to have more

of an Open Evening than usual, with plenty of networking, although there will be some formalities to attend to, as briefly as possible, at the AGM.

Our keynote speaker is Maria Thompson, Principal of Havering College, which at various times in the past has had campuses in Brentwood. Maria will be talking to us about **'the role of the College in the local community, particularly Brentwood; and how we can help each other'**. Amongst other things Havering College specialises in apprenticeships, so she will probably touch on this subject and how the College can help businesses.

Included in the papers you are receiving with this Newsletter is a **nomination form**. If you are interested in lending your expertise to the running of Chamber by becoming a member of the Executive Committee, or would like to nominate someone, please complete the form and send it to our office at Pepperell House.

As we mentioned in the March Newsletter, Paula and I will be stepping down at the AGM so next month's edition of the Newsletter will be our last one. An email went out to all members inviting anyone interested to **tender for producing future newsletters**, and this is a

reminder that, if this falls within your sphere of expertise, you might like to respond to the tender invitation.

Traders in the Shenfield area have been experiencing real **difficulties recently with parking related to Crossrail activities**. This has been exacerbated by the 'temporary' replacement bus service, which is dragging on to be anything but temporary and impacting trade in the area.

Our Chairman Colin Barber has written a **formal letter of complaint** on behalf of traders to the CEO's of Crossrail, TFL, Greater Anglia, Essex and Brentwood Councils, with copies to our MP, Council Leader and local press. This is an example of the lobbying which Chamber can and does do on behalf of members.

Earlier I alluded to the fact that there are to be changes, modernisations, at your Chamber including Paula & I moving on. We have been privileged to be a part of the continued success of Brentwood Chamber for almost 13 years, that success made possible by you, our members.

As I have often said, it is more important than ever that Brentwood should have a strong association for businesses - a strong Chamber of Commerce; especially as the UK moves into a post-Brexit era, with its challenges and opportunities.

We hope that you will continue to support Brentwood Chamber and encourage new members to join, to **make sure that the voice of local business remains strong** and that business continues to be a priority for local and national government.

Mike Hawkins
Chief Executive

This Advertising space could be yours!

We are looking for member sponsors for some of our 2017 Newsletters.

For the price of only £100, you could have sponsorship recognition right here on the front page and the whole of page 2 for an advertorial or article.

Please contact the office if you are interested in sponsoring an edition on 01277 214814 or email us at info@brentwoodchambers.co.uk



Brentwood in Bloom – Business Category

We are delighted to confirm that Brentwood Chamber of Commerce will again, this year, be sponsoring and organising the **Brentwood in Bloom awards – Business Category**. Further details will be available shortly and will be accessible on our website at www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk Please do keep an eye out for it and we will have more information in the May Newsletter.



'Netwalking' is back for the summer

Following on from the popularity of last summer's Netwalking events, we have decided to run a similar series of walks this summer.

They will take place once a month throughout the summer, giving you the opportunity to enjoy some of the countryside around Brentwood.

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 will be in a different location each month. 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.

Please register in advance through our web site, so that we have an idea of how many people to expect. Feel free to bring a guest with you, and dogs are also welcome.

The first walk on Tuesday 23rd May will commence at The White Horse in Coxtie Green and give you an opportunity to explore the beautiful surroundings of Weald Country Park.

Further dates are:

Wednesday 28th June – The Viper in Mill Green

Monday 24th July – The Greyhound in Warley

Wednesday 23rd August – The Green Man in Herongate



Marketing for Growth and an introduction to Social Media for Business - Essex

Brentwood Borough Council is holding this free seminar on Tuesday 16th May 2017, 9.30am to 12.30am at Committee Rooms 1 & 2, Brentwood Town Hall, Ingrave Road, Brentwood, CM15 8AY

Marketing is often viewed as a cost, not as an investment! Once you accept that it is indeed an investment it's about getting the right return on that investment!

This business seminar will allow you to step back and think about the best ways to promote your business and achieve a return on your investment.

Just type the web link below into your browser for more information and to register your place

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/marketing-for-growth-an-introduction-to-social-media-for-business-essex-tickets-33076190777>

Member's News



Special Needs And Parents
Registered Charity No. 1077787

NEW ROLE FOR FOUNDER OF AWARD WINNING CHARITY

SNAP (Special Needs and Parents) is pleased to announce that Hilary Needham who founded the charity in 1994 is to become the Honorary Life President when she steps down from the SNAP Management Team in June.



Hilary, who received an MBE for services to children and young people with special needs and their families in 2012, is delighted to take up her new position, created by the charity's Trustees in recognition of her dedication.

"The SNAP team is in a strong position with a diverse Trustee Board, a dedicated team who care passionately, and over 120 regular volunteers. I'm looking forward to working with our new team of SNAP Ambassadors and will continue to network and represent the charity at various events," said Hilary.

The charity has come a long way since its humble beginnings around Hilary's kitchen table and today The SNAP Centre in Warley has developed a range of information and advisory services as well as a wide variety of activity groups and helped over 4,000 families.

Suzanne Davies, Chairman of SNAP's Board of Trustees added: "We are delighted that although Hilary is to retire from the Management Team she will continue to be part of the SNAP family. We wish to thank Hilary and her family for their incredible dedication to SNAP and wish her all the very best for the future."

- Join Hilary and the team on Wednesday 17th May between 11.00am – 5.00pm to celebrate The SNAP Centre's 10th birthday – visit www.snapcharity.org

For more information please contact:

Michelle Andrews, Events & Marketing Officer, SNAP, 01277 211300 or email michelleandrews@snapcharity.org

ESSEX GIRL ROWS AROUND GREAT BRITAIN



On 3rd June, Brentwood based Chamber member Laura Try will row 1,800 miles around Great Britain, a challenge deemed tougher than rowing across the Atlantic Ocean!

With the unreliable British weather, strong currents and only 2 hours of sleep at a time, Laura and her 4 crew mates will live on the compact ocean rowing boat for 56 days.

"The challenge was advertised on Facebook and saw it as an opportunity to make a difference to mine and other people's lives. I have no rowing experience, but like to demonstrate that anything can be achieved when we put our mind to it."

Rowing for 12 hours every day, burning 8,000 calories per day and living on a diet of dehydrated food, all while living and working with a crew she barely knows; this is certainly set to be the biggest challenge of Laura's life!

After finding herself homeless for 3 months during 2016, Laura is doing this challenge to raise money for Centrepont, the UK's largest charity for homeless young people.



"One minute I had a successful career earning good money, and the next I was living out of my van, sleeping in supermarket car parks. It was the lowest and scariest point of my life. Nobody should be without somewhere to live. I want to help provide young adults with support and a place to stay."

Laura will document her journey and ocean life in daily video dairies on social media. She hopes to raise £25,000 for Centrepont which will provide 1,500+ young adults with somewhere to stay. First she must raise £21,000 to pay for her boat and necessary equipment and she is seeking sponsorship.

Follow Laura's journey to row round Great Britain on her social media sites:

Website: www.LTFactor.com Facebook: [LTFactor](https://www.facebook.com/LTFactor) Twitter: [@LTFactor](https://twitter.com/LTFactor) Instagram: [@LTFactor](https://www.instagram.com/LTFactor) You Tube: [LTFactor](https://www.youtube.com/LTFactor)

Dates for your Diary

Executive Committee Meeting Dates for 2017

20th April, 18th May – AGM, 15th June, 20th July, 17th August,
21st September, 19th October, 16th November & 18th December 2017

If you have any issues you want to be raised at an Executive Committee meeting, please contact the Chamber office a week or so before the relevant meeting and we will put it on the agenda

Email: info@brentwoodchambers.co.uk

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **EVENTS 2017** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A Taste of Brentwood Beer, 7.00pm Wednesday 26th April

Calcott Hall Farm, Ongar Road, Brentwood, Essex CM15 9HS

Sponsored by Handelsbanken

Business Breakfast, 7.15am to 9.00am Friday 12th May

Marygreen Manor Hotel, London Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4NR

The Rt Hon Sir Eric Pickles MP will be attending this breakfast

Sponsored by The Rotary Club of Brentwood á Becket

Annual Open Evening & AGM, 6.30pm Thursday 18th May

Brentwood School, Bayman Gate, Middleton Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8EE

Netwalking, Tuesday 23rd May, 6.00pm to 7.30pm

The White Horse, 173 Coxtie Green Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 5PX

Business Breakfast, 7.30am to 9.00am Friday 9th June

Marygreen Manor Hotel, London Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4NR

Sponsored by Carmel Jane Photography

**See Events on our website www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk
where you can book & pay online**

If you would like to sponsor a future Business Breakfast please contact
Colin Barber - Colin.Barber@BrentwoodChambers.co.uk

Sign Off

Brentwood Council will be running another **Brentwood Business Showcase event** this year, building on the success of the one held in November 2016. Chamber will be taking part, having our own stand, again as we did in 2016.

Last year's was a successful event with over 400 businesses attending, 60 exhibitors, 7 keynote speakers, 7 workshops, and Brentwood Chamber hosted a networking drinks reception afterwards.

The date for this year's Brentwood Business Showcase has been confirmed as **Wednesday 1st November 2017**. It is an important event for local businesses and it offers an opportunity to showcase your business. You may wish to make a note of this in your diary and we will let you know how to reserve your place when we have more information.

Mike Hawkins

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