



Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

February 2008

www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk

Dear Member

This is a very exciting month for us because it sees the launch of our **'Member Discount Card'** – this is rather like a plastic credit card and, when it is shown to **'Acceptors'**, you will be offered a discount



on your purchases. **'Member Discount Cards'** will be posted out to all members with the Membership Certificate – which is sent as an acknowledgement of annual fee payment receipt (invoices have already been sent out to all members).

The card can be used at all Chamber Member outlets who have agreed to become **'Acceptors'**. A list of the initial **'Acceptors'** is provided on page 2 of this newsletter. An up-to-date list can always be found on the Chamber website and, from time to time, we will send an updated list with the newsletter. If you are in any doubt, please look for the **'Acceptors logo'** displayed in shop windows/business premises. Members who trade mainly on-line will be displaying the logo on their websites. The **'Acceptors logo'** is shown alongside the list of **'Acceptors'** on page 2. We believe this is an excellent opportunity to encourage trading amongst members and should offer benefits for both **'Member Discount Card'** users and **'Acceptors'**. Please help us make the scheme a success.

2012 OLYMPICS

This month Brentwood received some really bad news which we are all currently trying to come to terms with - that is the extraordinary and peremptory decision of the International Olympic Committee to withdraw the 2012 Mountain Biking event from Brentwood. Of course there will be some who opposed it all along and may regard this as good news but, from a business point of view and in terms of opportunities for the future of Brentwood, it is bad news. The Council had invested much time and energy into enthusing and preparing local business to take advantage of the opportunities; and some infrastructural developments in the borough have undoubtedly been influenced by the prospect of the world's media and many thousands of visitors turning their attention to Brentwood. Also we in Chamber have always been very positive about it.

However, it seems that we must reconcile ourselves to the fact that, for whatever unsatisfactory reason, Brentwood will not now be an Olympic Borough. On the other hand, Brentwood's Olympic supremo, ex Council Chief Executive Bob McLintock, believes that Brentwood can still benefit hugely, due to our proximity to the main Olympic site (15 minutes by train). We will work with Bob and others to help identify these opportunities which we will discuss in future Newsletters, adopting a positive view on how Brentwood businesses will best be able to take advantage of them.

Mike Hawkins
Executive Secretary

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MEMBERS NEWS

The following companies have joined us since October and we welcome them to membership of Chamber:

S & H Operations Ltd t/a Subway 102 High Street, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4AP
The Headley The Common, Great Warley, Brentwood, Essex CM13 3HS
Menace Male Grooming 1st Floor, 196 Hutton Road, Shenfield, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8NR

Chamber Member Card - Acceptors



The following members have already committed to accepting Member cards and they will be offering discounts (they decide the level of discount, but it is sure to be worth cardholders' while to take advantage of these great offers):-

Abbey Antiques & Furnishings Ltd, Plot 1, Maldon Rd, Danes Rd Ind Est, Romford, RM7 0JB - **Antiques**
Brandt Design, 61 West Street, Coggeshall, CO6 1NS – **PR, Marketing & Design**
Brentwood Theatre Trust Ltd, 15 Shenfield Road, Brentwood, CM15 8AG - **Theatre**
Callico's, 18 Warley Hill, Brentwood, CM14 5HT - **Hairdressers**
Capricorn Media, 22 Hillside Walk, Brentwood, CM14 4RB – **Publicity & Media**
Divadani, 9 Guithavon Street, Witham, CM8 1BJ – **IT, Marketing & Website Design**
DJK Cleaning Services, 16 Tern Way, Brentwood, CM14 5NY – **Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners**
Drinks of France/Charente Enterprises, PO Box 6370, Brentwood, CM14 4WZ - **Wine Merchant**
Heart of Gold, 40a High Street, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4AJ - **Jewellers**
Hussey & Greaves, 94 Hutton Road, Shenfield, Brentwood CM15 8ND – **Stationery, Art & Office Products**
Hutton Electrics (LCA Wholesale), 211 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, CM13 1LZ – **Electrical Supplies**
Keith Sparling Osteopathic Svs Ltd, Ashwells Sports & C C, Ashwells Rd, Brentwood, CM15 9SE - **Osteopath**
Kelsey Butchers, 166 Hutton Road, Shenfield, Brentwood, CM15 8NL - **Butchers**
Link Systems Ltd, The Farm House, Steeple View Farm, Dunton Rd, Basildon, SS15 4DB – **IT Support Services**
Mass & Co, 25 High Street, Brentwood CM14 4RG – **Surveyors & Valuers**
Picturesque, 154 Warley Hill, Brentwood, CM14 5HF – **Picture Framers and Frame Makers**
Pinney Rogers Solicitors, 39-41 High Street, Brentwood, CM14 4RH - **Solicitors**
Prospect Business Solutions Ltd, Writtle Park Farmhouse, Edney Common, Chelmsford, CM1 3QF - **Finance**
Quay Group Ltd, 5 St Thomas Road, Brentwood, CM14 4DB – **Business Services**
RBK Services (UK) Ltd, Unit 13 Upminster Trading Park, Warley St, Upminster, RM14 3PJ – **Electrical Services**
Ringmat Developments, PO Box 200, Brentwood, CM15 9FB – **Audio Services**
SFB Training Services Services, Victoria House, Britannia Road, Brentwood, CM14 5LD – **Training Services**
Smith Consulting Ltd, 151, High Street, Brentwood, CM14 4JA – **Financial Advisors**
Studio Indirect, 56 Oliver Road, Shenfield, CM15 8PX – **Tax Advisor**
The Music Shop, 8, Ropers Yard, Brentwood, CM14 4BG – **Musical Instruments & Sheet Music**
Triumvirate Technology Ltd, Unit 2, The Old Forge, 53 High Street, Ingatestone, CM4 0AT – **Computer Systems**
Upton Mobility Vehicles, Roman Road, Mountnessing, Brentwood, CM15 0UH - **Mobility & Access Equipment**

[If you want your name added to this list please let us know by returning the registration form enclosed in your January newsletter – no cost or strings attached; just a record for us to know who is an Acceptor and for us to send you the window stickers etc \(spare forms are available\)](#)

PRENUPS....Coming to a family near you

By Catherine Polli, Head of Family Law at Pinney Rogers LLP Solicitors

Historically Prenuptial Agreements (“Prenups” for short) have been commonplace in the USA. They are however not part of British Culture for the simple reason that the English Courts have previously refused to enforce them. However, recently, when deciding how to divide the assets upon divorce, English Courts have taken the contents of assets into account and in some circumstances upheld them.

Whilst each case turns upon its own facts in certain circumstances the Court will uphold them. They can be useful in instances where one of the parties is marrying for a second time and there are adult children who the parties wish to protect or where one party has significantly more assets or debt than the other. Usefully, business interests can also be dealt with in the agreement. The validity and usefulness of a prenuptial agreement will of course depend upon a number of factors.

If you are considering marrying this summer it may be worth taking advice from a specialist family solicitor, who carries out this work frequently to see if this is something which would be useful to you.

Contact Catherine on 01277 268700 or Catherine.polli@pinneyrogers.co.uk

We offer a warm welcome to one of our newest members, The Headley Pub and Restaurant. An old established local venue, under new General Manager, Frederic Sol, it is offering a high yet affordable standard of cuisine and intends to be a very active member of Chamber. We wish Frederic and his staff every success.

The Headley is an elegant Pub located in a picturesque corner of Headley Common in Great Warley – The Common, Great Warley, Brentwood, Essex CM13 3HS, 01277 216104



Opened in February 2007, The Headley has undergone extensive renovation to provide local diners and visitors to the area an environment which we hope to become a home from home, where you can relax and unwind. Owned by East Anglia's only 2 Michelin star chef Daniel Clifford, The Headley offers great traditional British dishes with a distinctive twist in its cool, comfortable and elegant surroundings.

Surrounded by some of England's finest countryside, The Headley is a truly lovely retreat, whether you are looking to enjoy lunch with friends, an intimate dinner or a family meal.

Sponsors for this Newsletter

As you can see, we are continuing to produce this Newsletter in colour. We have been fortunate to have sponsors for the previous three editions, covering the extra cost of production. Brentwood Chamber's strategy of keeping annual fees relatively low and spending very little on administration costs means that we can only usually produce colour editions with member sponsorship.

You can take advantage of this by offering a sum as little as £100 to sponsor one edition and receive sponsorship publicity. This is less than it often costs to take out an advertisement in a National or even a local Newspaper. **So please get in touch with us if you would like to sponsor a future Newsletter.**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Executive Committee Meeting Dates for 2008 are:

21st February, 20th March – Joint with Council, 17th April, 15th May – AGM,
19th June, 17th July, 18th September – Joint with Council, 16th October and 20th November

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

Breakfast Club

Another major new Brentwood Chamber initiative is the launch of our Breakfast Club. This is designed for those members who want a vehicle for promoting your business. The idea is for you to meet like-minded people (members of Brentwood Chamber) who want to promote their own businesses and the unashamed intention is to drum up new business. It works for other organisations and we believe it will work for Brentwood Chamber. Do give it a go, if this is the approach for you.

**The first event will be held on Tuesday 26th February, 7.30 to 8.45am
at The Crown Street Café, 25 Crown Street, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4BA**

Future planned dates are: 25th March, 29th April, 27th May, 24th June,
29th July, 26th August, 30th Sept, 28th Oct and 25th Nov '08

You can now book your place and pay online at:

<http://www.brantdesignstudio.co.uk/brentwoodchamber.html>

Networking Lunches

Our 2008 Networking Lunch programme will be held at the
Marygreen Manor, London Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4NR, 12 noon to 2.00pm
13th March ~ Guest Speaker: Essex Energy Advice Centre, 'Energy Efficiency in the Workplace'
Future planned dates are 13th May, 11th September and 11th December 2008

There will be topical speakers at each lunch

You can now book your place and pay online at:

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Sign Off

In May 2007 we held a highly successful Annual Members Meeting in Old Big School, Brentwood School. A splendid setting, it proved a winning occasion for all who attended.

This year, we have been fortunate again to have been offered the same prestigious venue for our May 15th 2008 Annual Members meeting (from 6.30pm). Please put it in your diary and do come along. It is your prerogative, as a member, to attend and to raise any matters you may have in mind; or just enjoy a relatively informal occasion, with many opportunities for networking, if that is your interest, or simply taking time to relax in the company of our VIP guests and other members.

Our guest speaker will be The Hon Eric Pickles MP who will be giving his view on the prospects for business in Brentwood in the coming years. After the brief AGM formalities, an excellent buffet with accompanying refreshments will be served free of charge to members and guests. If you have not been before, try it this year. I can promise you that you will be pleasantly surprised.

Mike Hawkins

