



Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

March 2008

www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk

Dear Member

At the end of last month, we launched our new '**Breakfast Club**'. The brainchild of two of our Executive Committee members, Neil Hornsby of Drinks of France and David Kendall of DJK Cleaning Services Ltd., the idea is for members interested in promoting their businesses through direct contact with other like-minded members, to have monthly breakfast meetings which they can use to do just that – promote their business.

The inaugural meeting was held at the Crown Street Café and was a great success. Regular breakfast meetings will be held on the last Tuesday of each month. If this



format could be good for your business, get in touch to find out how you can join the club. Our picture (left)

features David and Neil holding mugs of breakfast tea.

The other major recent development is, of course, the launch of our **Chamber Member Discount Card**. Some cards have already been sent out with the 2008 membership certificate (which acknowledges payment of this year's subscription). The package also contains a list of **Acceptors** – those shops and other businesses who have agreed to accept the cards as an entitlement to a discount on purchases of goods or services.

We have received 2008 subscription payments from a large number of members (who either already have their cards or will shortly receive them). **For those members who have not yet paid the 2008 subscription, we would urge you to do so soon please.** Brentwood Chamber relies on these funds to keep going and we believe Chamber offers very good value. Benefits now include receiving a Member Discount Card which we are eager to send you with the Certificate/receipt for subscriptions paid. Thank you.

Mike Hawkins
Executive Secretary

This month's Newsletter has been sponsored by Chamber member
Ringmat Developments



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MEMBERS NEWS

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

**Brentwood Aquatics & Reptile Centre, Ongar Road, Kelvedon Hatch, Brentwood, CM15 0JX
Ashwells Sports & Country Club, Ashwells Road, Brentwood, CM15 9SE**

The Ashley Jolly SAD Trust (SADS UK) Cardiac Charity Expands

The considerable expansion of the charity over the last 8 years has meant that it is no longer viable to work purely from existing office space in Brentwood. After months of looking round for suitable premises and rents SADS UK are pleased to advise that our new address is, Suite 6, Churchill House, Station Road, Horndon Industrial Park, West Horndon, Essex CM13 3XD, Tel: 01277 811215 E-mail info@sadsuk.org

Next November we shall be celebrating the work of the charity, drawing together the characters and personalities that have supported its cause and benefited their communities, together with local dignitaries by holding a Grand Charity Ball. If you would like further information please contact Anne Jolly on the details given above.

The Friends of Brentwood Citizens Advice Bureau

Fashion Show

by Doddy of Ingatestone & Baby Gap of Brentwood

Wednesday 19th March 2008, 7.00 for 7.45pm
Brentwood Preparatory School, Middleton Hall Lane, Brentwood

Raffle, Stalls, Refreshments, tickets £7.50 from 01277 220248

Sponsorship of our Newsletter



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As you will have seen, from the front page, our thanks are due this month to Ringmat Developments for sponsoring this colour edition. Ringmat are world-class specialists in high quality sound

reproduction systems. A leaflet describing the 'state-of-the-art' product in which Ringmat specialises is included with this Newsletter and they can be contacted on 01277 200 210 and/or via www.ringmat.com

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of a Newsletter edition please contact us at the Chamber Office. The cost is relatively modest (£100) and the coverage/publicity good

Chamber Member Discount Card

As mentioned on the front page of this Newsletter, the Discount card has now been well and truly launched.



Our picture (left) shows a number of Chamber members, including several Executive Committee members, proudly showing off their **Member Discount Cards** (the cards are sponsored by Havering College).

We do hope you will use your cards at the growing numbers of Acceptors who are eager to offer cash discounts to members who produce their Member Discount Cards.

-----New Chamber Recognition Award -----

Last year we launched an Employee Recognition Award scheme which has proved a success (you may remember the pictures we published in our January edition of awards being presented to outstanding employees).

That scheme is still very much alive and we look forward to receiving your nominations for recognition of outstanding employees in your business - people who have made a real difference to the business.

Now we are launching a new award - Sponsored by Chamber member Havering College.

The New Award is called:

“Employer Training Recognition Award”

The emphasis of this award is to recognise and salute local businesses (Members of Brentwood Chamber of Commerce) who have implemented high standards of training for their staff.

We would be happy to receive nominations from members of organisations who they feel have demonstrated excellence in providing staff training. Members who believe their own organisation meets the criteria are very welcome to nominate their own company. The sponsors, Havering College, will arrange the presentation of suitable awards at a future Chamber event (perhaps the Annual Members meeting on Thursday 15th May, if suitable nominations are received in time for that event. We look forward to hearing from you.

Brentwood Chamber Annual Members Meeting 15th May 2008

We are delighted that Brentwood School has agreed again this year to host Chamber's annual Members' meeting, in the historic setting of Old Big School. The event will start at 6pm for 6.30pm. Then, after some brief formalities at 7pm, our keynote speaker will be Mr Eric Pickles M.P. Soon after (about 7.45pm) there will be plenty of opportunities for you to mix with fellow guests, including invited VIPs. It should be a splendid evening, informative and, hopefully convivial. We would really appreciate seeing you there.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Executive Committee Meeting Dates for 2008 are:

20th March, 17th April – Joint with Council, 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 has been the launch of our Breakfast Club. This is designed for those members who want an extra vehicle for promoting your business. The idea is for you to meet like-minded people (also members of Brentwood Chamber) who want to promote their own businesses - and the unashamed intention is to drum up new business. The first meeting was held on 26th February and was a great success. If you want to join and take advantage of the opportunities this programme can give your business, get in touch to book, as below

The second event will be held on Tuesday 25th March, 7.00 for 7.15am at The Crown Street Café, 25 Crown Street, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4BA

Future planned dates are: 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

Next meeting is 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:

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

Sign Off

As you can see from this month's Newsletter, there is plenty of activity going on in *your* Chamber. Just last month, our Executive Committee meeting was graciously hosted by new Chamber member, Headley Arms – an old established Brentwood business but being given a real boost by new General Manager, Frederic Sol and his team. We wish them well. ***If any other members with suitable premises would like to host one of our monthly meetings, not least to give us the chance to meet you and your business, please let me know.***

I would be grateful if you would put two important Chamber dates in your diaries - and of course we would love to see you at these events. **On Thursday 15th May, our Annual Members meeting is being held in Old Big School, Brentwood at 6pm for 6.30pm.** The formalities will be kept to a minimum and then we will enjoy an excellent buffet, supplied by the school and wine/drinks - all free of charge. Please come along. A little later in the year is the **summer barbeque**, being held at the magnificent BT offices in London Road, on **2nd July**. More details on these and other events in due course.

It all adds up to a vibrant Chamber doing our level best to offer real benefits to you, our members. Please take advantage of everything we have on offer, and let us know what more we can do for you.

Mike Hawkins