



Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

Invoices for the annual subscription fees were sent out in January and we would like to thank those members who have already paid. A reminder is being sent out to those who have not yet got around to doing so. We would very much appreciate you renewing your membership so that your Chamber can remain a viable and potent voice for business in our community, and develop yet more services to benefit your business

April 2008

www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk

Dear Member

The demand for Brentwood Chamber's exciting new product, the '**Member Discount Card**' is growing steadily, as is the number of businesses who have agreed to become '**Acceptors**'. If you have not yet used your card, please do so as it makes sense to benefit from the cash discount.



If you have not received a Discount Card yet, perhaps you have not found the time to settle your subscription fee invoice – in

which case you will soon be receiving a reminder and we will be delighted to send you a card (or more than one if you have staff who could benefit).

Next month we are holding our **Annual Members Meeting** in the elegant surroundings of Old Big School, Brentwood School. Please make a note of the time and date **Thursday 15th May at 6.30pm**. The formalities will be kept short, though they will interestingly include a keynote address by Eric Pickles M.P.

Then the stage will be set for informal contact by members who will enjoy an excellent buffet, being provided by the school, and wines by Drinks of France. This is all free of charge to members. It should be an enjoyable evening and we look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, advanced notice for you of our **Summer Barbeque** event on 2nd July at BT's splendid offices in London Road. Again there will be a relatively brief formal part of the evening at which some prominent local figures will talk about our theme for the event – 'Brightening up Brentwood'. Then we will enjoy a fine barbeque with wines etc and the opportunity to get to know a number of fellow business people.



Mike Hawkins
Executive Secretary

There is no specific Sponsor for this month's edition. If *you* would like to sponsor a future edition at a relatively modest £100, we will ensure you receive prominent publicity and acknowledgement

MEMBERS NEWS

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

Anchor Staying Put, 1-2 Seven Arches Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4JG
Crossroads, 1-2 Seven Arches Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4JG

CHAMBER MEMBERS ARE STARS OF ITV SHOW - 'DOG RESCUE'

Congratulations to Chamber members **Geoff and Mary Monk, the owners of B & M Cycles** in Brentwood High Street who touched the heart of the nation by adopting **Honey**, an abandoned Labrador who sadly lost her leg in a road accident.

Honey's plight was broadcast on GMTV and the Monk family immediately offered her a new home. The story of how they came to adopt **Honey** was seen by millions of television viewers on the ITV1 show 'Dog Rescue'.

Honey has become a firm favourite with customers at B & M Cycles, especially children. This is a very heart-warming story and shows what compassion there still is in a world where news headlines tend to focus on negative stories. Well done to Geoff and Mary Monk and good luck to **Honey**!

EAT, SHOOT AND TEE-OFF FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CHARITY

A charity sporting day organised by **Chamber member RBK Services** is aiming to raise money to continue its on going support for family accommodation attached to the children's ward at Basildon University Hospital.

RBK Services, an electrical services company based in Upminster, is hosting its **annual golf tournament and clay pigeon shoot on Thursday 8th May**. Guests can choose a day on the green, open to all handicaps, at Warley Park Golf Course in Brentwood, or a shoot in the grounds of The Woodman pub in nearby Stapleford Abbots. A full English breakfast and buffet lunch will be served to everyone, followed by an evening function with three course meal, wine and entertainment in the Lakes View restaurant at Warley Park.

This is the twelfth year that RBK has staged the event **in aid of Ronald McDonald House Charities which provides 'home away from home' accommodation for the families of children in hospital**. To date over £120k has been raised for the charity from this event alone and this year's proceeds will once again be donated to the house at Basildon University Hospital.

Full details of the charity and what it provides can be seen at www.rmhc.org.uk and for details on how to enter the event and to sponsor or make a donation, please contact, info@rbkservices.co.uk or telephone 01708 222826

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR OFFICE SPACE IN SHENFIELD?

Chamber members, **Attwood and Hart** are IFA's and Insurance Brokers, based on the 2nd Floor at Hunter House, 150 Hutton Road, Shenfield, CM15 8NL. We have spare space available in our offices of around 700 sq.ft at a rental of £27 per sq.ft which includes rates and service charge. We have the usual toilet/kitchen facilities and two meeting rooms.

Our contact details are 01277 373572 or 07880553909 – Maggie Attwood

CHAMBER MEMBER SHENFIELD SCHOOL'S BUSINESS SCHOOL AWARDS

Brentwood Chamber Vice-Chairman Rob Bristow and Executive Committee member Clive Othen recently attended a business breakfast at the Shenfield High School Business School.



They were very impressed by the obvious enthusiasm and talent of the students who have shown great enterprise in starting up businesses, some of which could go on to be extremely successful.

Chamber is currently considering what it might be able to do to encourage this highly worthwhile activity in terms of its relevance to the local business community. The picture shows Rob and Clive presenting two students with ties to mark their achievements.

A Message from Essex Libraries about how they can help your business

Business Information – did you know the library provides it?

Do you have an established business or are you setting up from scratch? We can help you!

There is a host of free up-to-date business information at Brentwood Library, New Road (behind the Baytree Centre: phone 01277 264290). In common with all Essex libraries, Brentwood has access to:

- Keynote Market Research – over 380 reports
- Marketline Business Information Centre – 2500 market reports
- Hoovers Company Information – information on 2.2 million UK companies
- Kompass – more than 1.85 million companies in over 64 countries
- EIU Country Reports – profiles and reports of over 200 countries
- Lexis Nexis – UK case law, acts of Parliament and statutory instruments
- British Standards

For more complex enquiries, contact the Business Information Service. We can provide you with all you need about other companies, be they competitors, suppliers or customers. We can give you financial details and director information, or provide credit checks, so that you can be sure who you are doing business with. If you are thinking of expanding, we can offer a detailed bespoke assessment of the current market to ensure your market potential is out there. We also have a wide range of published market research data.

Have you considered a mail shot campaign? We can build you a tailor-made database matched to your specific criteria and emailed directly to your desk-top.

You may be thinking about public procurement contracts. We can make it easier for you to find them with our individualised Tenders Alerting Service, for small or large contracts in the UK or Europe.

We are open seven days a week. Most of our services are free of charge and the rest are competitively priced.

To find out more, contact us now!

Essex County Council Libraries
Tel: 01245 492535 Fax: 01245 492536
Email: business.information@essex.gov.uk



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Executive Committee Meeting Dates for 2008 are:

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

The new Business Breakfast Club is proving to be a successful vehicle for members to promote their businesses. If it is the sort of format which could work for you, we urge you to give it a try.

**The third event will be held on Tuesday 29th April, 7.00 for 7.15am
at The Crown Street Café, 25 Crown Street, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4BA**

Future planned dates are: 27th May, 24th June,
29th July, 26th August, 30th Sept, 28th Oct and 25th Nov 2008

For your convenience you can now book your place and pay online at:

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

or telephone Elaine Othen 01376 564955

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 May ~ Guest Speaker: Patrick Geoghegan, South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust ~ "Overall Mental Health Services for Brentwood and Plans for the Future"

Future planned dates are 11th September and 11th December 2008

There will be topical speakers at each lunch

For your convenience you can now book your place and pay online at:

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

or telephone Elaine Othen 01376 564955

Sign Off

As you can see from this and previous editions of the Newsletter this year, your Chamber is going through a busy and, we think, a very productive period. The **Newsletters** are now, we hope you agree, easier on the eye since we have introduced **colour printing** (afforded by individual member sponsorship). The **networking lunch programme** is in full swing again; and we have added a **breakfast club programme** to our activities.

A substantial number of **Member Discount Cards** are in circulation and, so far, between 30 and 40 Acceptors (local businesses which are also Chamber members) have agreed to give discounts when the cards are presented. We continue to invite nominations for '**Employee Recognition Awards**' and '**Employer Training Recognition Awards**'.

We hope to see many of you, our members, at the two big events coming up in the next few months: the **Annual Members Meeting on 15th May** and the **Summer Barbeque on 2nd July** – at which refreshments will be provided at no cost or very low cost. Please come and join us at these events and tell us what more we can be doing to enhance the value of Chamber for your business.

Mike Hawkins