



Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

A final plea to those members who have not yet paid your annual subscriptions. We value your membership and want to retain it

June 2008

www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk

Dear Member

Our annual members meeting on 15th May, hosted by Brentwood School – in the Old Big School, was a great success and I would like to thank all those who attended.

The 2008 Business Focus magazine, sponsored by Wortley Byers, was launched at the meeting and, by now, you should have all received copies of it – I hope you agree that it is a fine publication which does your Chamber proud. Thanks to many of you, Chamber's activities are becoming even fuller and more relevant to our members.



Eric Pickles MP was our guest speaker, interrupting by-election duties in Crewe & Nantwich (indeed

he endured a 9 hour round trip to honour his commitment to us). His vision of the future for Brentwood was positive, though he felt that local traders could benefit by exploiting niche opportunities offered by the 'boutique' and 'cyber'

economies rather than take on the nationals and supermarket chains.

Our picture shows Mr Pickles and Mayor Cllr Dudley Payne, with Chamber officers and, far left, our host from Brentwood School Mr Simon Weale, Deputy Head.

I would particularly like to welcome our 2 new Executive Committee members – Steve Ackroyd, Area Director of NatWest; and Catherine Polli, Partner with solicitors Pinney Rogers. We are grateful to them and to all the existing committee members for offering their support and expertise to help the strategic direction of Chamber.

The Annual members meeting is always a time to take stock and draw fresh breath for the task ahead. In Chamber we remain optimistic about prospects for the Borough of Brentwood and its businesses. No-one will deny that tough times face us all, but the skills and resilience continually exhibited by the local business community will surely see us ride the choppy waters which lie ahead.

Your Chamber will certainly be trying our best to help in that process.

Mike Hawkins

This months Newsletter has been kindly sponsored by:



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MEMBERS NEWS

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

Edward Watts, 14 Chelmsford Road, Shenfield, CM15 8RG

Fitness First Clubs Ltd, Baytree Centre, High Street, Brentwood, CM14 4BX

Retail Business Performance Ltd, Thamesgate House, Suite 37, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 6DF

PJS Tiling, Painting & Decorating, 18 Moorescroft, Kelvedon Hatch, CM15 0XF

Commercial Financial Solutions Ltd, Haverings, Tally Ho Drive, Hutton, CM13 1SP

Belvoir Brentwood, 88 Kings Road, Brentwood, CM14 4DU



Why should I make a Will?

By Ellen Loveys, Associate Solicitor at Pinney Rogers Solicitors, Brentwood 01277 268700

A carefully drafted Will can save considerable sums of money in IHT and give you peace of mind that your wishes will be carried out.

Most of us would rather not think about our own death and maybe this is the main reason why over 60% of us die without having made a Will.

There are also many misconceptions that stop people making a Will, for example “everything I have will automatically go to my wife”, “my estate is too small” or “it is too expensive”.

There are many good reasons for making a Will, for example:

1. It is the only way of ensuring that the people you want to benefit actually do inherit your estate. If you die without making a Will, the intestacy rules apply in an arbitrary manner, particularly if there are no children. This may lead to your spouse having to share your estate with relatives whom you may not have intended to benefit.
2. At present the intestacy rules do not recognise cohabitants. If you live with your partner and die without having made a Will, your partner will not automatically inherit any of your estate – there is no such thing as a “common law wife”. Your partner may have a claim on the estate, but this is expensive and a situation that should be avoided.
3. Tax planning; for a married couple, careful drafting of a Will can ensure that inheritance tax (IHT) is kept to a minimum.
4. Trusts; under a carefully drawn Will, you can set up trusts for beneficiaries under age or for beneficiaries with a disability.

Home made Wills should only be used in the most straightforward of circumstances and can be disastrous, leading to considerably more expense than need be the case.

Will writing companies are unregulated and do not offer the consumer protection that a solicitor does as we are backed by professional indemnity insurance and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

A carefully drafted Will drawn by an experienced solicitor can save considerable sums of money in IHT and give you peace of mind in ensuring that your wishes will be carried out. Time, however, does not stand still and it is necessary to keep your Will under regular review.

Pinney Rogers has been providing the local community with legal advice for over a century.

Ellen Loveys can advise on all aspects of Wills. Contact Ellen on 01277 268700 or ellenloveys@pinneyrogers.co.uk

On Wednesday 2 July 2008 (6pm to 9pm) we are holding our main summer event, jointly with Brentwood Town Centre Partnership and Federation of Small Businesses

Summer Barbeque



At BT's offices, 1 London Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4QP

Heavily subsidised by sponsors, for a modest entrance fee (£12 for members and £15 for non-member guests), you can enjoy a great barbeque, some fine wines and the chance to hear from and talk to VIPs and fellow members – in the splendid surroundings of BT's garden patio with excellent views over Weald Park

Booking forms are included with this Newsletter or you can book online, see page 4 for details

We look forward to seeing you there – at one of the key Brentwood social and business events of the year



Brentwood Chamber's **Business Breakfast Club** has been going nearly 6 months now and is proving to be a popular way of doing business. If you haven't yet tried it, give it a go (see page 4 for information on how to book)

You will have seen that this month's edition of the Newsletter has been sponsored by Pinney Rogers LLP

You too can sponsor a future edition for a relatively modest cost, in return for which your organisation will gain the benefit of the publicity and a full length feature article about your business – which remains on our website long after the Newsletter may have been filed away.

And don't forget, a benefit of Chamber membership is that **all** members can have a small article about your business in any of our Newsletter on an occasional basis (say about 250 words) and we will include a flier advertising your business or a particular promotion (let us have 250 copies) again on an occasional basis, to give everyone a fair share. This is a **free service** which we offer

Important – Chamber Subscriptions

Thank you to all of you who have paid your annual subscriptions for this year. ***Some, however, remain outstanding and we urge those who haven't yet paid, to do so.*** We rely on this income to keep going. Because our fees are relatively modest, our total annual income is between £10,000 and £12,000 – which covers the communications and other admin costs (such as this Newsletter). The actual central support work done in the office is almost entirely voluntary – which is what enables us to keep fees so low.

We hope to persuade ***those of you who have not yet paid*** this year that Chamber offers **good value** for money. But if we do not succeed in doing so, we would regrettably have to remove you from our database and website by the end of June. We certainly don't want that and hope to find solutions to retain our valued members.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Executive Committee Meeting Dates for 2008 are:

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 next event will be held on Tuesday 24th June, 7.00 for 7.15am at The Crown Street Café, 25 Crown Street, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4BA

Future planned dates are: 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

The next lunch will be 11th September, speaker to be confirmed

Christmas Lunch 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

SUMMER BARBEQUE

Joint Network Event for Brentwood Chamber of Commerce,
Brentwood Town Centre Partnership and Federation of Small Businesses

Wednesday 2nd July, 6pm until 9pm, BT, 1 London Road, Brentwood, CM14 4QP

Please complete the enclosed booking form or book online at:

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

Sign Off

I hope that many of you will come along to our summer barbeque on 2nd July. In the past it has been a most enjoyable and productive occasion. All we hope for is some sunny weather. If you have been before, I hope you will want to go again; if you haven't, give it a go – I'm sure you will enjoy it. I look forward to seeing as many of you who can make it on 2nd July.

Mike Hawkins