



Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

April 2011

www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk

Dear Member

Next month, on Thursday 19th May, we are holding our **Annual Members Meeting**. If you are unable to make any other Chamber events in the year, please try not to miss this one. It offers a chance for you to find out what work has been done on your behalf during the year, a chance for you to quiz us on any aspect you may want to clarify or even challenge.

And it offers a chance for you to meet up with fellow Chamber members and our VIP guests, to discuss matters of interest to you and air your views. All of this in the elegant surrounds of **Brentwood Town Hall**.



The formalities of the evening will be kept to a minimum so that you can enjoy a first class buffet and drinks, provided free as part of your membership, in congenial company. Our keynote speaker is Council Leader Cllr Louise McKinlay and her thoughts will be especially interesting to hear in this year of enforced Council austerity.

Cllr McKinlay has always expressed keen support for the business community so you may well want to ask her how this will manifest itself in the difficult year to come.

Though you can just turn up on the night (6.30pm at the Town Hall), we would appreciate it if you could get in touch to let us know you will be coming. Just visit www.brantdesignstudio.co.uk/brentwoodchamber.html.

One issue we will be pursuing both through our Council contacts and at County level is exactly what is

happening on the practical application of the Government's localism initiative. A joint **Kent/Essex/East Sussex Local Enterprise Partnership** has been formed and it is clear that these bodies around the country will have considerable powers, as well as considerable funds for distribution.

Braintree has applied to be a sub-region so it does beg the question of how Brentwood will fare under the new governance structures which are even now being put into place. The localism policy is supposed to see power devolved to local level. Brentwood must be careful not to be left out.

On the same tack, it is interesting to note that control of **on-street parking**, including charges, has passed back to Essex Council who are in turn outsourcing it to a new South Essex Partnership. Again we must be vigilant that the future decision-makers are not so remote that public opinion on burning issues such as parking fees becomes less relevant.

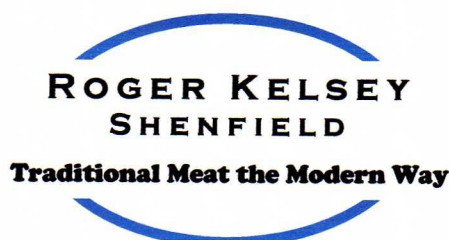
So there is plenty happening at the moment which will have a big impact on the business community in Brentwood. In Chamber we are determined that our voice will be heard to ensure that local businesses, and in particular Chamber members' interests are protected.

A couple of weeks ago we sent out a major recruitment mailing and hope to attract more members through it. **If you know anyone who would benefit from Chamber membership please encourage them to contact us** and we will offer them a warm welcome.

I hope to see you at the Annual Members Meeting on 19th May.

Mike Hawkins
Executive Secretary

This month's newsletter has been sponsored by



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Member News



An invitation to Chamber members

to join in Brentwood County High School's

CAREERS CONVENTION

Thursday 6th October 2011 6.30 - 8.30 pm

They would like to invite Chamber members to contribute to the 17th Annual Brentwood County High School Careers Convention. This is a major event in their Careers Education and Guidance Programme and the event attracts contributors and attendance of students (in excess of 400 last year!) from the local and surrounding area. Students in Years 9-13 will attend with their parents and the objective is to give them as much varied information as possible to enable them to make wise career/subject choices.

The school will be available from 4.30 pm to enable the setting up of displays and it will be possible, where necessary, to collect them the following morning. Contributors will be allocated an area approximately 8 ft by 8 ft and supplied with a table and two chairs, unless they are notified of any special requirements. It is helpful if any additional equipment such as audio visual aids and power points can be requested in advance.

The Head, Mrs. Mason, also welcomes you to the school's dining room at 5.30 pm when wine, soft drinks and a buffet will be available. This gives an opportunity to circulate with other contributors and to meet other members of the Brentwood County High School senior management team.

If you would like to take part, please contact Sharon Roberts, Careers Support Co-ordinator 01277 238908

RIDGEWELL & BOREHAM ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES LTD

Ridgewell & Boreham is a friendly, local Accountancy firm based in Brentwood. Christine and Paula – the two directors – have been running the business together since May 2004, and between them have a wealth of experience in both Business Management and Accountancy. Paula's background has always been in Bookkeeping and Accountancy – over 30 years – whereas Christine has no end of strings to her bow; mostly in Business Management as well as Accountancy experience, amounting to over 40 years of business experience.

Over the years the business has expanded, now employing one full time member of staff and two part time, and has moved from a small basement office in Kings Road to larger offices in Crown Street. Their client base is mainly sole traders and small limited companies, mostly due to the fact that they keep their charges to a minimum. They adopt a friendly, hands on approach and always try to make time for a cup of tea with their clients.

Christine is a valued member of the FSB's Regional Committee. Paula is currently on the Essex Committee of her professional Accounting body. Both consider that keeping up to date with current affairs is of the utmost importance when running a good business.

If you have any queries regarding Bookkeeping or Accountancy matters, please feel free to **contact either Christine or Paula on 01277 217172 and they will hope to help you.**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Executive Committee Meeting Dates for 2011

21st April, 19th May - AGM, 16th June, 21st July,
15th September – joint with Council, 20th October and 17th 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

NETWORKING EVENTS

The next **Breakfast Club** is 20th April, 7.15am to 8.45am
Various new venues are being trialled please see website for details

Future dates: Third Wednesday of every month, 18th May, 15th June, 20th July 2011

To book your place and pay online:

<http://www.brantdesignstudio.co.uk/brentwoodchamber.html> or telephone Elaine Othen 01376 564955

Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Annual Members Meeting & AGM

To be held at Brentwood Town Hall, Ingrave Road
Brentwood. Time 6.30 pm. A full buffet with wine and
soft drinks will be served, free of charge.

To help us assess numbers for catering, please book in via
<http://www.brantdesignstudio.co.uk/brentwoodchamber.html> or telephone
Elaine Othen 01376 564955

Sign Off

As you will have seen from the front page there are a number of issues buzzing around at the moment, as the country adjusts to an age of austerity but also grapples with the concept of devolvement of power to local level.

In Chamber we want to ensure that Chamber continues to have a strong lobbying voice in the corridors of power, wherever they may be. We will be following all developments with interest with that objective in mind. If you have influence in these affairs and think you might be able to help Chamber, we would be delighted if you contact us. I am sure that the debate will be continued at the Annual Members meeting – so that's another reason to come. I hope to see you there.

Mike Hawkins
Executive Secretary

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