



Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

January 2012

www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk

The annual subscriptions for 2012 are due this month and will be invoiced to you soon.

Dear Member

Happy New Year.

We came through the Christmas period without snow and ice and, although trading has been difficult in this recession, at least extreme wintry conditions did not add to the hazards for all of us to overcome.



Our town, which has been voted the 5th Best Place to live in the UK, looked festive, the Brentwood Lights "Switch-on" back to the

fun family event it had been in previous years.

Our picture shows the Mayor, Cllr Joan Holmes, formally switching on the Shenfield lights (along with some helpers from Chamber!). Ingatestone's traditional Dickensian Evening also went well. **Chamber's Christmas Dinner** at the Holiday Inn was great fun. Thank you to those who donated the excellent raffle prizes which were a main feature of the evening. The raffle raised approximately £200 which is being donated to the Crossroads charity.

Back to the realities of the New Year, including the usual challenges which each January brings - but with the added prospects of gloom and doom forecast by many pundits for 2012.

And yet one forecaster (no less than Goldman Sachs) predicts that the UK will be the leading economy in Europe and the third wealthiest in the world by 2050. Though four decades may seem a long time to wait, if they are correct this promises well, even for the immediate years ahead!

Bringing ourselves back to 2012, there are some positive things in prospect – the **London Olympics** (did you get tickets?) and the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee**; with the FTSE 100 expected by most forecasters to be well above 6000 by year end.

In Chamber we will be pursuing a vigorous programme of lobbying, organising networking events and helping our members to advance your business interests.

Shortly we will be sending out invoices for the 2012 subscriptions and, for the seventh year running, the prices will be held at 2005 levels. We hope you agree that membership is beneficial to you and represents very good value for money.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that 2012 is a successful year for Chamber and for your business.

Mike Hawkins
Chief Executive

This newsletter is sponsored by:



Havering College of Further & Higher Education

Business Services 01708 462800

information@havering-college.ac.uk

www.havering-college.ac.uk

Havering College active in Brentwood!

Havering College of Further and Higher Education has been active in the Brentwood community for some time, in fact many Brentwood residents travel to the college's state of the art facilities in Hornchurch every year. *But did you know that the college has a physical presence in Brentwood already?*

The Lanes is a fully equipped Hair and Beauty salon offering industry standard facilities with students who are already qualified delivering a wide range of Hair and Beauty treatments. The salons are open to the public and are based on the Sawyers Hall College site in Sawyers Hall Lane. See below for more information.

If you're walking along the High Street and pass the Dreams bed store take the opportunity to look up and you will see the Havering College business offices on the first floor. A number of staff work there who deliver local services including our Business Relationship Managers who work closely with employers to deliver their training needs. In addition to this we have training facilities available where we deliver short duration professional training and/or updating for local residents. So if you are a business professional and want to improve your presentation skills, learn about project management or business improvement techniques you may be able to do it on your doorstep at a time and place convenient for you. Many other courses are available. **For further details contact our Business Services team on 01708 462800.**

Regards
Maria Thompson
Deputy Principal



Consider becoming a Governor at Havering College

For details contact
Wendy Philpot on 01708 462818



Business Services

Short Courses in 2012

For 2012 we have a whole range of short courses available for your own personal development or to train your staff and make an impact on your bottom line in areas such as

- Management and business skills
- Business improvement techniques
- Driver CPC
- Transport & logistics
- Information advice and guidance
- Construction crafts, welding, electrical installations
- Creative arts & media
- Catering & hospitality
- Hairdressing & Beauty
- IT Media and CAD

Courses may be delivered at our college campus, from our central Brentwood offices or on site at your own premises.

National Apprenticeship Week

National Apprenticeship Week 6-11 February takes our focus to the impact that apprentices have on business growth and turnover.

Did you know that 80% of employers agree that apprentices make their workplace more productive!

Employers who take on apprentices age 16-19 only have to pay their salary (currently set at a minimum of £2.60 per hour) as their training is fully funded.



There are almost 200 different frameworks for apprenticeship training across the business spectrum – if you can't find what you need – we will develop one for you! Contact our business services team who will discuss your needs and find the optimum solution for your company.

Our fantastic, beautifully equipped professional hair and beauty salons, The Lanes, are open for clients and training opportunities.

As a client you can enjoy being exquisitely pampered with the latest beauty techniques and have your hair professionally styled as our qualified students perfect their skills, ready to

take their place in the industry. For Salon professionals we offer the latest industry developments in cutting edge courses such as colouring and thermal spa massage.

For further information and bookings call the salon direct on 01277 212262.

ADVICE & GUIDANCE. THRESHOLD SERVICES

01708 462800

information@havering-college.ac.uk

Havering College of Further and Higher Education

Ardleigh Green Campus, Ardleigh Green Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM11 2LL

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Member News

Unicus – *Leaving a Unique imprint on your organisation*

At Unicus we pride ourselves on our track record of helping individuals, teams and, organisations, bring about sustained change. Failure to do so is for us, a waste of everyone's time and energy.

Unicus is a virtual consultancy with seven partners. Each partner has extensive experience of facilitating learning and development in both the private & public sectors. We focus on remaining close to our customers and giving them maximum value.



I'm Liz Staniforth, one of the 'seven', I live in Billericay and am keen to work closely with local businesses. I am very passionate about what I do, as I believe investing in the people who work for you pays huge dividends, particularly in the current tough economic climate. There is a leaflet with this Newsletter giving you some more information about Unicus, who we have worked with and our approach. Please give me call to explore how I can support your business. In the meantime I would like to leave you with a quote from one of my clients:

"I am really pleased with our initial attempts to resolve the issues in the team and move forward. Honesty has definitely been a key feature of how people have addressed things. Everyone was so positive about your time with us for which I am truly grateful; you have a real gift for helping people to take a good look at themselves but in a comfortable way."

Please also visit our website www.unicus.moonfruit.com.



Nick Cooke & Associates provides a broad based and innovative engineering and building consultancy service. Our clients range from private individuals to commercial organisations and we pride ourselves in providing a fast and efficient service and strive to find the most practical and economic solution for any task. Our specialised core services include:

- Engineer's Reports for individuals buying and selling houses.
- Party Wall Act matters.
- Structural design and investigation.

Engineer's Reports

An Engineer's Report should be prepared by a Chartered Engineer who will be a member of the Institution of Civil or Structural Engineers. The inspection will deal with matters relating to the strength, stability and structural performance of the building.

Party Wall Act

The Party Wall etc Act 1996 makes provision to ensure that the wall separating 2 properties is not likely to be damaged by any building work carried out to it by either neighbour. We can act as party wall surveyors on behalf of either the building owner or adjoining owner. We can help anyone who is planning work which may fall under the Party Wall Act or other individuals such as a neighbour, who is likely to be affected by party wall issues.

Design & Investigation

We design of all types of concrete, steel, brick and timber structures in the industrial, commercial and domestic sectors. We have a wealth of experience in the investigation of structural and geotechnical issues especially on sites vulnerable to subsidence and landslip.



Farrah Driver Training is a small business offering professional driving tuition to clients throughout the local area. The company, which can be found in Wickford, offers its services in Basildon, Brentwood, Southend and surrounding areas. Tuition is given in a modern 2010 Renault Megane Expression manual vehicle. Discounts for students and student nurses. No extra's for weekends or evenings. Farrah Driver Training also specialise in Fleet Training which is DSA accredited. A new qualification is also offered, which is a BTEC Level 2 in Safe Driving. This gives drivers who have

passed within the last two years a guaranteed discount of up to 15% with Adrian Flux and Quote me Today. Visit website for more details. Farrah Driver training are the only driving establishment to be Approved by Essex Trading Standards and have the full backing of Essex County Council.

The company offers BTEC Level 2 in Safe Driving (car), motorway lessons, Advanced driving skills, DSA Instructor training and refresher courses. Discounts are given for block bookings. Also do Intensive courses to get your Test pass as quickly as possible. The Driving school offers crash courses for 28 hours, 35 hours and 40 hours.

The company is managed by Tariq Musaji who has been working in the Driving Schools trade for many years. Having previously worked for Essex police authority, Tariq Musaji is more than able to run the company. He was a former accountant and is ACCA Technician level qualified (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants)

In a nutshell, there are over 500 Driving Instructors operating in the SS postcode alone, including Trainee driving instructors. We are different as we pride our self on quality and excellence in the delivery of our business to you. The only driving establishment to be Essex Trading Standards Approved.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Executive Committee Meeting Dates 2012

19th January, 16th February, 8th March – Joint with Council, 19th April, 17th May – AGM, 21st June, 19th July, 20th September – Joint with Council, 18th October and 15th 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 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ **Business Breakfast, Wednesday 1st February, 06:00 to 09:00★**

at The Junction Café, 2a Victoria Road, Brentwood, CM14 5EE

★ **Networking Lunch, Thursday 26th January 12:00 to 14:00 ★**

with guest speaker Jason Fergus, at The Holiday Inn, Brook Street, Brentwood, CM15 5NF

★ **Twilight Event, Thursday 22nd March, 17:00 to 19:00 ★**

Venue and details to be confirmed

See our website for further information and booking details

FACE TO FACE WITH CHAMBER'S MARKETING EXECUTIVE - PAULA CLARK



I have known Mike Hawkins and his family for more years than I care to count, through the various service clubs that we belong to, plus our children's schooling. When Mike took over from Frank Wildman in 2004 he asked if I would be interested in assisting him, as it happened I was and for the past seven years it has worked out quite well for both of us and Chamber. Neither Mike nor I have the time to make it a full time job, but it could easily become one, if we allowed it.

My business background has been in art, design and administration. I moved to Brentwood with my parents when I was 16 and have lived in South Weald, Hutton & Shenfield ever since. I have two sons, my eldest lives in Kent with his wife and my gorgeous, adorable, one year old grandson. My youngest son lives in New York with his American wife and they are expecting their first baby in June. When I am not in the Chamber office or working from home, I am usually babysitting in Kent or jetting off to New York.

Sign Off

Make 2012 the year that your business is featured in one of our monthly Newsletter editions. It will cost you nothing, as it is a right of membership. Just let us have an article of say 250 words letting us know exactly what your business offers or products you wish to promote (get in touch first to book your slot).

Or go one better and sponsor a future edition. You can see that Havering College are this month's sponsors. That space could be yours (the sponsor's recognition on the front page and the whole of page 2 for an article or advertisement). The price is modest at £100 - to cover the copying costs for the edition.

Mike Hawkins

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