

BRENTWOOD

OUR BOROUGH



SPRING 2024



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BRENTWOOD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Welcome



introduce Merrymeade House to readers as an intimate and affordable wedding venue in the heart of our Borough.

As well as being the Chief Executive of Brentwood Borough Council, I also play a central role in the democratic process as Returning Officer. I hope our feature on 'Get ready for the Local Elections this May' on pages 6 and 7 gives you all the information you need ahead of polling day. There have been recent changes to the Brentwood ward boundaries following the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's review of the electoral arrangements for the Brentwood Borough area. Their final recommendation was for 13 three-councillor wards. This means on Thursday 2 May, every ward will have an election and you will be asked to vote for up to three candidates in your ward.

Later in this edition, you will find all the key dates relating to the local elections, from the last date you can register to vote to how to apply for a postal vote.

When reading this edition of Brentwood Our Borough, we will be moving further into spring, leaving behind the dark evenings and looking ahead to the clocks moving forward. From crocuses to daffodils, our parks and open spaces are starting to flourish with colour. I hope you all have the opportunity to enjoy exploring our country parks and green spaces that we are lucky to have in our Borough.

In this spring issue, we give you news and updates on council services and projects, like electric vehicle charging points, strategic development and the South Essex Business Expo. We also

There is also a reminder about the photo ID rules, with lots of helpful guidance and contact information if you need further support.

On pages 8 and 9, we focus on the community organisations that make Brentwood a special place to live and work. We hope you are introduced to groups you might be interested in finding out more about or joining. From Town Twinning to art, history and music or groups that can provide support to your family, like SNAP.

You can also find the upcoming dates for our Community Connect Trailer on page 11, which travels around different areas of the Borough to share information on what's going on locally, as well as providing advice from partner organisations, like Neighbourhood Watch.

Jonathan Stephenson
Chief Executive of Brentwood Borough Council

How to contact Brentwood Borough Council

☎ **01277 312500**, our phone lines are open Monday to Thursday, 8:30am to 5pm and Fridays 8:30am to 4:30pm

✉ **enquiries@brentwood.gov.uk**

🌐 **www.brentwood.gov.uk**

Follow us on social media

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✉ **@Brentwood_BC**

📷 **@BrentwoodBoroughCouncil**

📺 **@BrentwoodBoroughCouncil**

It cost 40p per household to prepare, print and send you this magazine. It is made with recyclable paper, so please put in your blue sack after reading. We have used local printers.

Council News

Solar Power at the Brentwood Centre

Permission has been granted, and the investment approved, for installing a solar panel array on the roof of the Brentwood Centre. 250 solar panels will be installed, with preparatory works already underway.

This new green project will allow for considerable power generation at the Brentwood Centre, which will be used to help reduce the carbon emissions in the Borough and improve local energy security. It forms part of the Council's commitment to being Carbon Net Zero in our operations by 2030.

New Social Homes coming to Brentwood

Demolition works are due to begin at Brookfield Close in Hutton to deliver 62 net zero carbon 'in-use' homes. Utilising this council-owned brownfield site will relieve pressure on the green belt and meet residents' needs.

The development has now been enhanced by the entire housing supply, all affordable and social homes targeted to support our community. The development will include 80 car parking spaces and a new play area with an outdoor gym.

Plans progressing for Ingleton House

Alongside the Brookfield Close development, following a consultation with the Ingatestone community, proposals to redevelop Ingleton House into 22 new homes and refurbish five existing bungalows have been put forward off Stock Lane in Ingatestone. These will also be net zero carbon 'in-use', and the development will be social or affordable homes.

Free Sunday Car Parking from April are part of changes to car parking in Brentwood

Free Sunday car parking (with some time limits in Shenfield), freezing the cost of car park season tickets, and replacing the 24-hour parking charge with a reduced fee of £7 - are part of a package of changes to parking fees that aim to support investment in council-owned car parks, supporting staff of town centre businesses and encouraging more residents and visitors to visit our high streets on Sundays.

Car parking charges have been frozen in the Coptfold Road Multi-Storey Car Park, and elsewhere, other parking fees have been rounded up to the nearest pound or 50p.

South Essex Business Expo is coming in March!

On the 14th of March, the Brentwood Centre will host the South Essex Business Expo, a partnership event between all the South Essex Councils, along with Essex Wildlife Trust, FSB, Colbea, Global, DS Group and Networking Essex.

This event is open to all businesses of all sizes, trades, industries, professions and sectors, start-ups and pre-start-ups with something for everyone – over 140 businesses will be exhibiting.

It is free to attend, and to book your place, please visit www.networking-essex.co.uk

Supporting the Armed Forces community

Brentwood Borough Council recently received the Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Gold Award from the Ministry of Defence for our support for the armed forces community. The highest available accolade in the ERS recognises the Council's action to support currently serving troops, service families, veterans and cadets.



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

GOLD AWARD 2023

Proudly supporting those who serve.

New electric vehicle charging points in Brentwood



Brentwood Borough Council, in collaboration with Believ, has increased the number of electric vehicle charging points in the Borough, marking a significant step in the council's commitment to enhance accessibility.

The newly added electric vehicle charging stations are located at two key sites: Chatham Way Car Park and King George's Playing Fields.

The Council has introduced 22 additional chargers, Chatham Way Car Park now features 8 chargers, including 4 fast charging points and 4 rapid charging points. King George's Playing Fields has been equipped with 14 chargers, including 4 standard charge points in the car park adjacent to the entrance from Ingrave Road, 6 rapid charging points, and 4 fast charging points in the central car park. To find out more about how to charge your car with the new EV charging points, visit www.believ.com/drivers



Natasha Radford, owner of Chicken and Frog Bookshop on Crown Street, said:

“Our customers have already commented on the convenience of being able to charge their electric vehicles whilst spending time in town to do their shopping. We hope that as more people become aware of the chargers, they will choose Brentwood as their preferred destination to do their errands.”

The scheme is part of the council's climate change pledge and is designed to support residents and visitors and encourage greater take up of electric powered vehicles, as the Government's ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars in 2035 gets closer.



Get married at Merrymeade House



Merrymeade House

If you are looking for an intimate and affordable wedding venue, Merrymeade House in the heart of Brentwood is the perfect location for your wedding.

As a beautiful Grade II listed building, Merrymeade House has all the fairytale touches of a larger venue, but in a cosy and charming setting.

The surrounding country park or walled garden offers a beautiful backdrop for your wedding photographs.

With historic and original features, wedding ceremonies are held in The Drawing Room, which hosts up to 30 ceremony guests, and is set in front of a wide bay window.



Private on-site catering is also available from Merrymeade Tea Room with a range of options starting from £15pp.

Merrymeade House
WEDDING
OPEN DAYS

Monday
8 APRIL 2024
1pm - 3pm

Monday
3 JUNE 2024
1pm - 3pm

For more information or to make an enquiry please visit our website www.weddingsatmerry.meadehouse.com or call us on **01277 715080**



Get ready for the local elections this May



On Thursday 2nd May, there will be elections taking place for all 39 seats on Brentwood Borough Council.

These will be combined with the election of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex.

Elections are also scheduled for May 2024 in the following Parishes:

- **Blackmore, Hook End & Wyatts Green**
- **Doddinghurst**

KEY DATES:

Last date for you to register to vote:
16th April

Last date for you to apply for a postal vote:
17th April (5pm)

Last date for you to apply for a proxy vote:
24th April (5pm)

Last date for you to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate:
24th April (5pm)

Emergency Proxy applications:
2nd May (5pm)

Day of Election:
2nd May (7am – 10pm)

Recent changes to the Brentwood Ward Boundaries

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) undertook a review of the electoral arrangements for the Brentwood Borough area.

Their final recommendation was for 13 three-councillor wards within the Borough. Therefore, this year, every ward will have an election and you will be asked to vote for up to THREE candidates in your ward.

The new wards are:

- Blackmore & Doddinghurst
- Brentwood North
- Brentwood South
- Brentwood West
- Brizes, Stondon Massey & South Weald
- Herongate, Ingrave & West Horndon
- Hutton East
- Hutton North
- Hutton South
- Ingatestone, Fryerning & Mountnessing
- Pilgrims Hatch
- Shenfield
- Warley

Candidates

A full list of candidates standing in the local elections for each ward, and a list of candidates for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner will be published on our website

www.brentwood.gov.uk/voting-and-elections shortly after the close of nominations on 4pm Friday 5th April 2024.

What you need to know about voting this May

Register to Vote

You can only vote in these elections if you are on the electoral register. Register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. Applications need to be made online by Tuesday 16th April.

Poll cards

Look out for poll cards that will be hand delivered to you from the end of March/early April providing full details of the elections in your area, including your local polling station.

New photo ID rules

New legislation introduced last year now requires all voters to show a photo ID at polling stations before they can be issued with a ballot paper.

Photographic identification that CAN be used to vote includes*

- ✓ Passport
- ✓ Photo driving licence
- ✓ Immigration document
- ✓ ID card showing the Proof of Age Standards scheme hologram
- ✓ Ministry of Defence Form 90
- ✓ Blue Badge
- ✓ National ID card from EEA state
- ✓ Older persons bus pass- Disabled persons bus pass
- ✓ Voter Authority Certificate or temporary Voter Authority Certificate
- ✓ Anonymous Elector document

Documents that CANNOT be used to vote at the polling station*

- ✗ Work/student passes
- ✗ Railcards
- ✗ Photocopies of identification documents
- ✗ Pictures on mobile phones

For more information on valid photo identification that can be used, visit: www.electoralcommission.org.uk or www.brentwood.gov.uk/voting-and-elections

If your photographic identification document has expired, it will still be accepted so long as the photograph is still a good likeness of you. You may be required to provide further proof of identity if there is a discrepancy between your name shown on your form of photographic identification and the name of the elector that you claim to be.

Please remember to bring one of these documents to the polling station with you when you vote. You will not be able to cast your vote without them.

Postal Voting

Voting by post is an easy and convenient way of voting. Anyone who is registered can apply for a postal vote. You do not need a reason to vote by post. You can apply online at

www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote.

Apply online as soon as possible. The Electoral Registration Officer must receive your application by 5pm on Wednesday 17th APRIL.

Proxy Voting

The deadline for proxy vote applications is 5pm on Wednesday 24th APRIL. In certain circumstances, where you have an

emergency that means you can't vote in person, you can apply for an emergency proxy on election day up to 5pm. Please call the election office helpline for more information.

Polling station locations

Recent boundary changes have resulted in some changes to polling station locations. Please refer to your poll card information or visit our website at www.brentwood.gov.uk/voting-and-elections for further information on your polling station. Polling stations are accessible. If you require more

What if I don't have photographic identification?

Electoral Registration Officers based in the Borough can issue free electoral identification documents – 'Voter Authority Certificates' – to eligible electors who apply for one online. This is free.

You need to get this certificate BEFORE election day. You can apply online at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate. The closing date to apply online for Voter Authority Certificates or certificate applications is **5pm on Wednesday 24th APRIL**.

If you don't have access to a computer, contact the Council's election office helpline on **01277 312708** or **312500** to find out about alternative methods of applying.

information about the facilities available to assist with voting, please contact the electoral services helpline on tel: 01277 312708 / 312500.

How do I contact my local Electoral Services Office?

If you require any further information or assistance, please visit www.brentwood.gov.uk/voting-and-elections email elections@brentwood.gov.uk or call the helpline on tel: **01277 312708 / 312500** where someone will be happy to assist.

UPDATES

from the Local Community



Town Twinning in Brentwood

Brentwood is twinned with the Landkreis Roth in Bavaria, Germany, and Montbazon in the Loire Valley, France. Both associations are independent, non-political, financially self-supporting organisations.

They exist to encourage and promote exchange visits between the two areas, with particular emphasis on youth and cultural exchanges. Visits happen yearly, with local hosts visiting each other in alternate years, with the UK visits in 2024.

The Roth TTA will welcome visitors from 8th-13th August 2024, while the Montbazon TTA will welcome their visitors from 19th – 24th August 2024.

Both associations have a programme of social activities during the year and plan the five-day visits every second year in Brentwood. There is no requirement to speak either language, but there are opportunities to learn or practice them in a social environment.

Landkreis Roth

Brentwood Borough Council inaugurated a partnership with Landkreis Roth in May 1979. Landkreis Roth lies in Bavaria in Southern Germany, immediately south of the historic city of Nuremberg.

This year's exchange will include visits to Blenheim Palace, and to Clare College, Cambridge with a 'Bee Experience' in Dunmow on return and visits to local attractions in Brentwood. Our final night is on 12th August for fish and chips, accompanied by jazz music at Ingatestone Community Club.

The TTA meets for social and cultural events throughout the year, planned for February, March, and April and a Bierfest in September. We will mark the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the subsequent reunification of Germany in October with a special event.

If you are interested in our events or hosting guests from Roth, please contact the Secretary, Jane Winter, below.

Montbazon

Montbazon is a small picturesque town and is the main centre of a district of 19,500 inhabitants, comprising five communities, that was home to the writer Balzac with a 10th-century castle near Tours in the Loire Valley. It has been twinned with Brentwood since 1994 - with its 30th Anniversary in March!



Montbazon



Landkreis Roth

For further information about events and/or membership, contact:

Landkreis Roth

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/148738061834757
Secretary: jane.winter64@gmail.com

Montbazon

www.brentwoodfrenchtwinning.com
membership.brentwoodfrench@gmail.com

Brentwood Art Society

Brentwood Art Society welcomes experienced and less experienced artists to their twice-weekly classes, which include a tutored practical session and an untutored life class. Our May exhibition will be held at Bardswell Social Club in Brentwood.

Those wishing to join this flourishing group should visit www.brentwoodartsociety.com or email the secretary at brentwoodartsoc@gmail.com



Not sure where to turn?

SNAP has supported Essex families with children aged 0-25 with any additional need or disability for 30 years. We offer bespoke support for every family member and help parents to grow in strength and knowledge so that they can give the best possible support to their children. No diagnosis or professional referral is necessary to access SNAP services. We're here to help – just when you need it! **Contact us today: 01277 211300/snapcharity.org**



Brentwood Philharmonic Orchestra

Brentwood Philharmonic Orchestra's concerts are a real treat. Their next concert on Saturday, 18 May, is of Hector Berlioz's romantically dramatic "Harold in Italy" for viola and orchestra (soloist Brentwood born Martin Wray, now in the London Philharmonic Orchestra) and Jean Sibelius's lyrical 1st Symphony conducted by Brian Lynn. **Find out more at www.brentwoodphil.org.uk**



Friends of Shenfield Library

The Friends of Shenfield Library aims to support Shenfield Library, an asset of community value, and enhance its use as a 'community hub'. The Friends is an independent community group for members to share ideas, gather tips and offer positive feedback to support and promote the Essex Library Service in Shenfield and Hutton.

This year's events have included a series of talks from local authors including one from former headmaster Giles Drew, on local Essex and Havering school history while supporting Christmas events at the temporary library and a piano recital by Jamie Cochrane, a talented Essex musician. Easter Craft Activities at the Library will take place on 23rd March 2024 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

For more information, please contact: info@friendsofshenfieldlibrary.org.uk

Have you met the Mayor?

Your Mayor has been busy around the Borough, visiting schools, businesses, events, community groups and churches.

Highlights included his Christmas Card Competition winners, with the winners being 10-year-old Joshua from Willowbrook Primary School and 11-year-old Seb from Larchwood Primary School. The Christmas poem competition winner was 10-year-old Kendra from Larchwood Primary School with her poem 'My Christmas Wish', who also had the honour of reciting her winning poem at the Mayor's Christmas Carol Service.

The Mayor also visited Brentwood Community Hospital to support the launch of a new memorial that remembers those we lost in Brentwood and thanks the NHS staff, Fire Service, Armed Services and volunteers who provided such care for our residents throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Strategic development approved in the Borough

Towards the end of 2023, Brentwood Borough Council's Planning Committee approved development that will deliver significant amounts of new homes and jobs across two large strategic sites. Linked by the A127 and West Horndon station in the south of the Borough, development at Dunton Hills Garden Village and Brentwood Enterprise Park will be consistent with the council's strategy for sustainable growth. These are two of the largest schemes that we have seen in generations.

Dunton Hills Garden Village

A planning application from CEG was approved on 29 November, subject to further details on conditions and the infrastructure package to be brought back to committee next year. Development will deliver a brand-new garden community with three separate neighbourhoods (Dunton Fanns, Dunton Waters and Dunton Woods), separated by green spaces and connected by new roads and pedestrian and cycle links. The wider allocation is for around 4,000 new homes, and

this application will deliver up to 3,700 of those. Among other things the garden village will have three care homes; three primary schools and a secondary school; a market square with community buildings, healthcare facility, shops, places to eat and drink, and office space; neighbourhood hubs with local shops and facilities; sports pitches and facilities; and green spaces to make up over 50% of the site for people to enjoy and wildlife and ecology to thrive.



Brentwood Enterprise Park

A planning application from St Modwen was approved on 12 December. Development will deliver four major industrial units, providing over 112,000 sqm of floorspace with supporting office use adjacent to junction 29 of the M25. The enterprise park will create 1,580 construction jobs

and the equivalent of 2,660 new jobs. Workers from the development are expected to spend up to £6.9 million in the local area each year. The site incorporates high sustainability credentials, reducing energy demand through building design and measures that save and generate power. It will deliver significant investment in local infrastructure, including £77m to be spent on M25 junction 29, B186 Warley

interchange, improved walking and cycling routes locally and with West Horndon station, and a contribution towards bus services, among other things.



Pop along to visit our Community Connect Trailer

Our Community Connect Trailer is an initiative to bring communities together by travelling to different areas across the Borough.

If you want information about what's going on in your community, or some advice from our community support teams, pop along to have a chat at one of our events and meet some of the partners, including Neighbourhood Watch, VitaMinds, United in Kind, CVS (Voluntary Services), Mind, Fire Service, Community agents and many more.

To keep up to date with council events, visit www.brentwood.gov.uk/events



The Community Connect Trailer will be at the following locations over the next few months between 10am-1pm:

MARCH

FRIDAY 8 MARCH
Brentwood High Street
WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH
Ingatestone High Street

APRIL

WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL
Brentwood High Street
TUESDAY 23 APRIL
Kelvedon Hatch (Nisa shop)

MAY

WEDNESDAY 8 MAY
Doddinghurst (outside shops)
THURSDAY 16 MAY
Brentwood High Street
TUESDAY 28 MAY
Shenfield High Street

Improve the warmth of your home for FREE

Home upgrade grants now available to eligible households

You are eligible if:

- Your home isn't heated by mains gas central heating
- Combined income of £31,000 (gross) or under £20,000 after rent or mortgage costs
- Your house has an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating between D - G

HUG2 comes with incredible perks:

- Lower energy bills
- Reduced carbon footprint
- No cost to you!



Check your eligibility and learn more about the Home Upgrade Grant scheme at www.brentwood.gov.uk/hug2

Receive council updates straight to your inbox

SIGN UP to our e-newsletters to receive the latest information on council news, events and job vacancies.

You can subscribe to our resident and business e-newsletters at www.brentwood.gov.uk/stayconnected

SIGN UP





brentwood



connected

Brentwood | Shenfield | Ingatestone

Eat & Drink

See & Do

Shop & Services

Stay

Events

www.brentwoodconnected.co.uk 



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 **Brentwood Connected**

Discover great places to shop, dine, visit and stay in Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone!

Brentwood Connected is a unique Business Improvement District (BID) supporting our borough's three high streets.

Brentwood Connected is funded by town centre businesses to improve the experience of residents, visitors, employees and businesses in Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone.