



Burton, Lichfield & Tamworth

Newsletter

Issue 35

December 2011

Chairman's Message

VIC CHAMBERLAIN

As your new Branch Chairman, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I spent all my working life involved with the Construction Industry, initially in the civil engineering sector. After a brief period in the Middle East involved with the installation of "Air traffic Control Facilities", I later formed a business in partnership with my wife, initially as a Consultant Engineer and then progressing into Manufacturing and Installation of pressed metal and glazed products for the construction Industry.

I became a member of the FSB about 12 years ago, but like most of us, I only had time to attend some Branch Events and benefit from the some of the FSB service providers, plus Legal and Tax help facilities. Over last three years following my retirement, I have become more involved with the Branch Committee, hopefully putting back some of the value and benefits I have received from the FSB over the years.



Over this period I have appreciated the sterling work your committee does and I would like to thank David Lillis (last year's chairman) and the team for their work on local initiatives and the programme of events they provided last year.

In 2012, the committee intends to offer you regular, interesting and informative events at Lichfield Rugby Club's Club-House. There is more information on page 2 of this newsletter.

As Branch Chairman, I am committed to supporting our Branch Members. Please let me know if you have any topics or activities which you would like us to include in future events and we'll do our best to meet your needs.

Along with other Regional Officers from our Branch I will also be contributing to the work of the FSB Regional committee to ensure that our Branch is well represented and in a position to influence regional policy.

I look forward to meeting you all at our future Branch Events, and thank you in advance for your valued support over the coming year.

Vic Chamberlain

Recent Events

Oct 27th 2011 - Branch AGM and Disaster Recovery Briefing

After summarising the events and activities of committee members over the past year, voting took place to elect the new chairman Vic Chamberlain and committee members.

Andy Marshall, Director of the Staffordshire Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU), talked about the work of the CCU in helping businesses to plan for emergencies and business continuity.

Steven Owens, Flood Incident Manager for the Environment Agency, discussed the risks to your business and how you can use the EA's tools to monitor and prepare for unforeseen potential risks.

Paul Koumi from Regency Chartered Management Accountants, talked from personal experience about the disruption caused when burglars stole his computers at a busy accountancy company. Very thought provoking!

Nov 16th 2011 - Regional AGM

One of our local committee members, Helen Lillis, was re-elected as National Councillor. Information about Helen's role in representing our region will follow in a future newsletter.

FSB Real-Life Entrepreneurs

Vic Chamberlain was delighted to chair the launch meeting at the Birmingham Hippodrome on 2nd December. An audience of representatives from local business, Local Authorities, FSB Members and prospective new members, heard Mike Southon, author of "Beer Mat Entrepreneur" and a weekly columnist for the Sunday Times, who outlined the basis of the FSB campaign in an very entertaining and informative way. See more information about the FSB campaign here

www.fsb.org.uk/real-life-entrepreneurs

Events Coming Soon

January 18th (please see page 2)

Pensions information you need!

**Wishing all members
HAPPY CHRISTMAS
and success in 2012**

Quick headlines...

Lichfield parking news

Have you heard about the new parking proposals for Lichfield City centre? See page 2

Petrol / Diesel Tax Duty

See how you can support the campaign for Fair Fuel prices See page 2

Olympic Flame

Coming to Burton, Lichfield and Tamworth 30th June 2012. Various events are being planned by your local councils.- is there an opportunity for your business to get involved? Check local press and websites for more information.

Accessibility Statement

Please call Karen Woolley on 01332 517176 if you would like this document in an alternative format or if you require any accessibility help.

Your Local Committee

Chairman: Vic Chamberlain

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Treasurer and Vice Chair:

David Cartwright

Tel: 01543 481918

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Committee Members:

David Lillis (Vice Chairman)

Helen Lillis

Ian Irwin

Iris Nock

Maureen Wright



Lichfield Parking Changes

You may have heard about or seen in The Lichfield Mercury a proposal to make changes to the pedestrianisation order for Lichfield City centre.

Amongst other things, the changes include the re-allocation of the current short-term parking spaces as disabled parking, therefore removing all of the 30 minute on street parking spaces in the city centre.

Please take some time to think about the implications for your business and if you have any views please email them to Councillor Alan White

alan.white@staffordshire.gov.uk or phone him on 07793 838432 before the end of January 2012.

Petrol / Diesel Tax Duty

George Osborne has scrapped the planned 3p fuel duty rise in January 2012 and the 5p rise planned for August 2012 will now be reduced to 3p.

Fuel prices are of course critical to many small businesses. FairFuelUK campaigns for lower fuel prices and you can help them by registering with them or completing their survey here: www.fairfueluk.com.

KEEPING IN CONTACT

To help us to keep you informed about your local FSB branch, please authorise us to contact you by email. If you aren't already on our email list (or if you aren't sure) please send an email NOW to family.cartwright@gmail.com with "Please add me to the FSB email list" in the subject line.

2012 Events Calendar

During 2012, we aim to hold monthly members' meetings at Lichfield Rugby Union Football Club, Cooke Fields, Tamworth Road (A51), Lichfield, WS14 9JE. All meetings start at 7pm with a buffet and are **FREE OF CHARGE** to members.

Meetings will be held around the middle of each month.

Next meeting: **Jan 18th: Pensions and Record Keeping**
Do you employ staff...? Do you have a pension scheme...? Soon you will have no choice!

- From 2012 – 17 ALL employers will have to offer a pension scheme
- Employers will have to contribute
- Failure to comply could mean a major fine, so you need to act soon
- HMRC intend visiting over 15,000 small or micro businesses to ensure compliance

The FSB Pension Scheme for Members offers an easy, cost effective way for you to comply — come along to find out how you can use the scheme and for advice on record keeping. Follow our simple steps to make sure you are ready if HMRC calls!

Future Events - How can we help you?

Please see the listing below.

Is there something you would like to hear about at a future meeting? Or can you volunteer your services to talk on a topic of interest to members?

Please contact the branch secretary Jenny Cartwright (details below) with any ideas / suggestions or offers of help.

Scheduled Event Details

To book any of these events online, using "Eventbrite", please follow the link under each meeting.

If you prefer not to use Eventbrite, call Jenny Cartwright on 01543 481918, or email: family.cartwright@gmail.com and Jenny will set up the booking for you.

NEXT MEETING:

Jan 18th: Pensions and Record Keeping :

<http://fsbburtonlichfieldandtamworthpensionsrecordkeepin.eventbrite.co.uk>

Feb 15th: Raising Finance & Cashflow / Debt Management:

<http://fsbburtonlichfieldandtamworthfinancecashflow.eventbrite.co.uk>

March 14th: New opportunities for Export and how to get advice & support:

<http://fsbburtonlichfieldtamworthexportopportunities.eventbrite.co.uk>

April 18th: Members networking and Personal Skills speaker:

<http://fsbburtonlichfieldandtamworthnetworkingskills.eventbrite.co.uk>

Promote your business in this newsletter - Free of Charge!

We often have space for a short article about a member's business, or a local initiative you feel would be of interest to other FSB members. It's FREE OF CHARGE (subject to space availability).

If you would like to include a piece in a future newsletter please email the newsletter editor: maureen@wsibestnetsites.com

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