



# Federation of Small Businesses

The UK's Leading Business Organisation

## Stroud Branch

### Branch Committee Report

AS well as all the mundane reporting that happens in any organisation (regional reports, officers' reports, etc.) the Branch Committee does get to discuss many varied items that have a connection to the FSB in some way or another.

Anthony Burton recently raised the issue of stress. In these hard times, you can be sure you know someone whose stress levels have gone through the roof, just trying to keep their business going.

The NHS in Gloucestershire has launched a 'Let's Talk' service to help people struggling with stress, anxiety or depression. This service is designed to help people through difficult times by improving access to the local psychological therapy service; particularly people in business who find it difficult dealing with these issues and getting effective help for themselves or their staff. You can access the Let's Talk service by either talking with your GP or telephoning 0800 073 2200, 8:30am — 5:30pm Monday-Friday.



#### "STRESS"

THE CONFUSION CREATED WHEN ONE'S MIND OVERRIDES THE BODY'S BASIC DESIRE TO CHOKO THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS OUT OF SOMEBODY WHO DESPERATELY NEEDS IT!

### New Members' Evening

We're organising a new members' evening. Details are on the other side of this flyer. Open to all members and guests.



### Stroud Life Business Awards

The branch was well represented at the recent Stroud Life Business Awards at the Whitminster Inn.

The branch sponsored the event as we realise how important it is to publicise not only our work but also to showcase our members in the locality.

This annual event is rapidly gaining in popularity and it is pleasing to know that the FSB had several members in both the final groupings but also winning many of the prizes on offer.

Congratulations to all who took part!

### Road Works in Stroud

By now, you probably know that Stroud is in the midst of major road works at the junction of the A46 and Merrywalks. This is to enable a new bridge to be built over the canal as part of the ongoing restoration project for Stroudwater.

Stroud FSB has been working very closely with the Stroud Chamber of Trade, Stroud District and Town Councils to ensure businesses in Stroud are able to continue to trade during the upheaval.

In line with the FSB 'Keep Trade Local' campaign, we are fully supportive of the 'Shop in Stroud' campaign and all the initiatives to ensure traders and shoppers alike can use Stroud throughout the summer and beyond, as the work progresses.

You can keep track of all the works and even see a real time webcam of the main part of the workings. There is a regular email update too if you want first hand reports on progress from the County council. Send an email to Nigel Edgeworth: [nigel.edgeworth@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.edgeworth@gloucestershire.gov.uk) and ask to be added to his mailing list for regular updates.

To view the work site webcam, point your browser at <http://www.mymatedave.co.uk/wallbridge/>

To visit the Shop in Stroud web site, go to <http://www.shopinstroud.com/>

### Thomas Keble Junior Chamber

Stroud FSB was approached to help with an initiative to bring awareness to young people about what it means to be in business, at the same time as raising money for a good cause. The children formed a 'Junior Chamber of Trade'.

The kids at the school came up with TK Ping — a sponsored table tennis competition. They gained sponsorship from seven local businesses and the FSB and they fought it out on the table tennis tables on 11th July.

Steve Powell, Branch Vice-Chairman attended on behalf of the branch and handed out prizes to the semi-finalists. The event was a great success and the youngsters raised over £300 for their chosen charity — Cancer Research.