

Somerset & Wiltshire Region IN BRIEF

2010

Green It and Mean It!



Green It and Mean It! was launched by our National Chairman John Walker at the Bath & West Show. John also reinforced the exciting brand new partnership with the **Princes Mayday Network** founded by HRH The Prince of Wales in 2007.

Our partnership will help businesses find ways to significantly capitalise on their investments by greening their enterprises.

The aim of the partnership is to inspire, engage, support and challenge as many businesses as possible as they work together towards a sustainable future.

The FSB is encouraging businesses to sign up to the Princes Mayday Network and take the first steps on a journey to a sustainable future through a series of organised green business events throughout the South West. These will provide the platform for businesses throughout the South West to come together to understand the environmental message.

Taking the simple steps towards ensuring your business ticks all the environmental boxes has never been easier.

John Holden

Environment & Energy Portfolio Holder

w: www.fsb.org.uk/120greenit

Weston-super-Mare News

Now the election is over, the reality of having to deal with the economic situation will have to be addressed and the Coalition Government have begun to look at ways to cut waste out of various areas of government and spending. It looks as though regional development agencies in the South and South West could be the first to feel the pinch along with the organisations that work alongside of the RDA and have grown to distribute support for businesses, so it will be interesting to see how that pans out and what areas of support are affected.

The branch committee organised a Hustings meeting at the Rookery Hotel: visit our website to see our video of the National Chairman speaking to an audience of members and prospective candidates about the items the FSB believes are important for the next Government to address and as laid out in our FSB manifesto.

The branch recently hired a couple of canal boats on the Kennet and Avon canal which luckily coincided with the sunniest and hottest day of the year. About 20 members braved the elements and enjoyed a trip of about 30 miles from Hilperton to Devizes and back, stopping for a picnic on the way out and a meal at a pub in Bradford on Avon on the way home. Thanks to Steve and Sue Dennett for arranging it all.

Steve Sharp
Weston-super-Mare Branch Chairman
w: www.fsb.org.uk/weston

Yeovil & Mendip Branch News

Our latest New members evening was held at the Wessex Hotel in Street in April. We had a very good attendance from our branch new members and other businesses interested in finding out some more information about the FSB and member services

Our local FSB recruiter Don Miller gave a very informative presentation on the benefits of being a member of the FSB, and some facts about our organisation and what we do at Branch, Regional and National Level. We enjoyed his amusing and anecdotal stories about businesses he had visited over the years, and we all were very impressed with his knowledge of the member services.

The evening was a big success for the members and Don was able to sign up a new member on the night. During and after the buffet everyone was able to network with other colleagues around the room with contacts being made, and some business being carried out.

The feedback after the meeting was very good and the branch has engaged with some of the members on different topics. Some of them were interested in becoming members of a consultation panel the branch hopes to set up very soon.

We will be holding another members evening in October.

Roger Dollins
Yeovil & Mendip Branch Chairman
www.fsb.org.uk/yeovil



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North & West Wiltshire Branch News

Since our last report the new North & West Wiltshire Branch steering group has been busy planning their first two network events, one in July and one in September. And they promise to be networking events with a difference! Details will be confirmed on our website at www.fsb.org.uk/nwwilts and will be circulated by email when details are finalised.

Please support them by attending if you can and getting the branch re-launch off to the best possible start.

The steering group volunteers have also been taking the opportunity to get involved in regional activity for the first time, attending a regional meeting and a policy unit meeting. They enjoyed the experience and the chance to meet volunteers from across the region.

Mary Mallia
Somerset & Wiltshire Regional Organiser
w: www.fsb.org.uk/nwwilts

Kennet Branch News

In April we took part in the Devizes Hustings in association with the Devizes Partnership of Churches. Members were invited along to ask their questions of the the Prospective Parliamentary Candidates.

Claire Perry (Conservative), Pat Bryant (UKIP), Martin Houlden (Independent), Junab Ali (Labour), Fiona Hornby (Lib Dem) and Mark Fletcher (Green) fielded questions put to them by chairman, retired dentist Bob Simpson.

The audience was made up of local business people and members of the local churches, and as a result a wide variety of questions were asked.

There were questions on the economy, business crime, VAT on church refurbishments, fair trade policies, and on community issues including hospitals, foster care, euthanasia and death taxes.

The evening was very successful. All candidates received a copy of the FSB's Manifesto, which I know the main 3 candidates read as the following day they were answering questions on BBC Radio Wiltshire and all three gave quotes from the Manifesto in one way or another.

Our new MP for Kennet is Claire Perry (Conservative) and we hope to meet with her soon to discuss issues small businesses are facing in the area.

Rachael Pickford
Kennet Branch Chairman
w: www.fsb.org.uk/kennet

Salisbury Branch News

Regardless of how we may individually feel about the outcome of the recent General Election – it cannot be denied that it was certainly interesting! Salisbury Branch Officers made every effort to contact ALL the Prospective Parliamentary Candidates (PPC) to ensure they were full appraised of the FSB Manifesto. We actually met with PPC's from the Conservatives, Liberal Democrats, Green Party and Labour (photos below) and are pleased that all expressed their support for the FSB and our members.

Our Committee had a lively debate on the FSB Evolution and contributed our recommendations to the subsequent Regional debate. We very much look forward to seeing (hopefully!) some positive outcomes on a national basis. This is certainly an 'interesting time' for all FSB members.

The South Wiltshire Business of the Year judging has been taking place – with 51 entries in the category sponsored by FSB Salisbury, FIVE of our Committee (George, Tony, Hugh, Lynda and David) have been busy judging! This will surely have significantly raised the profile of FSB in the area and this will be even further enhanced at the Awards Ceremony to be held on 1 July when well over 100 people/local businesses will be attending.

Finally, by the time this has gone to press we hope to have successfully held our second Trade Fair and will report on that in the next Voice magazine.

George Trytsman
Salisbury Branch Chairman
w: www.fsb.org.uk/salisbury

Meet the FSB and find out more about becoming part of our successful team at SWINDON BRANCH

Please join us at The Ivy Hotel, Moormead Road, Wroughton, Wiltshire SN4 9BY on Monday 12th July from 7pm to 9pm.

This is a member-only event and is FREE to attend. Light refreshments will be provided.

We are looking for new volunteers in a variety of different roles – branch officers, events management, media & PR, policy & lobbying, Survey Panel members and Lead Generators.

So come along, meet some fellow members and find out more about how YOU can make a difference in YOUR community. *We look forward to seeing you there!*

RSVP by Mon 5th July to Mary Mallia on 01249 449 120 or at mary.mallia@fsb.org.uk

Visit www.fsb.org.uk/swindon for more details.