



# Salisbury Branch Newsletter

(FSB Salisbury Voice)

*From the UK's Largest Small Business Lobby Group*

## Wednesday, 14th November 2007 – FSB Salisbury Branch AGM at the White Hart Hotel.



Each of the existing FSB Salisbury Branch Committee members has submitted a nomination form to act as the branch officers for the ensuing year. Since no other nominations were received by the due date, the AGM will focus on the issues the committee believes are most relevant to FSB Salisbury Branch members. Please book early for an opportunity to make your thoughts known at a White Hart buffet supper, following the AGM.



Listed below are some of the summer events staged by the FSB Western Region and the FSB Salisbury Branch:

## Friday, 4th May at the De Vere Hotel in Swindon – the FSB Olympic Celebration Event.



FSB Western Region and Branch Officers entertained over 100 guests at this special FSB event staged to capture the spirit of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. A video presentation had been prepared that included rare footage from Games held over the last one hundred years.

Guests included FSB Policy Chairman, John Walker and the Mayors of Salisbury, Melksham and Chippenham. The inspirational speaker was Talan Skeels-Piggins, a Royal Navy Lieutenant for six years before suffering a serious road traffic accident. Talan is in training on a specialised wheelchair ski in readiness for competing in the 2010 Paralympic Games.

## Thursday, 5th July – 2007 FSB Business of the Year Awards at the Salisbury Arts Centre.

Former Tiller Girl and New Forest hotelier, Avril Owton, 2006 Shine Woman of the year, presented this year's awards. Chairman of the Judging Panel, Ceri Hurford-Jones, acted as Master of Ceremonies. The winners were:

"**Britz Takeaway & Diner**" – The Old George Mall Retailer of the Year Award.

"**Woven Electronic Components**" – The TABS Training Excellence Award.

"**Insitu Care**" – The FSB Business of the Year Award (under £500,000).

"**Independent Living Solutions**" – The Solstice Park Business of the Year Award (over £500,000).

"**Route 36**" – The Business Link New Business of the Year Award.

**Spire FM** and **Business Link** are both major sponsors of the **FSB** South Wiltshire Business of the Year Awards.

## Friday, 13th July – FSB Summer Barbeque at the Grasmere Hotel, Harnham.

This year's FSB Summer BBQ was organised in conjunction the Chamber of Commerce and City Centre Management. Over 80 people enjoyed a Pimms on arrival and some delicious food at the Grasmere Hotel. A raffle and an auction of 'promises' raised over £1,000 for the 2007/08 Mayor's Appeal and Salisbury City Centre Christmas Lights.

Many thanks to all the local businesses who kindly donated raffle prizes and promises. Thanks also to all those who bid for the promises.



## Tuesday, 7th August – SWEP Business Forum in the Medieval Hall, Cathedral Close.



The event was chaired by Peter Le Count, the Chairman of the South Wiltshire Economic Partnership and Managing Director of the Wilton Carpet Factory, one of the largest 'small' businesses in the area. Cllr Paul Sample, Leader of Salisbury District Council, delivered the keynote speech. Extensive coverage of the event can be found on the Vision News website at [www.vision-news.tv](http://www.vision-news.tv).



**Whilst this FSB publication has been carefully prepared, errors and/or omission that may be present are not the responsibility of the publishers and opinions expressed are not necessarily FSB policy.**

## FSB Salisbury Branch Committee

The FSB Salisbury Branch AGM will take place in the White Hart Hotel, St Johns Street, Salisbury at 6:00pm on **Wednesday**, 14th November 2007 followed at 6:30pm by a Buffet Supper. The current branch office holders have each submitted nomination papers, as required by the FSB's rules.

The current FSB Salisbury Branch officer holders are:

<b>Chairman:</b>	Mary Webb	01722-340892
<b>Vice-Chairman:</b>	Richard Parsons	01794-341405
<b>Secretary:</b>	Richard Mistlin	01722-335965
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Hugh Davies	01722-336647

The Committee expects to meet at least every other month and FSB Salisbury Branch members are encouraged to participate.

**Please** contact any of the branch officers to discuss potential opportunities and/or come to the AGM at the White Hart Hotel on 14th November.

## FSB Business Support Report

There is a wealth of business information on the FSB website at [www.fsb.org.uk/policy](http://www.fsb.org.uk/policy) that can be freely accessed by anyone with an Internet connection. Many of these reports result from FSB membership surveys and are updated regularly. The most recent is a report on FSB members' perception of Business Support Services. A majority of FSB members seek business support services from their accountants and only 4% of small businesses admitted using government funded business support in the last year. From 2008, the government will introduce a portal run by Business Link to assist businesses.

The FSB survey conducted in May 2007 revealed that word-of-mouth and the Internet were the most popular methods for finding out about Business Support.

## FSB Membership Details

From the FSB Salisbury Branch Webpage, the online database is just one click away! For access, type in your membership number and v-code as currently printed on your membership card:



Unless your details are correctly entered in the members' database, one of the most valuable FSB membership benefits will not be available to you.

**The Western Regional Organiser is Mary Mallia**

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## Local Issues

### A New Unitary Authority for Wiltshire

The Salisbury Branch of the FSB did not support Wiltshire County Council's bid to replace the existing local government structure with a single unitary authority covering the whole of Wiltshire excluding Swindon.

However, assurances had been given that unitary status would lead to cost savings and the delivery of better local social care services.

Those that had responded to the questionnaire emailed to local FSB members had overwhelmingly objected to the imposition of a Wiltshire Unitary Authority.

Following confirmation that the WCC bid had been successful, the Salisbury 'Vision' is continuing to be a priority under the new 'Wiltshire Council'.

### Rural Post Office Closures

Whilst a recent survey found that a majority of FSB members were against widespread Post Office closures, the survey also found that substantial numbers of small businesses are embracing technology in an attempt to overcome the likely loss of Post Office services.

### FSB Salisbury Branch Representation

How can the Branch Officers best represent local FSB members' interests? The FSB is an influential body with an annual income in excess of £25m and pledges itself to be 'member' led.

There should be no shortage of funding to lobby government bodies about the legitimate concerns of local FSB members. The legitimacy of an issue can be tested on the FSB discussion forum at:

[www.FSB.org.uk/discuss](http://www.FSB.org.uk/discuss)

## Future Local Events

**Wednesday, 14th November 2007 at 6:00pm:  
FSB Salisbury Branch AGM at the White Hart.**

The purpose of Social and Networking events is to provide an opportunity for finding other business people with whom one might be able to build a long-term trusting relationship. The FSB does not endorse or recommend any particular type of business event, nevertheless, FSB members are encouraged to participate as they see fit.

By identifying the organisers and participants of a particular event, a business-person should be able to form an opinion as to the potential benefit to their business of any event to which they may be invited.

There are many FSB members that organise events and the FSB members' logo may be used to promote an event. The only events that can be specifically endorsed by a branch of the FSB are the AGM and events to welcome new FSB members.

The following Websites, although not endorsed by the FSB, may be helpful to FSB Salisbury Branch members:

[www.BusinessEventsCalendar.co.uk](http://www.BusinessEventsCalendar.co.uk)

[www.YearofFoodandFarming.org.uk](http://www.YearofFoodandFarming.org.uk)

[www.EnterpriseWeek.org](http://www.EnterpriseWeek.org)

[www.BusinessLink.gov.uk](http://www.BusinessLink.gov.uk)