



■ Manager John Fletcher at the site with an artist's impression of the new factory

Tuning up for new factory

A NEW factory is rising out of the ashes after the original one mysteriously burned down.

Work has just started on Bentley Piano's new plant at Woodchester near Stroud, which is to include the only remnant of the original building — a huge chimney.

Company boss Peter Freake said the chimney at Woodchester Mills in Selsey Road is a well-known local landmark. "We are keeping it for nostalgia more than anything — it serves no real purpose," he added.

The new building is to be built in traditional style, but it will be two storeys high with three gabled ends instead of three storeys high with just one gable — like the original.

Around 40 pianos a week costing between £1,800 and more than £3,000 will be assembled at the factory, due to open in March.

The old building was gutted by fire in November last year and the cause has never been established.