

New piano factory plan

WORLD famous piano makers at Stroud hope to begin work on a prestige new factory this summer after a massive blaze ripped through their Woodchester site last year.

Bentley Pianos have been working at 70 per cent capacity since the blaze, and need the new 13,000 square foot factory to return to full production.

The company are splashing out on a traditional red-brick building with a slate roof on two floors in a bid to keep with the traditional mill design of the Stroud valleys.

They hope to obtain planning permission for the factory in July, start work within a month, and have it finished early next year.

The internationally renowned company — Britain's second largest piano producer — employs nearly 50 workers and has been operating in Stroud as a family business since 1911.

Director David Grover's grandfather started the company in London in 1906, but his father and grandfather had also been piano makers, which makes the business a 160 year family tradition.

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