

Optimistic note for factory staff

WORKERS at a world famous piano factory near Stroud are hopeful they can save their jobs.

More than 30 employees from Bentley Pianos, at Woodchester, have lived through a bleak Christmas with the threat of redundancy hanging over their heads.

However, union convener Philip Farmilow said workers were very hopeful they could retain their jobs despite a planned management sell-off.

Mr Farmilow said: "We are remaining optimistic and hope to resolve the problem

when we return to work in the New Year."

Workers have met management but will remain on short-time until January 4.

Hundreds of people have signed a petition against the sell-off and plan to send it to Stroud MP Roger Knapman early in the New Year.

A final meeting will be held on January 4 between workers and management.

The piano workshop has been based at Woodchester since 1938. It has twice been hit by fire, the latest in 1989, and has only just been restored to its former glory.

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