



inspiring future engineers

Stroud MP **Neil Carmichael** is the driving force behind a new Festival of Engineering and Manufacturing in April this year, highlighting the opportunities for young people in this expanding sector...

Stroud has a history as a thriving manufacturing town, its formerly flourishing textile mills bringing economic prosperity to the town and creating local jobs. Now, even though the mills closed in the late 20th century, these factories have been converted into office and residential accommodation, leaving its manufacturing heritage in the town.

Stroud MP Neil Carmichael wants to restore the region's interest in manufacturing and engineering and is the driving force behind the town's very first Festival of Engineering and Manufacturing which is to take place on April 23rd-27th this year.

"We have some fantastic manufacturing and engineering success stories in Gloucestershire and the Festival will put our achievements in the spotlight. We hope the Festival will inspire a new generation of students to pursue a career in engineering and manufacturing. It is more important than ever to attract young people into these sectors," says Neil.

The Festival week will include several key events as well as a series of awards for success, a 'scrapheap challenge' for schools and a focus on apprenticeships.

Mark Prisk MP, Minister of State at the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills will be guest speaker.

In an ever changing world and the need for constant innovation, it is vital to attract new talent to these sectors to ensure that the UK remains competitive in this field.

"There are exciting and rewarding careers in engineering and manufacturing and they are sectors that are keen to welcome young people and provide rewarding careers.

"The Festival puts a spotlight on what can be achieved. Britain is still the world's sixth largest manufacturer, which is a strong foundation for further, much needed growth. Manufacturing and engineering are highly creative although they may not be seen as such, so we hope the Festival will show young people how exciting this industry can be."

Local companies Renishaw (one of the UK's most successful engineering companies), Nampak Plastics and the leading aircraft manufacturer Airbus will be speaking at the Festival and aim to demonstrate that there are diverse opportunities for young graduates and apprentices available in Gloucestershire.

"Apprenticeships are crucial and young people should be seriously thinking about training in the workplace. Tomorrow's workplace is very dynamic and young people can expect some exciting opportunities in manufacturing and engineering." **CS**

For more information about the Festival of Manufacturing and Engineering, please contact Debbie Young on 01453 751572.
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