

## **FIFTEEN CORNWALL APPRENTICES AT LIBERAL DEMOCRAT RECEPTION**

Apprentices from the social enterprise restaurant Fifteen Cornwall served up a taste of Cornwall with an Italian inspired twist at a reception in Bournemouth on Monday night (15<sup>th</sup> September) at the Liberal Democrat conference in Bournemouth.

The evening meeting was organised by the South West RDA, one of Fifteen Cornwall's key funders, as part of its work on the annual conferences of the three national political parties. The event sought to raise the profile of skills and training in the region, particularly relating to catering, leisure and tourism and introduce the 200 Liberal Democrat delegates and guests to the wide range of excellent food and drink produced in the region.

During the reception, Fifteen Cornwall apprentices Colin Hague (20) from Helston and Natalie Dale (21) from Bodmin, along with Executive Chef Neil Haydock and a front of house team of four, impressed the party delegates with a selection of antipasti using seasonal ingredients from some of their Cornish suppliers including cured meats from Deli Farm, dressed vegetables from Zucca at Stithians and Buttervilla at Torpoint and Cornish cheeses from St Keverne, Bude and Liskeard.

Reflecting on the experience of catering for such a high profile event, Fifteen Cornwall apprentice chef Natalie Dale said: *"I was really excited to be selected to travel up to Bournemouth for the Lib Dem conference and represent Fifteen Cornwall. The guests certainly seemed to enjoy our Cornish hospitality and were interested in what we're doing at Fifteen Cornwall and how we are finding our training and new careers."*

Dave Meneer, CEO of Fifteen Cornwall said: *"Feeding 200 people with a menu sourced 100% from Cornwall was a nice challenge for our small team who made the trip. We were delighted to be invited to come and show what we can do in front of the political party that rule the roost in our patch and the RDA, without whom we wouldn't be here today."*



Juliet Williams, Chairman the South West RDA added: *"Top class skills and training are essential if the regional tourism and leisure industry is to achieve its vision for South West England to be internationally recognised as a model destination by 2015. Fifteen Cornwall is certainly putting the South West on the map, promoting the county's food and drink sector and providing a boost to the tourism industry along with high quality training to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. It was an ideal project to highlight to conference delegates and I am delighted that they were able to learn at first hand how successful the enterprise has become within just a couple of years of opening."*

**Ends**

**16th September 2008**

### **Notes to editors**

**Fifteen Cornwall** opened on 18th May 2006 with an innovative menu of the best seasonal and local produce, a relaxed atmosphere, talented chefs and an incredible view over a beautiful two-mile beach.

The restaurant is dedicated to the same inspirational social enterprise goals as set out by Jamie Oliver and his team at Fifteen London. Each year the restaurant gives up to 20 trainee-chefs the once in a lifetime opportunity to turn their lives around.

All profits from Fifteen Cornwall go to the registered charity, The Cornwall Foundation of Promise. The charity's purpose is the creation of fantastic career opportunities for disadvantaged, local, young people, helping them every step of the way to achieve their potential. The restaurant also provides a valuable boost to Cornwall's tourism industry and makes use of the abundance of high quality local food producers in the region.

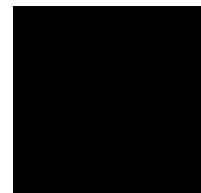
The project has received more than £1 million in grants from Objective One and the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA), with additional support from Jobcentre Plus, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), Cornwall College, Cornwall County Council, Restormel Borough Council, St Austell Brewery, HSBC Bank, Barclays Bank and The Hotel and Extreme Academy, Watergate Bay.

For Fifteen Cornwall reservations and menu information visit [www.fifteencornwall.co.uk](http://www.fifteencornwall.co.uk) or call 01637 861000 (lines open between 9.00am and 7.00pm seven days a week).

### **For further details, please contact:**

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# Media Release



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