



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**16<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

### **North Devon Foodfest 2014 is here!**

The wait for Foodfest 2014 is over - North Devon's top food and drink festival will take place this weekend and will transform the Pannier Market in Barnstaple into a walk-in larder filled with incredible cakes and bakes, sizzling sausages and tasty local tipples

Organised by North Devon+, this year's North Devon Foodfest will be every foodie's heaven with artisan breads, local ales and homemade fudge on offer, as well delicious street food to try such as curries, samosas, paellas, local fish dishes and much, much more.

Top Devon chef Michael Caines MBE will be starring on the chef demo stage bringing his own brand of creative culinary magic to the festival. Noel Corston of NC@EX34 in Woolacombe, Thomas Carr of The Olive Room in Ilfracombe, and Mark Dodson, Proprietor and Chef of North Devon's only Michelin starred restaurant The Masons Arms in Knowstone will also be on the chef demo stage.

Two local firefighters Darren Collacott and Edd Robinson will be taking on the annual 'Breeds Ready Steady Cook' challenge as part of their campaign to prevent kitchen fires at home.

Since it began in 2008, Foodfest has grown in popularity and the festival has become an established date on the North Devon calendar. The much anticipated event draws huge crowds: last year around 14,000 visitors attended.

The chef demonstration stage will once again be situated in the Queen's Theatre. Chefs will be using elaborate, state-of-the-art kitchen workstations stations to cook up a storm provided by Rangemoors and Ashgrove Kitchens.

John Scarlett, Stoves & Cooker Manager at Rangemoors said: "Rangemoors and Ashgrove Kitchens are delighted to be supporting the North Devon Foodfest again this year. Our two companies have teamed up for this event, bringing together years of experience in Range Cooker appliances and kitchen design know-how. We're confident the chefs will be able to create exciting and memorable dishes using the equipment we've supplied and we'd like to wish the chefs good luck!"

The Northern Devon FLAG (Fisheries Local Action Group) will sponsor the event for a second year, flying the flag for the local fish and shellfish industry. They will host a dedicated FLAG area featuring an exciting mix of local fish and shellfish sellers with demonstrations, activities and information for all the family. Sponsor's John's of Instow and Appledore will also be attending and showcasing a selection of their producers.

Kristy Webbe, from North Devon+ said: "We think Foodfest 2014 will be the best ever. This year we've got more exhibitors than ever before, along with top chefs from some of the best local restaurants.

"The event is a true celebration of food champions throughout the area, supporting our local suppliers, growers and traders and puts North Devon firmly on the foodie map.

"We'd love people to come along to support the festival – it's a great day out, with lots to offer and the chance to fill your shopping bags with great local goodies."

The event would not be possible without the support of BID Barnstaple, North Devon Council, Rangemoors, Ashgrove Kitchens, Brends, The North Devon Fisheries Local Action Group and Johns of Instow and Appledore.

Foodfest will take place on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October 10:00-15:30 at Barnstaple's Historic Pannier Market. Entrance is free.

**ENDS**

#### **Notes to Editors**

For more information regarding this press release contact: Emma Parker Reynolds at Coast on 07944 360631 or the Coast main office on 01579 352600.

#### **FoodFest Background:**

Coordinated by North Devon+, the economic regeneration company for North Devon and Torridge, FoodFest is part of an ongoing regional campaign to support local food and drink producers. The

FoodFest event has increased in popularity since it began in 2008: last year there were over 14,000 visitors, 90 exhibitors, and six top chefs from some of the best local restaurants.

Launched by North Devon+ in 2008 with European funding via a Leader4 food and drink project, FoodFest has now been self supporting since 2011 with funding instead provided by North Devon+, North Devon Council, BID Barnstaple, and annual sponsors (for 2013 they are the Northern Devon Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) and John's of Appledore and Instow).

#### About North Devon +

North Devon+ is the chief economic delivery agency for North Devon and Torridge. We aim to deliver positive change, creating a more productive economy and more prosperous communities. Our role is to ensure our area thrives as a place in which to live, learn, work and visit. Our primary focus is on regeneration, tourism and business development. We work with Torridge District Council, North Devon Council, Devon County Council and the private sector to deliver projects and initiatives that encourage and support business growth, improve quality of life, and address social and economic inequalities. North Devon+ is a member of the National Enterprise Network. To find out more visit [www.northdevonplus.co.uk](http://www.northdevonplus.co.uk)

#### Programme:

See the following local chefs in action on our demonstration stage in the Queen's Theatre:

 **Noel Corston - 10.15 - 11.00**  
NC@EX34, Woolacombe

 **Thomas Carr - 11.15 - 12.00**  
The Olive Room, Ilfracombe  
& Northern Devon Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) 

 **Michael Caines MBE - 12.15 - 1.00**  
Executive Chef at the 2 Michelin starred Gidleigh Park

 **North Devon Food & Drink Awards - 1.00 - 1.20**  
Find out the winners of this year's North Devon Journal Food & Drink Awards

 **Mark Dodson - 1.30 - 2.15**  
The Masons Arms, Knowstone

**Ready Steady Cook! - 2.30 - 3.30**  
with

  **Dez Turland & Stuart White**  
Brend Hotels