

LADIES THAT LUNCH STAGE CASTLE HILL MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA EVENING FOR LOCAL CHARITY

A group of 150 North Devon business women, known as the “Ladies That Lunch” are holding a Music Extravaganza evening at Castle Hill on 4th September to raise money for local charity, Devon Community Foundation and its North Devon Grassroots Challenge Appeal.

Lady Arran, Patron of Devon Community Foundation, has kindly allowed the west wing and lawns at Castle Hill to be used as the spectacular venue for an evening of music from local performers, a charity auction and comedy slot by BBC Radio presenter, David Fitzgerald and great food and wine from local suppliers.

All money raised will go to Devon Community Foundation’s North Devon Grassroots Challenge, which supports small voluntary and community groups across North Devon which are in the frontline helping local people in need. The charity can currently win an extra £100,000 in match funding from the government for voluntary groups in North Devon, if it can raise a matching £100,000 by March 2011.

Rosie Bracher, the local solicitor who started the North Devon Ladies That Lunch club which now regularly sees over 70 business women meeting for lunch comments, “We have such a wonderful time when we meet for lunch that we thought we’d direct our energies into putting on a fantastic evening event which will help to showcase local talent and raise money for small local groups and causes which are often forgotten. Everything we raise will be doubled which is even better. It should be a great fun evening in beautiful surroundings.”

Local songstress, Milli Taylor and her band will be the headline act. She’ll be joined by Ricki Knight of the Elderly Brothers and local Rory Gallagher Tribute Band, Taste Rory with local solicitor Steve Plant. The Ghurka Restaurant will be putting on an array of sumptuous curries and there will be wine from Bray Valley Wines. Ex-TSW presenter and BBC Radio Devon personality David Fitzgerald will host a charity auction with prizes to date including a stay at the Hamptons and Watermouth Holiday Cottages, an adventure day out at Southdown adventure and yoga classes at Berrynarbour Manor.

Sarah Gunn, Fund Development Manager for Devon Community Foundation, “We’re extremely grateful to Lady Arran, the North Devon Ladies that Lunch, David Fitzgerald and the local bands who are providing their services for free for putting on this great evening for us. Small voluntary groups helping some of the most vulnerable in our local communities do a fantastic job, but are often forgotten in favour of national causes. The generosity of this great group of ladies will help us to win even more much needed extra cash for local volunteers in North Devon who are on the frontline helping local people.”

Tickets cost £30 and include food and entertainment. Numbers are limited to 150 and tickets are selling fast so sign up now to avoid disappointment. Anyone interested should send cheques made payable to Devon Community Foundation to: Cheryl Macdermott at Stowells Accountants, 21 Joy Street, Barnstaple, EX31 1BS.

Anyone who would like to donate auction prizes or find out more can contact Laura at Devon Community Foundation on 01884 235887 or visit www.devoncf.com

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EDITORS NOTES:

**NORTH DEVON GRASSROOTS CHALLENGE WEEK
PROPOSAL FOR SUPPORT FROM NORTH DEVON PLUS**

Background

Devon Community Foundation is Devon's local charity for local people, supporting hundreds of voluntary and community groups on the frontline in helping local people who are vulnerable, disadvantaged and disabled. Over the last 7 years it has distributed £7 million in grants to over 2,500 groups. In N Devon and Torridge, it has supported 315 groups with a total of almost £1 m in small grants.

North Devon Grassroots Challenge

Devon Community Foundation has £1.25 million available in match funding from the government for the county, if it can raise a matching £1.25 m by March 2011.

In North Devon, the Foundation is aiming to raise £130,000 which will then be matched, creating a permanent £260,000 North Devon Grassroots Fund for community groups which will grant make every year to community groups in N Devon/Torridge area.

To date it has raised £31, 620 in N Devon which has been matched (to create £63,240 in total). In order to secure N Devon's full share of the extra government funding, N Devon need to raise a further £100,000 by March 2011.

Groups supported by Devon Community Foundation in N Devon/Torridge to date include: Witheridge Lunch Club, the North Devon Footcare Project, Freedom Social Projects, Share Music South West, N Molton Youth Club, Cycle Coaching South West and N Devon Water Mobility – to name but a few.