**Wild Speaker for the Cornwall Business Awards**

The speaker for the Cornwall Business Awards 2022 has been announced, with Ben Fogle to take the reins for the event on 30 June.

Ben first burst onto the nation’s screens during one of the UK’s first reality TV shows ‘Castaway’.

Marooned on a remote Scottish island to build a self-sufficient community, the show was filmed and broadcast over a year in 2000 on BBC One. Ben was the standout star, launching a career as that has seen him present programmes such as Countryfile, Animal Park and Crufts.

Ben has kept up his adventurer spirit climbing Mount Everest, rowing across the Atlantic, racing across Antarctica to the South Pole and crossing the deserts of the Empty Quarter in the Middle East.

He has written nine best-selling books, is United Nations Patron of the Wilderness and the Red Cross as well as being an ambassador to WWF and Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

Ben will have plenty of inspirational stories to tell from presenting documentaries on diverse subjects like Captain Scott in Antarctica and crocodiles in Botswana.

**Kirsty Miles-Musgrave, Operations Manager for the Growth and Skills Hub said:**

“We are delighted to have Ben Fogle join us on 30 June to not only celebrate the successes of Cornish business, but to also share a few tales from his career along the way.

“For those businesses who wish to apply for an award it’s not too late, with entries open until Monday, 21 March. There is an award category for everyone so jump online and get applying.”

The Awards are completely free to enter, and businesses should register on the Cornwall Business Awards [website](https://www.cornwallbusinessawards.co.uk/). A full listing of award categories as well as tips and tricks on how to put together your application are also available there.

Find out more about the awards and sign up for **FREE** here

[https://www.cornwallbusinessawards.co.uk](https://www.cornwallbusinessawards.co.uk/)

The Growth and Skills Hub will also stage three webinars to help potential applicants put together an award-winning entry. More information on these webinars, which start on 26 January, can be found [here](https://www.cornwallbusinessawards.co.uk/webinars-on-how-to-write-a-great-awards-entry/).

The Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Growth Hub and Skills Hub are part funded by the European Structural & Investment Funds and match funded by Cornwall Council, the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership.

ENDS

**2019 Awards video** <https://youtu.be/h7kWcQhyxH0>

**Award Categories for 2022**

* Beacon Inclusivity Award – sponsored by Beacon Project
* Best Business with a Purpose – sponsored by CORSERV
* Best Customer Experience – sponsored by Jobline Staffing
* Best Family Business – sponsored by St Austell Printing Company
* Best New Business – sponsored by Outset Cornwall
* Best Place to Work
* Business Leader of the Year – sponsored by InFocus from Unlocking Potential
* Clean Growth Award – sponsored by Impact, Innovation and Business at the University of Exeter
* Employee of the Year – sponsored by Truro & Penwith College
* Exporter of the Year – sponsored by Business Cornwall
* Growth Business of the Year – sponsored by Access to Finance
* Rising Star Award – sponsored by Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP
* Third Sector Award – sponsored by Eden Project
* Skills Brilliance Award – sponsored by CC Training

**Notes to Editors**

The Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Growth Hub and Skills Hub organise the awards and are part funded by the European Structural & Investment Funds and match funded by Cornwall Council, the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership. The Awards are also supported by Cornwall Innovation, Vickery Holman and DCA PR.

Key dates

Applications open 24 January 2022

Entry deadline Midnight, 21March 2022

Awards date is 30 June 2022

Download Images: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/cornwallbusinessawards/>

Download assets for promotion <https://www.cornwallbusinessawards.co.uk/promote-the-awards/>

Further information

Facebook: [@CornwallBusinessAwards](https://en-gb.facebook.com/CornwallBusinessAwards/)

Twitter: [@cbizawards](https://twitter.com/cbizawards)

Instagram [cornwallbusinessawards](https://www.instagram.com/cornwallbusinessawards/)

Website: [www.cornwallbusinessawards.co.uk](http://www.cornwallbusinessawards.co.uk/)

**Note to editors**

**Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Growth Hub**

The Growth Hub has been created in response to a common issue raised by businesses – that the range and complexity of business support available at a local and national level is far too confusing and time consuming to navigate. At its core the Growth Hub acts as a signposting service, pointing people in the right direction to get the support they need to start or grow their business.

Supported by a comprehensive website, a team of locally based experts work directly with businesses to help them identify and access support in a way that is right for them, whether that is business development, coaching, funding or something else entirely.

[www.ciosgrowthhub.com](http://www.ciosgrowthhub.com/)

**Contact:**

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**European Regional Development Fund**

The project has received ££2,535,200 of funding from the England European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (and in London the intermediate body Greater London Authority) is the Managing Authority for European Regional Development Fund. Established by the European Union, the European Regional Development Fund helps local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support innovation, businesses, create jobs and local community regenerations.

For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding>

**Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership**

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership drives activity to support business growth, create jobs and help people realise their potential.

The LEP is led by local business people working together with Cornwall Council and the Council of the Isles of Scilly to set priorities for how the economy should grow. [www.cioslep.com](http://www.cioslep.com/)

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**Cornwall Development Company**

CIOS Growth Hub is a service of Cornwall Development Company, the arm’s length economic development company of Cornwall Council, designed to deliver a bespoke, business facing service and support the delivery of the economic vision and strategy for Cornwall.

[www.cornwalldevelopmentcompany.co.uk](http://www.cornwalldevelopmentcompany.co.uk/) / [mail@cornwalldevelopmentcompany.co.uk](mailto:mail@cornwalldevelopmentcompany.co.uk) / @CornwallDevCo