

## New start-up programme unveiled

A new initiative to help graduates start their own businesses has been officially launched by Unlocking Cornish Potential (UCP).

In front of a group of budding graduate entrepreneurs at Tremough campus, UCP unveiled details of the Convergence-funded Graduate Start-up Programme.

The programme has evolved from the highly successful UCP model of placing graduates with Cornish companies to help them to develop their business.

All the graduates were given the opportunity to talk one-to-one with advisors from organisations including Business Link, Oxford Innovation, Outset Cornwall and Sirolli.

Allyson Glover, head of graduate placements, said: "It's inspiring to see so many graduates with great ideas who are passionate about starting their own business in Cornwall. I'm really excited



▶ Launch: Graduates gather at Tremough

about seeing these graduates develop over the next year. The type of people and businesses we met over the three days are exactly why the Cornwall Institute of Enterprise is so important."

The Cornwall Institute of Enterprise is a Combined Universities of Cornwall (CUC) initiative with plans to be a "world class" centre for business and entrepreneurship, providing courses, practical research and a hub for business start-ups. ▶

## Bishop Fleming keeping growth local

Regional accountancy firm Bishop Fleming has outlined ambitious growth plans to its staff.

In recent years, Bishop Fleming has doubled its turnover to £11 million, and recently announced the appointment of Jerry O'Sullivan to replace retiring chief executive, Brian Payne.

Meeting at Dillington House, near Ilminster in Somerset, the 18 partners and

183 staff at Bishop Fleming heard from O'Sullivan and managing partner, Matthew Lee, that the firm's five-year business plan aims at growing turnover to £15 million, including acquisitions.

"Our business plan remains very clearly focused on the south west: we have decided against opening or acquiring offices outside this region," said O'Sullivan. ▶

## Save the last dance...

Cornwall Council has come under fire over plans to send a 12-strong licensing committee on a fact-finding trip up country to visit lap-dancing clubs.

Apparently, the trip is to help them gain a better understanding on how these establishments operate, before new rules are introduced to regulate the small number of sex entertainment venues in Cornwall.

Members of the committee believe they need to be "as informed as possible" when making decisions on new businesses once the new laws are in place, hence the reason for the trip.

But Matthew Elliott, chief executive of The Taxpayers' Alliance called it a "mockery".

He said: "If they really feel they need to make this visit, why not send one member to go and then report back, at least then they would be spending less taxpayers' money on this ridiculous exercise." ▶

## South Crofty gold rush?

South Crofty mine is declaring a small discovery of gold as potentially "very significant".

Microscopic particles of gold were discovered during exploratory drilling for tin, copper and tin.

Chief operating officer John Webster said: "It's the first time gold has been looked for and found as far as we know at South Crofty. We can't say we are a gold exploration company at the moment, but gold exists in Cornwall for sure.

"If we can find an economic source of it we will go mining." ▶



▶ John Webster: Golden opportunity

