



## Press Release



### **Clarissa Dickson Wright To Open Falmouth Oyster Festival**

Hot off the press - celebrity chef Clarissa Dickson Wright will be opening Falmouth Oyster Festival this year on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October from 11.30am. Many will recognise this exuberant chef as one half of the much loved, TV cooking partnership 'Two Fat Ladies', and more recently from her television series 'Clarissa and the Countryman'.

Clarissa will be signing her latest book, her autobiography, 'Spilling the beans' in which she tells of her fascinating life and her love of cooking. This larger than life personality is certainly a survivor, and her ability to talk on almost any subject along with her down-to-earth philosophy and straight-forwardness makes her a natural star. Clarissa has published six books on food and cookery, and will be demonstrating her culinary skill at the Opening Ceremony at the festival.

The eleventh Falmouth Oyster Festival will be held from the 18th to 21st October, and is timed to co-incide with the start of the oyster dredging season. The festival has a broad appeal and is a must for all oyster, seafood and marine heritage enthusiasts.

The festival this year includes all the popular ingredients which come together to create a feast for the senses. The four-day packed programme for the event will include cookery demonstrations by leading local chefs, Falmouth Bay Oysters, Walter Hicks Wines, Skinners ales, hot seafood dishes, children's shell painting, town parade, oyster shucking competition, sea shanties, live music and marquees packed with the very best of Cornish produce and crafts.

New this year is a 'Ready, Steady, Cook' evening on Friday 19th October, featuring chefs Nick Hodges from Lusty Glaze and Artie Williams from The Cove, plus live music from The Shirts. The contestants will be selected through a competition run on BBC Radio Cornwall,

the evening will be compared by a Radio Cornwall presenter and is set to become a regular highlight of the festival.

Also new for 2007 - visitors to the festival will be able to enjoy a highly entertaining evening on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>, with Tom Cunliffe, the well known yachting journalist and broadcaster, and Claudia Myatt, marine illustrator and author. There will also be live music, with fish supper, oysters, wine and Cornish ale available - an evening not to be missed for yachting enthusiasts, lovers of stories of the high seas or for those who wish to savour the atmosphere of the festival for longer!.

Students from University College Falmouth will again be filming the cookery demonstrations and projecting the live action onto a big screen behind the chefs for all to see. The culinary master classes will have free entrance again this year, so visitors will be able to watch the chefs conjuring up spectacular seafood dishes whilst they enjoy a glass of wine or Cornish ale and enjoy the unique atmosphere of the festival marquee.

Entrance to the festival is free throughout the four days, including evening entertainment, with the exception of the Opening Ceremony – tickets for this popular start to the festival will be £5.00 and will be available from the Maritime Museum.

Falmouth Oyster Festival began from humble beginnings and has grown into one of the top events in the county – make a date in your diary and spread the word. For full details of the festival programme and how to book stand space, visit [www.falmouthoysterfestival.co.uk](http://www.falmouthoysterfestival.co.uk).

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