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Kents Cavern wins national travel & tourism industry 'Oscar'

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4 May 2006

Devon's oldest tourist attraction, Kents Cavern in Torquay, has just won one of the UK travel and tourism industry's top 'Oscars'.

Kents Cavern won a 'Business Excellence Award' in the "Under £1m turnover independent attractions" sector from the prestigious Best Practice Forum in London last night. (details at: www.bestpracticeforum.org)

The Torquay-based, family-run attraction already holds the Best Attraction in Torbay and Crystal Palm Best Achievement Awards for 2005, so owner Nick Powe, the fifth generation of the family to own and operate the caverns, is delighted to have added more silverware to his trophy cabinet.

Nick, and his wife Sheena, attended the prestigious Gala Awards Dinner at the London Hilton, Park Lane last night (Wed 3 May) when the winners were announced by the Best Practice Forum's judges.

The Best Practice Forum's 'Business Excellence Awards' are keenly contested every year, and are some of the most prestigious and sought-after accolades in the hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism industry.

The awards only go to UK businesses that have demonstrated their willingness to adopt or adapt best practice in all aspects of their operation in order to raise their efficiency and their profitability. They show how innovative business practice can achieve outstanding success.

Commenting on winning the award, Nick Powe said today (4 May): **"We are all immensely proud and delighted to have won one of this year's Business Excellence Awards.**

"We have all worked long and hard at Kents Cavern over the last six years to achieve it, so it's very rewarding to have gained national recognition within the travel and tourism industry.

"Winning the category award is very special for me and my family plus all of the staff at Kents Cavern too, but it's also a great shot in the arm for the Torbay tourism industry."

To achieve the award, Nick submitted a case study about Kents Cavern to the Best Practice Forum in London back in December 2005, entitled "Modernising The Oldest Home in Britain".

More follows

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The entry showed clear evidence of measurable year-on-year improvement in business performance as a result of the major £775,000 investment projects he has masterminded since he took over the business in 2000.

Nick and Kents Cavern received a trophy and the successful case study will now be featured in a special supplement produced by The Observer newspaper and distributed nationally to readers. Additional articles featuring the caves and Torbay will also appear in many other leading hospitality and leisure magazines.

- Ends -

NOTES TO NEWS/PICTURE DESK

- 1) For further information and interview or photography/filming requests at Kents Cavern, please contact Nick Powe on (01803) 215136 or e-mail: nickpowe@kents-cavern.co.uk
- 2) Nick and Sheena Powe are travelling back to Devon today but he will be available for interviews and photography/filming at Kents Cavern tomorrow (Friday 5 May) when they will be celebrating winning the award.

Press release issued on behalf of Kents Cavern

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