

# LISA ALLEN REPRESENTING LANCASHIRE IN THIS YEAR'S BBC 2 GREAT BRITISH MENU

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**Lancashire's very own Lisa Allen, Head Chef at Northcote, is the only female chef to make it on to BBC Two's popular Great British Menu this year.**

Not content just to be one of three chefs representing the North West region, Lisa is also the only woman to compete in the show across the whole of the UK.

*"It is such an honour to be in the show- I am so excited! Obviously Northcote has a fantastic record in the Great British Menu, with Nigel Haworth<sup>1</sup> having won the competition previously, and I look forward to representing the restaurant to the best of my ability. Being the only woman competing is a real thrill too- it's very satisfying to represent women chefs in the UK, in such a male dominated industry"* Lisa Allen, Head Chef, Northcote

For 5 years Lisa has been Head Chef at Nigel Haworth's hugely successful, Michelin starred **Northcote** in Lancashire following roles at Le Champignon Savage and Holbeck Ghyll . Northcote is a champion of local produce, sourcing meat, vegetables and dairy products from the finest farms in the North.

Celebrating the wealth of delicious produce grown, reared and fished across the UK, the fifth series of **Great British Menu** will see Lisa competing against 23 of Britain's top chefs for the opportunity to cook a glorious banquet. This year the guest list for the banquet will be made up of some of the best British food producers and suppliers from around the country. Lisa, whose show is scheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup> April, is taking with her the gems of the North to help her to victory- including The Levens Hall rabbit, Low Sizergh Cream and fresh Podded organic peas from HowBarrow.

*"We feel very privileged to have contributed ingredients to Lisa Allen at Northcote and we are thrilled that Lisa's skill in making the most of fantastic regional foods has been recognised. Lisa recognises that our award winning produce is superior to any other in the area, due largely to our organic system which nourishes the cows and has a great impact on their welfare"* Richard Park, Farmer at Low Sizergh Barn

The 2010 Great British Menu will retain its distinctive format, with a few twists. This year, three great culinary talents will battle it out in the regional heats. Lisa will be competing in the North West region against Aiden Byrne and Johnnie Mountain. Great British Menu will be shown on BBC Two, Mon 5 April at 18.30.

From winning stock and perhaps a lucky charm, Lisa's mentor and Chef Patron at Northcote, Nigel Haworth, will also be appearing on the series. Having previously won the competition Nigel is now judging the culinary feats of the new generation, picking his favourite dishes from the North East region.

*“Lisa represents the spirit of Northcote moving forward, I am extremely proud of her as a chef and of her achievements. I cannot think of anyone better that represents the strength of young British Cooks today”*

Nigel Haworth, Managing Director at Northcote