

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

BANKING ON BANKSIDE

Top London restaurant Bankside, and national visual impairment charity Action for Blind People, are working in partnership to raise £15,000 to support blind and partially sighted people across the UK. To celebrate five years in business Bankside restaurant will be hosting a fundraising ball, organised in partnership with Speed Select, with all proceeds going to Action. The event will also help the charity raise awareness of World Sight Day, which focuses attention on global blindness.

The event will take place on 12th October at Bankside's newest restaurant in EC2, London. The evening will include a charity auction, where a professional auctioneer from leading auction house, Christies, will start the bidding. Guests will be welcomed by a champagne reception, followed by a three course meal with wine and entertainment.

Joanna Hall, Corporate Development Team Leader at Action for Blind People, said: 'I would like to say a big thank you to Bankside for having Action as its charity partner and helping to raise significant funds for such a worthwhile cause.'

Action for Blind People is dedicated to providing a service to over 20,000 blind and partially sighted people across the UK every year, to enable them to transform their lives through work, housing, leisure and support. Funding is vital to keep all of Action's services running.

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Joanna continued: 'It is shocking that every 5 seconds one person goes blind and a child goes blind every minute. World Sight Day is supported by organisations around the world who are all working in partnership to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020. Action for Blind People recognises the importance in supporting this special day.'

In light of their on-going commitment to corporate social responsibility, Bankside is an award-winning restaurant and is named the 2004 Business in the Community Small Company of the Year.

Kelvin MacDonald, Owner and Managing Director of Bankside, said: 'We take our corporate social responsibility very seriously. We believe that a restaurant is part of the community and should therefore aim to have a positive impact within it. As a long-term partner with Action for Blind People we are committed to supporting them in helping enable blind and partially sighted people get equal choice.'

Speed Select who offer free independent services to help businesses find software, as well as offering professional marketing advice to businesses with little in-house expertise, are also supporting Action for Blind People through their involvement with the ball.

To help support the event tickets can be purchased at £40 a head – call Bankside now on 0845 226 0011

Ends

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For further information please contact Debbie Flatley, Press Office on 020 7635 4921.

Notes for Editors

- 1) Action works to inspire change and create opportunities to enable blind and partially sighted people to have equal voice and equal choice and to live a full and valuable life. For further information visit www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk or contact our free phone national helpline 0800 915 4666.
- 2) For further information on Bankside restaurants visit www.banksiderestaurants.co.uk
- 3) World Sight Day is coordinated by the International Agency for the prevention of Blindness as part of the Vision 2020: Right to Sight Campaign. For further information on World Sight Day visit www.v2020.org/world_sight_day/index.asp