

SURREY FARE: Producers travel to Westminster to give PM a flavour of county



YES, PIE, MINISTER: But Lucinda Perks, of The Butchers Hall, would not tell Mr Cameron the secret of her thin pastry



NETWORKING WITH POLITICIANS: Producers get together at Westminster to promote their wares



MEET AND GREET: David Cameron with Tracy Carroll and Christine Howard

Mr Cameron hails best food in the House

By Chris Madden

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PRIME Minister David Cameron met with Surrey food producers who ventured to Westminster to dispel the myth the county is a "dull suburban outpost".

More than 25 Surrey businesses were represented at the event last Wednesday, with traders arriving at the Houses of Parliament armed with specially-created foods such as "humble pie" and "political fudge", with names like Ed Vanillaband and Salt Cameron.

Tracy Carroll, founder of Nutfield-based website Local Food Surrey, rallied the county's gastronomic businesses and organised the trip alongside Christine Howard from the website Visit Surrey.

Inside Parliament, the group set up a tasting session for MPs to show off some of the produce Surrey has to offer, including wine, beer, bread, cake and mutton.

And producers were pleased when Mr Cameron popped along to see what they were exhibiting.

Mrs Carroll said: "The event meant so much to the members of Local Food Surrey who accompanied me on the day and to everyone who donated produce for the tastings. For quite a while we



SCRUMPTIOUS: Some of the tasters laid out for the Prime Minister

didn't think the Prime Minister was going to make it after all, so when he finally turned up the excitement level was tremendous.

"Although he was clearly very busy he made the effort to taste the food and drink and asked lots of questions."

Speaking to the group after the meeting, Mr Cameron said: "Surrey has a huge amount to offer and sometimes people forget that, because they think of it as not having that sort of rural environment, which it does."

"The Surrey Hills are very beautiful, the food production is extremely good and of course the wine business in England is really growing."

Hamper

Chris Robinson, of Chalk Hills Bakery in Reigate, and Tim McEntire, of Food Float in Dorking, presented Mr Cameron with a hamper of examples of Surrey produce. The Prime Minister also examined and sampled other goods from the county, including fudge, gin and wine.



TASTER: Food Float's Tim McEntire, left, and Chris Robinson from Chalk Hills Bakery present the PM with the Local Food Surrey hamper

Mr McEntire said: "It was a fantastic opportunity to spend some time with the other producers. I'm so proud of our great British heritage so the opportunity to come to the Houses of Parliament was awesome. I thought the MPs were great."

Mr Robinson added: "I thought it was a fantastic day and a great opportunity to be able to present

Surrey and its produce to the MPs and ministers at the Houses of Parliament.

"For David Cameron to come along was just the icing on the cake. He was such a friendly, nice man and he really thought it was all great. More power to him."

For more details visit www.localfoodbritain.com/surrey or www.visitsurrey.com



GOOD NOSE: The Prime Minister inspects a bottle of English wine produced by Litmus Wines of Dorking



WINE TALK: The Prime Minister with Mattie Elzinger of Litmus Wines of Dorking



CHECK IT OUT: Prime Minister David Cameron surveys some intriguing Surrey products



SHOW AND TELL: Surrey food producers meet PM David Cameron to spread the word



JUST A TIPPLE: Different types of food and drink from the county were shown - with lots of glasses



GET TOGETHER: Surrey food producers met MPs at the event



ALL READY: Producers waiting for the PM with the Local Food Surrey hamper