

# Family Business Apprentice of the Year Finalists Announced

*Family Business United founder and champion of the family business sector, Paul Andrews, is delighted to announce the finalists of the inaugural Family Business Apprentice of the Year Awards which are being sponsored by Close Brothers Asset Management.*

Having founded Family Business United in 2011, it has become the leading online magazine and resource centre for family firms across the UK this award seeks to recognise the commitment that family firms are making to the next generation of employees and identifying those apprentices that go above and beyond the 'call of duty.'

The finalists in the Family Business Apprentice of the Year 2015 are:

- James Smy – CUB (UK) Ltd – Accounts Support Apprentice
- Joel Mortlock – Bagnalls (East Midlands) – Painting & Decorating Apprentice
- Troy Sanderson – Bagnalls (North West) – Painting & Decorating Apprentice
- Georgia Morris – Elliott Brothers Limited – Sales & Estimating Apprentice
- Antonia Lane – Pimlico Plumbers – Plumbing Apprentice
- Jamie Uphill – Deaf Alerter plc – Accountancy Apprentice
- Connor Smith – Bagnalls (North West) – Painting & Decorating Apprentice

As Paul explains, "We have been looking for individuals that have already made a difference in the role that they perform, have stood out and been recognised by their family business employers. All of the finalists are great ambassadors for apprentices across the UK and we are delighted to be able to recognise their achievements."

With over 3 million family firms in the UK today there are some truly inspirational family firms around, some have been around for generations and others are just starting out with the intention of being around for generations to come and with many investing in apprentice schemes, they are investing in the skills of the next generation.

As Penny Lovell, Head of Private Clients at Close Brothers Asset Management concludes, "For a number of years now we have run a Future Leaders Programme to help develop the skills of the entrepreneurial next generation of our clients, many of whom are family businesses, and this campaign was an obvious extension to these activities. We are delighted to be part of the search for the Family Business Apprentice of the Year and look forward to meeting the finalists in due course. "

The finalists will be invited to London on June 8, 2015. During the visit they will get to tour Pimlico Plumbers, the award winning business created by Charlie Mullins OBE, who actually started in the basement of an estate agent in Pimlico, after he completed a four year apprenticeship in Plumbing, with just a second hand van and a bag of tools in 1979. Charlie is a great ambassador for the role of apprenticeships in the UK and after meeting Charlie, there will be a lunch where the winners will be announced.

*About Family Business United – [www.familybusinessunited.com](http://www.familybusinessunited.com), the leading online magazine and resource centre for family business.*