

NEWS FROM LEWIS & COOPER

• PURVEYORS OF FINE FOOD AND WINE SINCE 1899 •

October 13, 2008

Gourmet store gears up for annual fundraiser

AN award-winning North Yorkshire fine food store is preparing to charge shoppers to get in.

But the move is a one-off for a good cause, as it is Lewis & Cooper's annual Pre-Noel fundraising event.

Each year, the gourmet food and drink emporium raises thousands of pounds for charity by opening the doors of its famous Northallerton store to shoppers – in exchange for a donation to charity – on a Sunday early in November.

Food-lovers are able to shop in a carnival atmosphere, gaining access to exclusive money-saving offers and competitions, as well as tastings of fine foods and wine, and preparation ideas from dozens of suppliers.

Special discounts on offer on the day include 10 per cent off wines from the award-winning drinks department, 10 per cent off hampers from our brochure and 15 per cent off china from our gift department upstairs, where the tea room will also be offering a special menu.

This year's event, on Sunday, November 2, from 10am-4pm, will raise funds for Zöe's Place, a hospice in Normanby, Middlesbrough, for babies and infants from across the region with multiple special needs and life-limiting or terminal illnesses.

Opened in 2004, it currently provides respite care for almost 60 families.

"On Pre-Noel Day our customers enjoy a sneak preview of our Christmas product range, so it's a great opportunity to browse for Christmas gifts and look for inspiration for their festive dinner table, all while raising money for charity," said Victoria Howard, general manager.

"We are delighted to be supporting Zöe's Place this year – its respite care service is a vital lifeline for so many children and their families."

Zöe's Place volunteer co-ordinator Derrick Previll said: "We're honoured that such a prestigious name is getting behind us in such a generous way. We can't stress enough the importance of the service we offer to families in desperate need of respite."

Pre-Noel Day tickets are available now for £2 from the store or by calling 01609 766702. Entry on the day costs £2.50.

Last year's Pre-Noel Day raised almost £2,000 for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Chris Hakin, of Minster Northallerton FM, will broadcast live from this year's event, from 10am-1pm.

NOTES TO EDITORS

· For more information, or for complimentary press tickets, please contact Kate Wintersgill on 01609 766702 or kate@lewisandcooper.co.uk

· For press inquiries, please contact Gareth Dant on 01609 760059 or 07929 869269.

· The Northallerton store is at 92 High Street, telephone 01609 772880; a second store can be found in Yarm, within Strickland & Holt at 44 High Street, telephone 01642 802147. Or visit www.lewisandcooper.co.uk. The Northallerton store is open 8.30-5.30 Monday-Friday, 8am-5.30pm on Saturday and 10am-4pm on Sunday.

· Lewis & Cooper stocks more than 30,000 lines in its Northallerton store, including its multi-award winning hand-made plum puddings, luxury iced Christmas cakes and massive range of world-famous hampers. For more details or these, and of our many awards, please visit our website.

· Zöe's Place is at Crossbeck House, Normanby, Middlesbrough, TS6 9DA, tel 01642 457985, www.zoesplace.org or derrick@zoespace.org.

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