

NEWS FROM LEWIS & COOPER

• PURVEYORS OF FINE FOOD AND WINE SINCE 1899 •

November 5, 2008

Store's shoppers notch up more than £2k for hospice

GENEROUS food lovers who paid for the privilege of shopping at an award-winning North Yorkshire fine food store helped raise just over £2,000 for a children's hospice.

Hundreds of shoppers flocked to Lewis & Cooper's annual Pre-Noel fundraising event on Sunday [Nov 2], having made a donation of up to £2.50 each to Zöe's Place, a hospice in Normanby, Middlesbrough.

Opened in 2004, the hospice provides respite care for almost 60 families, caring for babies and infants from across the region with multiple special needs and life-limiting or terminal illnesses.

In return, the Northallerton food and drink emporium laid on money-saving offers and competitions, as well as tastings of fine foods and wine, and preparation ideas from dozens of its specialist suppliers.

Zöe's Place volunteer co-ordinator, Derrick Previll, said: "We were overwhelmed at the support we got on Sunday - from Lewis & Cooper's wonderful staff, and above all from their generous customers.

"This money will go towards much-needed respite care for the babies, children and their families who use our service."

Mr Previll said the funds were especially welcome because the hospice was recently forced to cancel a charity ball, normally the biggest fundraiser in its calendar, blaming the credit crunch and financial downturn for insufficient ticket sales.

Victoria Howard, Lewis & Cooper's general manager, said: "This year's Pre-Noel was bigger and better than ever, and we are delighted to have raised so much for such an excellent cause."

- STOP PRESS: Lewis & Cooper narrowly missed out on two major food award prizes on Monday evening. In this year's Deliciously Yorkshire Awards, organised by the Regional Food Group for Yorkshire and Humber, the store was runner up in the Best Independent Retailer category (won by Ripley Store, near Harrogate, with butcher George Middlemiss, of Otley, the fellow runner-up). Lewis & Cooper won this award in 2007.

Lewis & Cooper's tea room was also named runner up for the award for best use of regional produce within a menu (the winner was Cedar Barn, in Pickering and the fellow runner-up was Bettys of Harrogate.)

The results were announced at a ceremony in Rudding Park, Harrogate, compered by food and drink critic Nigel Barden.

NOTES TO EDITORS

· Please find attached a jpg picture showing Lewis & Cooper joint managing directors Bettina Bell, left, and Victoria Howard either side of Derrick Prevall, from Zöe's Place, with from left, Sandra Graham (receptionist), Maureen Jowers, Sheena Boal, Liz Leathley and Jean Boal (hospice nurses)

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

· 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.

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