

NEWS FROM LEWIS & COOPER

• PURVEYORS OF FINE FOOD AND WINE SINCE 1899 •

November 10, 2008

At last, a housebuilder who's beating the credit crunch

AN ENTERPRISING businesswoman may well be the only homebuilder in the country to increase production this winter.

But the homes Liz Druce builds are edible constructions made from gingerbread, lovingly cooked up in her North Yorkshire kitchen.

She began making the delicacies for friends' children, expanding production in response to popular demand. She will make hundreds of houses in the run-up to Christmas.

Now the 38-year-old, who went full time with her enterprise, The Gingerbread House, last June, has teamed up with Northallerton fine food and drink store Lewis & Cooper to offer people a chance to build their own confection.

Tickets have just gone on sale for a children's workshop at the store, on Sunday, December 21 from 10.30am until about noon.

Materials to put together, ice and decorate a small gingerbread house will be provided on the day, and participants will also be able to make a small Christmas lantern to take with them.

Bettina Bell, joint managing director of Lewis & Cooper, said: "We have been stocking some of Liz's charming gingerbread goodies for some time now. They are beautiful and unusual items lovingly made right on our doorstep.

"The housebuilding session will be a lovely way to help get children in the mood for Christmas, right at the start of the school holiday."

Mrs Druce, a former gardener who trained as an artist, lives at Kepwick, on the edge of the North York Moors near Thirsk.

"The workshops are a super, creative and fun way to get across the joy of baking and making things," she said.

Liz uses only the freshest spices and finest ingredients – such as local free-range eggs – to create her unique constructions, baking in small batches to ensure freshness.

She has run a range of gingerbread workshops at a wide variety of venues and leads sessions for budding builders at birthday parties. Her creations are also available, Ikea-style, as flat-packs for home assembly from the store.

To book a ticket for the pre-Christmas gingerbread house session at Lewis & Cooper, contact 01609-766702. Places are £8 and children should bring an empty, clean jam jar to make a lantern with.

To contact Liz Druce at The Gingerbread House, telephone 01845-537133 or visit www.thegbhouse.co.uk.

NOTES TO EDITORS

- Please find attached a jpg picture showing Liz Druce decorating one of her gingerbread houses at Lewis & Cooper's recent Pre-Noel charity shopping event.
- 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. The Northallerton store is normally open 8.30-5.30 Monday-Friday, 8am-5.30pm on Saturday and 10am-4pm on Sunday, but from now until Christmas it will open until 8pm on Thursdays and Fridays.
- Lewis & Cooper stocks 35,000 lines, including its multi-award winning hand-made plum puddings, luxury iced Christmas cakes and massive range of world-famous hampers. For more details on these, and of our many awards, please visit www.lewisandcooper.co.uk.

ENDZ