

# NEWS FROM LEWIS & COOPER

• PURVEYORS OF FINE FOOD AND WINE SINCE 1899 •

January 15, 2009

## Whisky and haggis to celebrate Burns' 250th birthday

GOURMET grocer Lewis & Cooper is planning to help customers celebrate a poet's special birthday in style next week.

Sunday, January 25, marks 250 years since the birth of Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns.

The anniversary is celebrated by Scots and Scotophiles all over the world. This year's quarter of a millennium milestone for the bard is attracting even more interest for Burns Night, which is celebrated with a supper of haggis, neeps, tatties, bagpipe music, poetry and a wee dram of Scotland's amber nectar.

The Northallerton store has planned a week of promotions in homage to Rab Burns, which will culminate on Saturday, January 24, with a live broadcast from the store by local radio station Minster Northallerton FM between 10am and 1pm, as well as a series of tastings of fine whiskies and celebrated Macsween haggis (a vegetarian version, which itself celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, is also available.).

A piper should be on hand to pipe in the haggis, before the store's award-winning wine and whisky consultant, Danny Cameron, dons his kilt to read the traditional address to the haggis.

Lewis & Cooper joint managing director Victoria Howard said: "While we are proud of our dedication to local suppliers, we also like to celebrate the best of food and drink from all around the world. Burns Night provides a great opportunity to sing the praises of the humble haggis and fine whiskies."

The store's wine department has also taken special delivery of a range of beers from north of the border in time for the celebrations, including Northern Light Beer and Skull Splitter from Orkney and Bitter & Twisted from Alva.

Meanwhile, in the tea rooms upstairs, a haggis special will run alongside the normal menu all week, from January 18.

Burns' birthday will also be marked at Lewis & Cooper's sister store in Yarm, within

Strickland & Holt, with haggis and whisky tastings.

- A separate whisky tasting event at the Northallerton store will focus on Arran whisky, on Thursday, February 19. Louisa Young from the distillery will lead the tasting at this evening event. Please contact 01609 766602 for further details and tickets (£10).

#### NOTES TO EDITORS

• For press inquiries, please contact Gareth Dant on 01609 760059 or 07929 869269. If you would like to send a photographer/film crew for the piper on the day, please get in touch for more precise timings.

• The format of Burns suppers has not changed since the poet's death in 1796, starting with a general welcome and announcements, followed by the Selkirk Grace. After the grace comes the piping and cutting of the haggis, where Burns' famous *Address To a Haggis* is read and the haggis is cut open. The event usually concludes with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

• 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 open 8.30-5.30 Monday-Friday, 8am-5.30pm on Saturday and 10am-4pm on Sunday.

• Lewis & Cooper stocks 35,000-plus lines, including its multi-award winning hand-made plum puddings, luxury fruit cakes and massive range of world-famous hampers. For more details of these, and of their many awards, please visit [www.lewisandcooper.co.uk](http://www.lewisandcooper.co.uk).

ENDZ