

NEWS FROM LEWIS & COOPER

• PURVEYORS OF FINE FOOD AND WINE SINCE 1899 •

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Famous name in food retailing plans new store

A RESPECTED fine food and wine retailer has unveiled ambitious plans for a new store in the North-East.

Lewis & Cooper has been meeting the culinary needs of shoppers from its famous Northallerton store for almost eleven decades. Eight years ago it expanded, opening a small outlet within Yarm's family-owned department store Strickland & Holt.

Now Lewis & Cooper has seized the opportunity of a sought-after High Street shop front in the popular Teesside town and hopes to open later next month after a full refit.

General manager Bettina Bell said: "We've been delighted with our experience of discerning shoppers in Yarm so far, and have enjoyed sharing in the success of a fellow independent, family-owned firm.

"But now it's time to branch out from our present concession and go for a High Street presence. It's good news in what is otherwise a rather gloomy time for retail and the economy in general."

While there are no immediate plans to increase staff numbers at the new store – all five staff will transfer from the current location – Mrs Bell said the company was optimistic of steady growth.

Striving to offer what the supermarkets can not, the store will continue its successful formula, with an extensive range of delicatessen items and dried goods, as well as wonderful traditional sweets which Yarm customers are regularly praising for bringing back fond memories.

All these are alongside the range of international foods and wines familiar to Lewis & Cooper customers, and the lines – many of them exclusive to the company – that are sourced locally or made in the firm's own kitchens: cheeses

from the Dales, York hams, cooked meats and coffees freshly-roasted at the Northallerton store.

Shop manager Sue Emmerson said: "Our customers in Yarm have embraced us from the very start eight years ago and remain very loyal. We look forward to giving them even more of what they like."

The new location, at the recently-closed Blockbusters store at 109 High Street, will offer all of the range and the create-your-own hamper service currently offered within the Strickland & Holt outlet, as well as some new lines and services.

A series of opening offers and special events are planned at the new store once it opens in May. In the meantime, the outlet within Strickland & Holt will continue to trade as normal.

NOTES TO EDITORS

- 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 open 8.30-5.30 Monday-Friday, 8am-5.30pm on Saturday and 11am-4pm on Sunday. The Yarm store is open from 9am-5.30pm, Monday-Saturday.

- 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.

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