

NEWS FROM LEWIS & COOPER

• PURVEYORS OF FINE FOOD AND WINE SINCE 1899 •

May 20, 2009

Gourmet television presenter helps open new store

ONE of the region's best-loved television personalities has helped open a new fine food store in the region.

Providing a rare bit of positive news from the retail sector, Lewis & Cooper has relocated its outlet in Yarm to 109 High Street, having moved across the road from a smaller concession within family-owned department store Strickland & Holt.

On Tuesday [MAY 19], ITV Tyne Tees presenter, local resident and Lewis & Cooper customer Pam Royle performed the honours to officially open the refitted store in a ceremony attended by invited guests, VIPs and customers.

Ms Royle spoke of her fond childhood memories of Lewis & Cooper's store in Northallerton.

"I think it's so refreshing that Lewis & Cooper have made such a commitment to Yarm with what is a beautiful shop.

"From being a very small child, I remember our family visits to Lewis & Cooper in Northallerton. I always thought it was like an Aladdin's cave of goodies, and the rich smell of ground coffee beans was the first thing that used to hit me as we entered the shop.

"We used to love those tiny crystal violet sweets – they were just like little doll's sweets and were such a treat," added Ms Royle, who said she had enjoyed taking her own children to the store to introduce them to old-fashioned sweets and more.

"When Lewis & Cooper opened their shop in Strickland & Holt I was absolutely thrilled! It's fantastic to have the opportunity to buy from such a tasty range of produce almost on my doorstep in Yarm."

Ms Royle, who co-presents *North-East Tonight*, has a keen interest in good food and has hosted the respected Flavours of Hambleton food and drink awards for several years.

She added: "It's been a great pleasure to see Lewis & Cooper receive so many well-deserved awards. It's also highly apparent how well-respected they are, not only by their customers, but also by so many other food producers and traders in the food industry."

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

Director David Lewis, toasting the new store, said he was proud of manager Sue Emmerson and the rest of the staff for their hard work preparing for the new era in Yarm.

Dr David Gearey, chairman, said: "Doing business in Yarm has been a pleasure over the years, but we were delighted to be able to take up the chance of rare vacant premises on the high street.

"Our customers will be able to find at the new address the exclusive fine foods and wines for which we are famous."

Striving to offer what the supermarkets cannot, 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 there had been a keen interest in the new store from shoppers, with well-wishers even bringing in a celebration cake on one of the long, hard days spent getting it ready to open.

"Our customers in Yarm have been kind and loyal right from the first day we arrived in Yarm eight years ago and we look forward to welcoming them at our new store."

- The new store is at 109 High Street, Yarm, TS15 9BB. Telephone 01642 784158.

NOTES TO EDITORS

- Please find attached jpg pictures from the official opening on Tuesday. L&CYarm1 shows store manager Sue Emmerson (left) with L&C director David Lewis and Pam Royle. L&CYarm2 shows the same trio with staff and guests.
- Please note that David Lewis is **not** a direct descendant of the original shop founder – his surname is merely a coincidence!
- 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, new store is 109 High Street, Yarm, telephone 01642 784158. The Northallerton store is open 8.30-5.30 Monday-Friday, 8am-5.30pm on Saturday and 11am-4pm on Sunday. The Yarm store opens at 9am, Monday-Friday, otherwise its hours are the same.
- Lewis & Cooper stocks thousands of 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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