

NEWS FROM

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Making the case for homeopathy

NORTH Yorkshire homeopath, Aileen Smith, is guest speaker at Lewis & Cooper's regular Lunch Club slot on Friday [26th].

The event, held in the Northallerton gourmet store's upstairs tea room, takes place from 12.30-2.30 and includes a three-course meal and complimentary aperitif. She will welcome questions from guests.

Tickets are still available, priced £12.50. For more details and to book, contact 01609 766702 or ask in store.

Aileen Smith DHom Reg MARH, holds regular clinics in Northallerton and lives near Thirsk. Her interest in homeopathy grew 20 years ago out of concern about the number of antibiotics her young daughter was prescribed to treat recurrent chest infections.

Homeopathy uses highly diluted substances to relieve a wide range of ailments.

Ms Smith can be reached on 01845 537534.

BACKGROUND

IT'S been a difficult week for homeopathy...

On Monday [22], MPs on the House of Commons' Science and Technology Select Committee argued that the NHS should stop funding all homeopathic medicine. The cross-party group said there was no evidence homeopathic remedies were any more effective than a placebo.

The NHS spends about £152,000 a year on homeopathic prescriptions - an estimated 0.001 per cent of its total drug budget.

The committee's report provoked a vociferous response from complementary



medicine advocates. Dr Michael Dixon, the medical director of the Prince's Foundation for Integrated Health, said the medical profession should not abandon those it could not help with conventional scientific medicine.

"If homeopathy is getting results for those patients, then of course we should continue to use it," he said, pointing out that in evidence to the committee, the Foundation acknowledged homeopathy was scientifically implausible. Dr Dixon argued for controlled studies to compare the effectiveness and cost of homeopathy with other solutions for long-term conditions, and for the National Institute for Clinical Evidence (NICE) to evaluate the evidence and reach a decision on whether the NHS should provide it.

Lewis & Cooper remains neutral on the efficacy of homeopathy, but is happy to foster debate on issues surrounding health and wellbeing

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NOTES TO EDITORS

* For press inquiries, please contact Gareth Dant at *maximedia* 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 10am-4pm on Sunday. The Yarm store is open from 9am-5.30pm, Monday-Saturday and 11am-4pm on Sunday.

* Lewis & Cooper stocks more than 35,000 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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