

NEWS FROM LEWIS & COOPER

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Tucking in with a good read

A GOURMET store is launching a series of literary lunches to help customers mix great food and drink with a good read.

Lewis & Cooper kicks off its new Literary Lunch Club later this month with a visit by best-selling author Erin Kaye.

Erin is among the top three novelists in her native Ireland. Her books have been hailed for their warm, emotive Irish storytelling – perfect for fans of Cathy Kelly and Maeve Binchy.

She will talk about her life and work and sign books at L&C's flagship Northallerton store on Thursday, March 18, from 12.30-2.30pm.

Tea room manager, Samantha Booth, said the new venture built on a popular series of regular Lunch Clubs which combined interesting guest speakers with a nice meal in relaxed surroundings.

"A good book goes perfectly with a nice glass of wine or a great cup of coffee, so it was a logical step for us to expand our Lunch Club offering to include a literary theme," she added. "We hope to attract a broad spectrum of readers, featuring books and authors from high-brow to the more popular end of the market. "The lunches are also a great way to show off our tea rooms, which provide a nice place for a quiet read, and are also available for hire – the perfect venue for a book club!"

Lewis & Cooper is also teaming up with local bookshops, reading groups and librarians to help promote the joy of reading.

Future lunch club dates include a Shakespeare-themed event on April 22 to help celebrate the Bard's birthday, a talk by local homeopath Aileen Smith in May and



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a visit by record-breaking mountain climber Alan Hinkes in June.

Ms Kaye is a former corporate banker who turned her back on high finance to become a full-time writer. She now lives with her family near Edinburgh. Her latest and sixth novel, *The Art of Friendship*, has just been published. For more details visit www.erinkaye.com.

Tickets for the Erin Kaye lunch are £12.50, to include a three-course meal and aperitif. Early booking is recommended as places are limited.

* For more details, visit www.lewisandcooper.co.uk, ask in-store, call Samantha Booth on 01609 766712 or email samantha.booth@lewisandcooper.co.uk.

March 1, 2010

NOTES TO EDITORS

* Please find attached pictures of Erin Kaye, *The Art of Friendship* book cover and an interior shot of L&C's tea rooms. Further images are available.

* For press inquiries, please contact Gareth Dant at *maximedia* on 01609 760059 or 07929 869269.

* If you would like to interview Erin Kaye or receive a review copy, please get in touch.

* 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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