

25 AUGUST 2003: For immediate release

John Lewis opens on Mondays

John Lewis at The Mall will be opening every Monday from 10am to 8pm from Monday 1st September 2003. Since opening in 1998, the department store has only ever opened on Mondays at Christmas time, but now staff have voted to extend trading to seven days throughout the year to better serve customers.

At 1.30pm on 1st September, John Lewis will commemorate its first Monday of trading by releasing 3,000 balloons into the sky. Each balloon will contain a voucher for a free coffee and a cake, which can be claimed on any Monday in September.

Throughout the day there will be many events taking place in the store. Celebrity chef, Paul Rankin, will be demonstrating his inspirational culinary skills in the Kitchenware department at 10.30am, 12pm and 2pm.

Other activities will include a fashion show, a games arena and entertainment from puppeteers, living statues and jugglers. Music will be supplied by a steel band, harpist and brass quintet from local schools, and from a Jazz trio in the evening. Customers will be offered drinks and canapés to celebrate.

Commenting on the new trading hours, Rob Collins, Managing Director, said:

“Customers will now be able to shop at John Lewis every day of the week. It’s great news - not only for the branch, but for our customers too.”

About the John Lewis Partnership

The John Lewis Partnership operates 26 department stores across the UK, John Lewis Direct, a website and catalogue business, and 143 Waitrose supermarkets and has a turnover of over £4bn. A typical John Lewis stocks more than half a million separate lines and seeks to be an 'all-under-one-roof' destination for an entire region of shoppers. Fashions, furnishings and household goods of all kinds are offered with excellent service and free delivery - all at competitive prices. 7,000 lines focused on the best of home and giftware are also available online at www.johnlewis.com or in one of the range of seasonal catalogues.