

Christmas is coming...the goose is getting fat.....

All across our region, Farmers Markets bring back those days when food tasted, well... like food used to taste. At Christmas more than any other time, we seek full flavours, rich smells and cheery chat.

Food like succulent hams from Barn Bacon, Mr Pitchfork's intense, spicy pickles – which team perfectly with mature, artisan cheddar from Lincolnshire Poacher - and Thaymar's wickedly indulgent Christmas pudding ice cream; all of these award winning producers and lots more will be at the special Christmas Farmers Market, being held at the Grange Garden Centre, Asfordby, on Sunday 19th December (9.30am to 4pm).

All Christmas markets say they are special but this event is extra special. It is being held in aid of the Melton Times Romy Appeal. Romy Fugill is a brave four year old from the village of Asfordby Hill in Leicestershire who is suffering from a rare form of aggressive cancer. Romy will probably not see next Christmas unless her family can raise money for specialist treatment only available in America.

There will be a Santa's grotto for the children as well as a tombola stall with delicious locally-sourced prizes with the organisers donating all profits to Romy's Appeal. Collections for Romy will also be made at the market. In addition you can call in at the Garden Centre for any last minute pressies and table decorations!

Ian Jalland of Brockleby Farm, one of the organisers who will also have a stall at the Christmas Market, said

“we are delighted to make this gesture for Romy, who lives just down the road, via the farmer's market which is renowned for its emphasis on excellent local produce. Every penny raised at this Christmas market will make a difference - so people can buy the best food and also play a small part in the struggle to save Romy's life.”

..so please put a penny in little Romy's 'hat' on 19th December to help her get the best Christmas present ever.

Notes to editors:

For further information on this press release or pictures, please contact Kate Baumber on 01526 321784 or email: food@kate-baumber.co.uk

The Christmas Farmers Market is being organised by Leicestershire Food Links (tel:01530 261379), Brockleby's (tel: 01664 820030 and Grange Garden Centre (tel: 01664 812012).

The event will run from 9.30am to 4pm on Sunday 19th December 2004

Notes on the Melton Times Romy Appeal:

Romy Fugill is tired. Her four-year-old body is exhausted after months of battling a rare and aggressive cancer called neuroblastoma. Every new day is a blessing. But it is also a curse. The Asfordby Hill toddler is part-way through a course of 70 chemotherapy treatments, which leave her feeling sick and tearful. And there is no guarantee the chemo will work. In Britain, Romy has just a 12 per cent chance of survival. Her only real option is to undergo specialist treatment in America - treatment which costs £120,000. The Melton Times Romy Appeal, launched in April, is soon to be awarded charity status and £47,000 has been raised so far. And Romy's parents, Ellie and Alan, are prepared to sell their home and car. But still there isn't enough money. Although Melton Lions have pledged to cover flight costs, the Fugills have to pay for the £120,000 treatment - and a year's accommodation in the States on top. They need your help. Time is running out for Romy. She needs to start treatment in the USA as soon as possible - as soon as the money has been raised. Please help. Donations to the Melton Times Romy Appeal to Melton Mowbray Building Society, account number GGG3317330 or HSBC, account number 71447823 and sort code 403214.