

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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PRESS RELEASE

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Renowned celebrity chef backs festive leftovers campaign

Jean-Christophe Novelli launches recipes for Christmas leftovers in partnership with NHDC

Will you be having seconds this Christmas? That's the question being asked by North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) in partnership with world-renowned chef Jean Christophe Novelli, launching their festive 'love your leftovers' campaign today (30 November)

The aim of the campaign is to encourage North Hertfordshire residents to think creatively about using up their leftovers particularly over the festive period when we all tend to prepare more food than we can eat.

NHDC first approached Jean-Christophe in October to ask if he would like to help our campaign to reduce food waste and asked him for his expertise. Jean-Christophe, who also owns the Novelli Academy Cookery School here in North Hertfordshire, was pleased to help our cause.

The award winning chef has created a series of exclusive recipes for the campaign consisting of three delicious courses, a starter, main and dessert that are based on festive foods that might otherwise be thrown away. The recipes include a winter warming pastry topped vegetable and turkey broth for a starter, and a main dish of turkey and vegetable Cottage Pie. The dessert is a tasty stewed fruit crumble made with leftover Christmas pudding.

Jean-Christophe Novelli said: "The recipes I have created are made from local ingredients that are commonly leftover from Christmas and Boxing Day festivities.

They are incredibly tasty and easy enough so that you don't need to be a top chef to be able to follow them. I hope that everyone will take the opportunity to try them over the holidays."

As part of the campaign, NHDC is also launching its own recipe competition. Residents are invited to submit their own ideas for recipes made from leftover festive food. The lucky winner of the competition will be presented with the fantastic prize of a day cookery course at the Novelli Academy Cookery School by Jean-Christophe.

Cllr Peter Burt, portfolio holder for Waste, Recycling and Environment said: "We are delighted that Jean-Christophe has created these fantastic recipes to help our campaign to reduce food waste. Christmas can be an expensive time for families so we hope that these recipes will encourage people to use up all their festive food before having to stock up on food again.

"We hope that by working together on this campaign we will raise awareness of the effects that food waste has on the environment and demonstrate how simple changes in lifestyle behavior can help tackle climate change and save people money."

Jean Christophe added: "I hope my recipes will inspire people to get creative in the kitchen and come up with their own recipe ideas to enter into the competition. I am excited to see what North Herts' budding amateur chefs can come up with."

Details of the 'Love your leftovers' competition can be found online by typing 'Christmas food waste' into the search box on the NHDC website www.north-herts.gov.uk The closing date for entries is 13 January 2012. Competition entry forms will also be given out at the events detailed below.

Jean Christophe's recipe cards will be available from NHDC's Waste Team at events taking place throughout the Christmas period. They will be at the Baldock Christmas Fayre in the High Street on 3 December, Market Place, Hitchin on 16 December as part of the Community Reassurance Day and at the Christmas Creative Kitchen in Leys Square on 17 December as part of the Letchworth Christmas celebrations. The recipes can also be downloaded from the NHDC website.

Visit the website and keep an eye on twitter @NorthHertsDC to keep up to date with the campaign.

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Notes to Editor's

Jean-Christophe Novelli is a Michelin and 5AA Rosette award winning French chef, whose attributes include AA Chef's Chef of the Year, European Chef of the Year finalist representing Great Britain and the prestigious Egon Ronay Dessert of the Year. He won Restaurant of the Year on numerous occasions and many other awards for culinary excellence. His Novelli Academy Cookery School, where he personally teaches some courses, is placed one of the top in the world.

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