

In the Hotseat



DARREN Iddon is the new executive chef at the luxurious Raithwaite Hall development near Sandsend.

The hotel is due to open in October and Darren has been

spending his time drawing up the menu and sourcing ingredients.

Prior to taking his role at Raithwaite, Darren worked at the luxurious five-star Capella

Singapore, where he organised, managed and delivered the culinary operations for the 112-room resort.

He has also worked in Ireland and New York.

Reporter Emma Spencer caught up with Darren to talk of his new life in the area and what makes him tick when he's not being creative in the kitchen.

1 What are your first memories of Whitby?

I was heading towards Whitby and the sun was shining.

I was on vacation from Singapore and came to check out the place and fell in love with the picturesque town.

2 What makes Whitby special to you?

Raithwaite Hall.

3 Life's highlight?

Watching the birth of my first daughter.

4 Biggest regret?

I have no regrets in life.

5 What did you have for breakfast this morning?

Croissant, butter, jam and filtered lavazza coffee.

6 What is your favourite eating place?

In Whitby? Green's.

7 What is your favourite pub?

When the sun is going down, The Fleece for a quiet one.

8 Where are the best fish and chips?

Whitby. Or my favourite place is in Parkgate on the Wirral, The Parkgate.



Darren, who is Raithwaite Hall's executive chef

9 What is your worst habit?

Working too much. Obsessed. Slave to the stove!

10 Where was your last holiday?

Indonesia.

11 When was the last time you

cried?

Tears of joy when my seven-year-old daughter called and told me she was awarded student of the year at her primary school in Ireland.

12 What would be your ideal day in Whitby?

Fishing on the Esk or with my fish supplier Matthew Asquith.

Then cook the catch with a few bottles of wine.

13 What was your first job?

Peeling veg and washing dishes when I was 13 in a local bistro on the Wirral.

14 What is your favourite film? Hannibal. I love Anthony Hopkins.

15 What is your favourite book?

White Heat by Marco Pierre White. It's old but classic and captures his brilliance.

16 If you won the lottery, what would you do with it?

Set up and work with charities within my industry, help kids into jobs and stop kids eating the frozen rubbish they are now accustomed to.

17 Dracula or Captain Cook?

Captain Cook.

18 What is your signature dish?

I love to cook fish, so one of my favourites is roasted hake wrapped in air dried ham, scented with lemons and herbs, buttered cabbage and clams, Parmesan foam.

19 Favourite drink?

Champagne. Havanah Club rum 7yrs, mojito.

20 What would be your epitaph?

Hard-working, loving father who loved his work?!



Chef Darren Iddon with Matthew Asquith of Whitby Seafish, of Staithes, during a demonstration at this year's Great Yorkshire Show



Darren with two Yorkshire Coast College students Jess Commings and Sophie Jordan – full story on page 5

submitted pictures