

## SPOTLIGHT ON DARLINGTON

## In BRIEF

## Volunteer plea

VOLUNTEERS are being recruited to help Darlington residents visiting the King's Foodbank, on Whessoe Road. The community project provides emergency resources for anyone in the Darlington borough unable to provide food for themselves or their family. Volunteer sessions involve packing food bags, admin and giving the bags to foodbank users. A maximum of three volunteers can attend each session which run from 12.30pm until 3.30pm on Wednesdays and Fridays. For more information, call 01325-469884.

## Summer social

DARLINGTON Business Club is holding its summer social event on Friday, August 11 from 7pm to 11pm at Hammer and Pincers, Preston Lane, Preston-le-Skerne, DL5 6JH. Tickets costing £15 are available by visiting [darlingtonbusinessclub.co.uk](http://darlingtonbusinessclub.co.uk) to book.

## History walk

THE latest in the series of Darlington Historical Society's summer walks will be exploring local history in the town's West Cemetery on Sunday, August 20. People are asked to meet at the main entrance to the cemetery on Carmel Road North at 1.30pm. The cost is £1 per person.

## Art project

A SELECTION of work from Darlington's Community Art Project will be displayed at Darlington Building Society's main branch on Tubwell Row from Friday, July 28 until the first Friday in September. For more information, call 01325-487171.

## Chemists

DARLINGTON: Sainsbury's, Victoria Road. Tel. 01325-465915. Monday-Friday, 7am-11pm; Saturday, 7am-10pm; Sunday, 10am-4pm.  
 ■ To find out your nearest doctor, chemist, health centre, dentist, optician and more go to [northernecho.co.uk](http://northernecho.co.uk) and click on local information.

## Our offices

The Northern Echo's reporters work throughout Darlington and the surrounding area to bring you the region's most comprehensive news service. You can contact Darlington reporters Joanna Morris 01325 505072, Charlotte Bowe on 01325-505073, Graeme Hetherington 01325-505063, Julia Breen on 01325 505022 and Nick Gullon on 01325-505069.

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## The proof is definitely in the pudding for local firm



TREAT: Lea Darling of Burtree Puddings outside the entrance to Castle Howard farm shop

AN artisan pudding company has tickled the tastebuds of farm shop consultants to one of region's finest stately homes.

The farm shop at Castle Howard, between York and Malton, is now stocking Burtree Puddings' sticky toffee, chocolate, lemon and gluten-free sticky toffee varieties.

And it could be one of the most prestigious deals for the business, based on the edge of Darlington, for which this is the first historic house it will supply.

Lea Darling, co-owner, said: "It is really wonderful to know that our products are sitting among some of the best regional food and drink produce at the farm shop because we know that they choose their suppliers very carefully.

"We make our puddings with heart and to our own recipes so we hope people will enjoy taking them home to share with the family after a day out at the estate or perhaps if they've just popped in to the farm shop on site."

## Moonlight mountain climb for funeral director couple

FUNERAL directors will continue their tireless charity work by climbing a mountain in the dark.

Keen walkers John and Julie Whitehouse are currently preparing to set out on their latest charity challenge, a moonlight trek up Mount Snowdon.

The Darlington couple, who run Whitehouse Funeral Service, are well-known for their work fundraising for local and national good causes.

They hope their latest efforts will boost awareness and funding for Macmillan

By Joanna Morris  
Staff Reporter

[joanna.morris@nne.co.uk](mailto:joanna.morris@nne.co.uk)

Cancer Care, which supports those suffering from cancer and their loved ones.

The cause is one close to the hearts of Mr and Mrs Whitehouse, whose nephew, 28-year-old Sean Archer is currently battling terminal cancer in a hospice.

Mrs Whitehouse said: "We also work in the funeral industry and as a result, are touched by cancer in many

ways.

"It comes to us in all shapes and forms, it can be a young man planning his funeral after recently being diagnosed and having his life plunged into uncertainty, or it can be through talking to families who have lost someone.

"We see it from all angles and get the whole picture of it, from helping with the funerals to trying to care for the families left behind.

"We just felt like we needed to do something more to help those who suffer as a result of cancer.

"It is something that touches so many people, whether they've got it, have cared for someone with it or lost someone.

"It's such a cruel disease and it does not discriminate, no matter how old or young you are."

Mr and Mrs Whitehouse will spend the night climbing Mount Snowdon, with the hope of seeing dawn break on their way back down.

Mrs Whitehouse said: "It's a big challenge for us, even though we are quite keen walkers, we've never walked

in the dark like this.

"Also, I can walk miles and miles on flat land but I'm terrible once I have to start going uphill.

"John says he's going to take his earplugs so he doesn't have to hear me moan all the way around.

"We'll be going with a group of people and hope our joint efforts help to raise a tremendous amount of money for this good cause."

To sponsor the Whitehouses' charity trek visit [justgiving.com/fundraising/john-whitehouse7](http://justgiving.com/fundraising/john-whitehouse7)

## Grandad writes book to help kids tackle spider fear

A GRANDFATHER has written a book which aims to tackle children's fear of spiders.

Raymond Davies has produced the book Jimmy The House Spider, which has been inspired by his 10-year-old

granddaughter Georgia.

This story follows the tale of a Grandfather who befriends a house spider and goes on an exciting adventure with him.

As well as encouraging the 75-year-old to write the story, his daughter Lisa did the il-

lustrations for the book.

Mr Davies, who wrote the tale last year, said he hopes the book will "teach children to respect creatures", as well as banishing arachnophobia.

"I have spent a good deal of time teaching my children

and grandchildren to respect the other creatures we share our world with," said Mr Davies.

"My hope is this house spider adventure will dispel some of those fears and influence children and their par-

ents to look kindly on these useful and harmless little creatures and indeed, all life forms which make up our world," he added.

The book is available to purchase now and can be downloaded from Amazon.

## U3A celebrates silver anniversary

THE Darlington U3A celebrated its 25th anniversary on Thursday with a commemoration lunch and noted how it had grown from six founding members to an organisation 300-strong with an activity going on nearly every day.

The lunch, in the Mercure King's Hotel, was addressed by chairman Kathy LeRoy, the only survivor of the six. She told how the University of the Third Age started in France

in 1973 to encourage retired people to keep learning. It spread to Britain in the early 1980s, and to Darlington in 1992 when the first proper meeting was held in Walkingstone House, Vane Terrace, that July.

"We felt there was a gap for like-minded people to meet, socialise and to keep their minds active," she said. "It really is all about friendship."

The Darlington U3A runs groups

on a variety of subjects from line dancing to literature, with Tai Chi being the newest addition. Anyone interested in finding out more is invited to an open morning from 10am in Bondgate Methodist Church Hall on August 11.

More than 100 members attended the lunch, where the guest speaker was The Northern Echo's Chris Lloyd, who has addressed the group on ten occasions over the years.



CELEBRATIONS: Kathy LeRoy and Janie Walkingshaw of the Darlington U3A