



### What did you do at the Lighthouse ?

I joined the Lighthouse Field Station as a PhD student in 1992. There were just a handful of us at the station at the time and it was a bit like a family. When I first arrived it was winter and being a soft southerner from London I spent the first weeks sitting on the storage heater wondering what on earth I had done!! I soon discovered the ‘Woolie Bears’ though and have never felt cold since!

For my PhD I studied the Behavioural Ecology of young harbour seals in the Moray Firth. This included a lot of time spent in my wee shed on the shores of the Cromarty Firth, with a flask of tea and some chocolate, watching the mothers and pups at their haul-out site.

I also helped out with all the other projects going on at the time – it was a real team effort. I remember chasing a rainbow up the Cromarty Firth in the Zodiac, singing to Abba and Dolly Parton in the Royal Hotel, building snow seals and snow dolphins (there’s a picture somewhere..), playing tin whistle with the Fishertown Floozies, driving the tractor, driving the boat, crashing the landrover, losing a wheel off another landrover, baby sitting Paul and Sarah’s 3 lovely children, making piles and piles of egg sandwiches for field trips and eating vast quantities of chocolate. I learned a lot, had so much fun and made some very good life-long friends.

### What are you doing now ?

I’ve done quite a range of things since completing my PhD, including moving back to Cromarty to live with my 3 sons who, unbelievably, are now 17, 19 and 21 years old!! I worked for the Moray Firth Partnership for a while and was Project Officer for the Moray Firth SAC – helping to create the management scheme for the designation that protects the resident dolphin population. I am currently a lecturer at UHI, based at the Inverness Campus. I teach Biology and Health and Social Care at FE level and Animal Behaviour, Freshwater and Marine modules at degree level. I never imagined I’d enjoy teaching but I love teaching at the college and really enjoy the variety of subjects.

### What’s the best advice you have been given ?

‘Keep Smiling! :-)’



Dr Heather Corpe

PhD • 1992 - 1996

