



Helen Pitts

Honours Student • 1999 - 2000

What did you do at the Lighthouse ?

I was fortunate enough to spend time at the Lighthouse twice, once in September 1999 and again in the summer of 2000. In 1999 as part of my Zoology (Marine Biology) BSc Hons degree, myself and the class of 2001, went on our Coastal Ecology Field Course in Cromarty. In 2000, I lived in Cromarty over the summer, studying and working at the Lighthouse supporting the Masters students with their projects and carrying out photo-ID. It was a huge deal to me to be there as I'd been writing to Professor Thompson since I was around 13 years old, desperate to pursue a degree and career in Marine Biology!

What are you doing now ?

I now work for JP Morgan Bank as an HR, Diversity and Inclusion Manager, covering the Europe Middle East and Africa region. I live and work in Bournemouth and I'm married with two children, two dogs and a cat. The Lighthouse and dolphins are never far from my heart and we visit whenever we can, whether it's Cromarty, Chanonry Point or the outer Moray Firth. My son is the poster child (with me) for Ecoventures! I also volunteer in schools talking about dolphins for Whale and Dolphin Conservation and have been a member for circa 30 years.

What was your best experience at the Lighthouse ?

Very difficult to choose one, the field course holds lifelong memories (and friends) for me, the opportunity to see dolphins out on the water as well as be led through a dolphin autopsy was a rare experience. My inability not to squeal with delight when I saw dolphins (and failure to direct the team on the boat to where I'd spotted them) meant I was never the ideal scientist. I also managed to step off the jetty in North Kessock in full dry suit and submerge to the neck up, probably why I now work at a bank!

