



### **What did you do at the Lighthouse ?**

I spent the summer of 2004 working at the Lighthouse as a Field Assistant. Looking back it was one of the best jobs I've ever had, I still remember fondly the mid morning coffee breaks, chats and cake! My role involved supporting the research team, mainly skipping 'Bella Jane' and 'Rona' out on acoustic and photo-ID surveys.

### **What are you doing now ?**

I now own and operate my own wildlife watching boat trip company, EcoVentures based in Cromarty. We operate two 10m ribs taking people out to see the local scenery and wildlife. The stars of the show are the resident colony of bottlenose dolphins but we frequently encounter a variety of seabirds, seals, porpoise, whales and sharks. We still operate closely with the Lighthouse Field Station running trips for their staff, students and field courses.

### **What was the most valuable thing you learnt at the Lighthouse?**

I think to believe a bit more in myself. It was over that summer that I had been beginning to think seriously about starting a boat trip business from Cromarty and Paul provided a lot of encouragement, advice and has remained hugely supportive over the years. Whether it be bringing us ongoing business, advising on best practice, not to mention involving us in a variety of weird and wonderful projects! The Lighthouse is a massive asset to the area, and to Cromarty specifically and it has been great to have been able to maintain a close relationship with such an amazing place and team.



**Sarah Pern**

Field Assistant • 2004

