

## **LIFE AFTER TANFIELD**



NAME John Hodgson

PUPIL AT TANFIELD FROM 1975 TO 1981

## **MY LIFE AFTER LEAVING TANFIELD**

I left school after a brief spell in lower sixth in February 1981 and joined the Royal Air Force as an apprentice engineering technician; it was not to my liking so I resigned then started to look for another job, education was not on my mind at the time. I must have applied for over 100 jobs only ever getting one interview at Durham County Council for an admin position- I didn't get that.

I eventually applied and was successful in joining a training program from NCC(National Computing Centre) based at Gateshead College, 1 year later I passed with Distinction, but no employment.

I eventually got a part time job as Lifeguard and Sauna Attendant at Stanley Swimming Baths. My lifelong friend David Robson then got me a permanent position at The Royal County Hotel as a Hall Porter which I maintained for 18 months. I then got a phone call out of the blue from Gateshead Council where I had done a few months works experience from college, asking if I would like to become a computer operator- I jumped at the chance- this was March 1985.

I progressed from the ranks - Computer Operator- Senior Operator to Shift Leader- then to Operations Supervisor which I held until the demise of the computer mainframe. I then became IT Procurement Officer, I did an NVQ level 4 in Procurement that allowed me to have MCIPS after my name. Did Prince 2 etc.

I did this for 10 years before making a lifestyle balance move to Desktop Support, after 4 years I was promoted again to IT Team Leader and that is where I am now, but I have decided to take early retirement in March 2023 after 38 ½ years in local government.

I enjoy Golf- was Club Captain in 2021 of my Local Course – Roseberry Grange.

I am happily married to my second wife Shirley of 10 years, (06/09/2013).

I have one son from my previous marriage, Andrew, who is a successful heating and plumbing engineer, and I stepson Scott who is a biologist and a budding DJ in Manchester .

When I left school I didn't know what I really wanted to do- Tanfield never had IT equipment whilst I was there, so I probably stumbled into that career. I keep telling people I still don't know what I do.  
Thanks for Reading