



MY LIFE AFTER LEAVING TANFIELD

NAME: CHERYL NICHOLSON

PUPIL AT TANFIELD FROM 1992 TO 1997

Hi, I'm Cheryl. After leaving Tanfield, I went to college in Durham then to University in Manchester. I graduated with 1st class honours. BSc Biological Sciences specialising in Conservation. As part of my degree I spent 4 months studying and tagging lemon sharks in Bimini, Bahamas which was incredible. I continued to study sharks, this time sand tigers, as part of my MSc in Biological Sciences at Hull University focusing on genetics and mating behaviours.

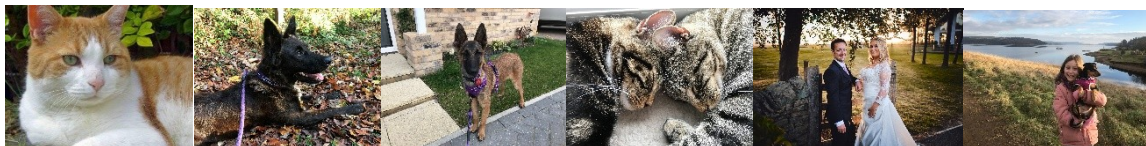


After University I returned to the Northeast and worked for the Department of Health. I then got my break in conservation, working as Regional Manager for the Northeast Wildlife Trusts urban wildlife project. Here, we used infra-red motion activated cameras to show people across the region the amazing wildlife on their doorstep.

Next, I moved to the Northwest Wildlife Trust as their Marine Conservation Manager. My main role was to work to try and establish Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ's) in the Irish Sea, and I'm incredibly proud the first MCZ's were designated in 2013.

Following the birth of my wonderful daughter Thea, I moved back to the Northeast where I worked for the Marine Management Organisation for a number of years. In 2015, I began working for the RSPB as their Area Conservation Manager for the Northeast and Cumbria. This job was wide ranging and very rewarding with work including hen harrier protection and natural flood management. I then took an opportunity to work with farmers who work with wildlife and the environment across the UK to lead the development of their movement, the Nature Friendly Farming Network. I still work as a Director there today, at this critical time for nature and our climate we work to influence the future of farming through policy and farmer engagement.

In 2019 I married Paul Caine, who used to be in my class at Tanfield – although we didn't meet again till 14 years later. Paul, Thea and I have lots of pets, we love to rescue animals.



We love to travel and see new places and wildlife, some of my favourite places are The Maldives, Egypt, Mexico and Kenya. I've also spent time in Botswana, filming, tracking leopards and reintroducing African wild dogs. I also volunteer locally with New Beginnings Cat Rescue and fundraise for The Born Free Foundation with Thea.



I still love to dance, (I'm a qualified dance and aerobics instructor), watch Star Trek and most of all spend time with my family and friends.