



LIFE AFTER TANFIELD

NAME David Cook

PUPIL AT TANFIELD FROM 1971 TO 1978

After leaving Tanfield in the Summer of 1978, I decided to work as a Laboratory Technician at Sterling Organics, Dudley, Northumberland, while going on day release to Newcastle Poly to attain an HNC in Applied Chemistry with distinction. After 2 years, I took voluntary redundancy so I could attend Newcastle University full time studying for an Hons. Degree in Pure Chemistry, graduating in 1983 with a 2:1 Hons. As I had industrial experience, I had options with jobs, but chose to move to Hertfordshire to work for an American Pharmaceutical company, Merck, Sharpe and Dohme as a Development Chemist, taking newly discovered Medicines into full development. I also did research in my own time for a PhD supported by the company and Strathclyde University. After 2 years in the South, I wanted to move North and was given the opportunity to take a role in Production Support with Glaxochem, now known as Glaxo Smith Kline, in Ulverston in the Lake District. Then given an opportunity to transfer to Montrose branch and change role into Production Management, where I worked in various roles finishing 20 years later as a Senior Team Manager with factory wide responsibility before taking early retirement in 2009 at the tender age of 50. I intended to go self-employed as a consultant in Health, Safety and Environment after obtaining qualifications and training in that area while with GSK, however, my wife and I were attacked by a gang of youths in town 2007 and she suffered a brain injury and successful surgery, but I then needed to be her carer after a relapse in 2010.

Married in July 2004 to Jacqueline, I have 4 children to my first marriage, 1 son and 3 daughters, Sam, Becky, Daisy and Ellie. I still live in a small fishing Village near Arbroath and I have now been in this house since 1991 along with our 3 Pugs, Percy, Poppy and Elsie.