

# A Norland Nanny

MANY people remember the Norland Nannies and can picture the uniformed spinster dressed in her hat, dress and flat shoes pushing the large Silver Cross, fully sprung pram around the parks of London. So, how has it changed?

My name is Tamsin Matthews, I am 19 years old and have just nearly completed

my first year at Norland College, this being my first year of a three-year course after which I will be a fully qualified 'Norlander'.

The Norland College, which was founded in 1892 and was situated in a large stately property in rural Hungerford, is now located in Bath. It remains a private institution.

We still wear a uniform, similar to that in

years gone by, which includes the brown hat, flat brown shoes, a light brown dress for formal occasions together with a dark brown cardigan, camel coat and gloves, both white and brown for summer and winter.

However, there is now a 'alternative' uniform for the more practical aspects of the course such as school placements and general college wear and this consists of a cream polo shirt, jumper, chino trousers and a fleece jacket.

Though we get the choice of what we prefer to wear in college, for conferences, open evenings or when we have guests to the college, we must wear the full formal uniform and there are checks to ensure that it is correct and that long hair is suitably tied back into a hair net.

Walking through the city of Bath in full uniform is a delight and fills me with pride. Norland Nannies certainly stand out in a crowd!

We are often stopped by the public, who ask questions, sometimes requesting advice on childcare. At other times, tourists have been known to take photographs.

On several occasions we have been mistaken for air hostesses.

Many of the people of Bath are, of course, well acquainted with the college and take great pleasure in seeing Norland Nannies about the city.

This year we have one male student on the course, he is the second British male to attend the college and his uniform had to be specially made albeit it is on similar lines to the females, but without the dress and hat etc!

The reputation of the college remains very prestigious and is renowned worldwide.

The college runs its own employment agency, which guarantees a Norland Nanny a job in most parts of the world throughout their lifetime.

A Norland Nanny is a Norland Nanny for life and many past nannies still use the agency and remain in contact with the college.

It is, however, a role that brings with it a high degree



of respect and honour and we are expected to adhere to certain rules. A Norland Nanny for example must always be seen in complete full uniform, no half measures!

We must not be seen eating in the street whilst in uniform nor should our behaviour be anything less than exemplary at all times thereby preserving the reputation of Norland College.

We cannot use our Norland College identity card for access to nightclubs and should ensure that we are not seen drinking or smoking etc.

The college offers two courses, one post GCSE and one post A level. I am studying the latter and will qualify not only as a Norland Nanny but will gain a Diploma of Higher Education in Early Childhood Studies (Dip HE), validated by Oxford Brookes University.

This is a 2-year course with a further 1-year placement. For the first 2 years I will be situated in Bath, but when out on placement with a family, I could be anywhere in the country.

Every term during the first 2 years we have had local placements, which we

attend on alternate weeks. These are in primary schools, pre-schools, and nursery schools, so we gain experience across the age range of 0 - 7 years 11 months.

The college also promotes babysitting jobs in the community and longer term childcare and we are encouraged to gain as much experience as possible in our spare time.

I have had one paid childcare position looking after and cooking for two primary school children two evenings a week and am now working alongside a family with a baby of 6 months. This is in addition to working at the Hilton Hotel two evenings a week to help pay the bills!

I have settled into life at Norland very easily. It is something I have wanted to do from the age of 11. I love every minute of the course and every morning I get up and put on my uniform with a sense of eager anticipation.

I am really looking forward to travelling the world and putting all the knowledge and experience I am gaining into action. For me it is a dream come true!

# Weather turns the Wine

I just thought I'd keep you all up to date with the news from Holmfirth.

For the first time in the seven years that I have been filming "Last of the Summer Wine" in Yorkshire, the sun shone.

Even though we film in the middle of June we are all so used to wearing thermals, wet weather coats and galloshes ( does anyone ever use that word any more ? I bet Cleggy does) that this year we were caught unawares by the sunny weather.

Out came the sun block, midge repellent and nose cones. By the end of week one the crew all looked as though they'd been on location in Tahiti whereas the actors looked as pasty faced as they usually do owing to the makeup we all have to wear for the benefit of the camera.

I'm really glad that my old mate Brian Murphy is now a regular in the show. He and I worked together in 1972 in a show at Stratford East called 'Sweeney Todd'. We became firm friends then and have remained so to this day.

'Murph' has lost a little bit of hair over the years and has to watch his pate in the hot weather. He made a wonderful picture sitting astride a bicycle with a knotted handkerchief placed squarely on his head. I was amused to hear one of the cast comment that he looked just like a dehydrated Alf Garnett!

The phrase 'air conditioning' and 'fan' is an anathema to those living in West Yorkshire. They never usually need either.

Air conditioning they take to mean any air that comes from the South that has to be purified before it can be breathed by anyone in the North and a 'fan' - well I'll leave that to the imagination!

So after four weeks of filming in the Costa del Wakefield, we have now all returned home to complete the studio scenes for five episodes and then it's back up North in August when we'll probably need snowshoes !! I'll keep you posted with another report later this summer.

Tom Owen

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## Guards in the Garden



MIKE and Sue Welch from Bedrock Barn, Brompton Ralph, opened their beautiful garden for SSAFA Forces Help recently, and visitors were entertained during the afternoon by the Brass Quintet of the Life Guards Band, who had come down especially from London for the day.

The music added another dimension to the garden, already so atmospheric and wonderfully planted by Mike and Sue over a very few short years.

Almost 200 people supported the open garden and £550 was raised for SSAFA and £260 from the sale of cream teas in aid of Brompton Ralph Church.

Thank you to everyone who came to the garden and special thanks to the Welchs!

## Outstanding success for two Wiveliscombe Young Farmer members

ALEC Brand and James Leigh-Firbank have achieved a high level for Wiveliscombe YFC at County level and beyond.

Alec Brand has competed in many shearing Competitions. He won the West Group of Young Farmers Round. He was the best junior at the County Rally which saw a high level of competition from Young Farmers across Somerset.

He also attended Devon County Show and competed to a high standard. He then went to the Bath and West Show and qualified to compete in the Royal Welsh show at the end of July.

This is a great achievement for the 20 year old and also for Wiveliscombe Young Farmers.

James Leigh-Firbank has also done very well. He has entered the County Rally for Dairy and lamb stock judging and qualified to

represent Somerset for "Stockman of the Year" at the Bath and West Show where he won his breeding ewes judging and was second for dairy and 3rd for beef stock judging.

This is an excellent achievement and Somerset won overall and went to the South West Area competition in Cornwall where Somerset was 3rd overall. This is a great standard and he was competing against some of the top stockman in the south west and he is only 22, competing against much more experienced Young Farmers.

Well done to both Alec and James and good luck in your future events. If you are interested in supporting our club for any event please see our website wiveyyfc.com.

Lorna Thorne  
Chairperson  
Wiveliscombe YFC

## Calling all children

WANTED - children between the ages of 4 and 12 years to become Reading Agents.

All you need is to be a member of your local library - if you don't already belong it is easy to join the library and it is free - just bring along a parent with their ID (driving licence, utility bill etc with their name and address on).

Every summer libraries throughout the country run a reading challenge to encourage children to read during the holidays.

This year the theme is "The Reading Mission" and our Reading Agents will each receive a personal folder with cards and stickers for each of the six books read. Those who complete the Mission will be awarded a certificate and a medal at the end of the scheme.

Check out the special agent's website at [www.reading-mission.org.uk](http://www.reading-mission.org.uk) where you will find many interesting quizzes, games, ideas and info about your favourite authors. Another website to give you reading tips is [www.storiesfromtheweb.org](http://www.storiesfromtheweb.org)

Don't forget that you can also order children's books from the library catalogue at [www.librarieswest.org.uk](http://www.librarieswest.org.uk) (formerly [www.foursite.somerset.gov.uk](http://www.foursite.somerset.gov.uk)) Requests for children's books are free of charge - all you need is your library card number plus a pin number, which you can get from your local library.

The Reading Mission will run from 10 July to 16 September 2006 so tell all your friends about it and come along and join in - the more the merrier! We'll be pleased to see you all.

Jenny and Emma at Wiveliscombe Library