

Sarah Wanless

Research

My research uses long-term studies of the population and foraging ecology of seabirds to understand their role in marine ecosystems and assess the impacts of climate change, fisheries and renewable energy schemes. Much of this work is collaborative either with colleagues from other disciplines eg modelers, oceanographers, plankton and fisheries biologists or those carrying out similar studies at seabird colonies elsewhere in the North Atlantic. Most of the projects I am involved in have a strong conservation interest.

Career

Following a PhD at Aberdeen University on the ecology of northern gannets, I spent 17 years doing short-term contracts for various universities, the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology and the Nature Conservancy Council. During this time I gained experience of a wide range of research topics, study species and locations and was the first female Visiting Scientist at the British Antarctic Survey base on Bird Island. In 1996 I joined the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology's Banchory site to work on various EU and NERC-funded projects and coordinate the Isle of May long-term study. Over the next 10 years I went from Higher Scientific Officer to IMP3 and built up a dynamic research group. In 2007 the Banchory site closed and staff relocated to Edinburgh.

Start doing short term contracts for ITE and NCC

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Start working with Mike at ITE Banchory. Become partners

Met Mike Harris, an ecologist with ITE (now CEH) while an undergraduate

PhD Aberdeen University

Honorary Professor, Dept of Zoology, University of Aberdeen

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CEH Banchory closes

Promoted to NERC IMP 3 Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh

Honorary Professor, Division of Environmental and Evolutionary Biology, University of Glasgow

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Mike retires

Joined Centre for Ecology & Hydrology as a Higher Scientific Officer

Marry Mike

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Visiting scientist at BAS Bird Island base

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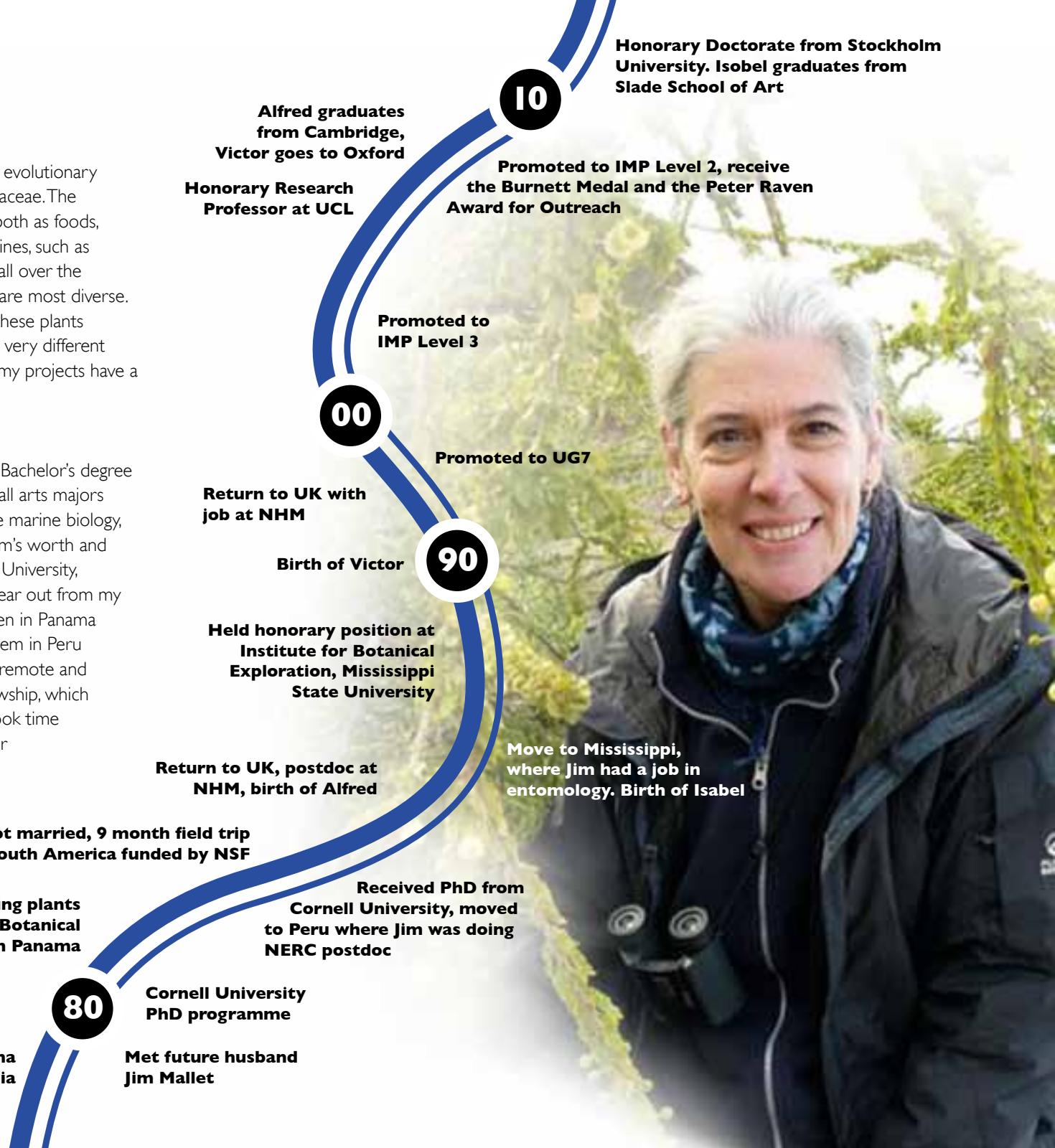
Sandra Knapp

Research

My research focuses on understanding the diversity and evolutionary relationships in the plants of the nightshade family, Solanaceae. The family contains many species of economic importance, both as foods, such as the potato, tomato and aubergine, and as medicines, such as henbane and tobacco. My research relies on field work all over the world, but mostly in South America where these plants are most diverse. Much of my work is collaborative with others studying these plants both in ways that are similar to my own work, and from very different disciplines such as plant breeding or genomics. Many of my projects have a strong conservation element to them.

Career

I went to a small liberal arts college in California for my Bachelor's degree and thought I wanted to study French or literature. But all arts majors have to take one science class a term – I wanted to take marine biology, but it was full, and I had to take botany instead. One term's worth and I was hooked! I went on to do my doctorate at Cornell University, where I began doing field work in the tropics. I took a year out from my studies to collect plants for the Missouri Botanical Garden in Panama as the resident collector. After my PhD I collected for them in Peru for a year and had opportunities to explore some very remote and interesting places. I received a NATO postdoctoral fellowship, which I held at the Natural History Museum in London, and took time off to have my children when I lived in the USA again for several years. I returned to the Museum in 1992 where I went from Senior Scientific Officer to IMP3 in 2003, and was promoted to IMP2 in 2009. I have built up a dynamic research group, and have also managed research divisions at the Museum.



Alfred graduates from Cambridge, Victor goes to Oxford

Honorary Research Professor at UCL

Promoted to IMP Level 2, receive the Burnett Medal and the Peter Raven Award for Outreach

Promoted to IMP Level 3

Promoted to UG7

Return to UK with job at NHM

Birth of Victor

Held honorary position at Institute for Botanical Exploration, Mississippi State University

Return to UK, postdoc at NHM, birth of Alfred

Move to Mississippi, where Jim had a job in entomology. Birth of Isabel

Got married, 9 month field trip to South America funded by NSF

Year out collecting plants for Missouri Botanical Garden in Panama

Received PhD from Cornell University, moved to Peru where Jim was doing NERC postdoc

Cornell University PhD programme

BA in Botany, Pomona College, California

Met future husband Jim Mallet

Sara Russell

Research

I am interested in the birth of the Solar System. How did planets form, and what was the environment like before they existed? How long did the solar system take to form? I try to answer questions like these by studying meteorites that formed in the earliest stages of solar system formation. My work involves looking at the mineralogy, petrology and geochemistry of the samples and also measuring isotope ratios.

Career

At university, I discovered a love of geology and discovered how meteorites can tell us about our origins. I took a PhD in meteoritics at the Open University followed by postdoctoral positions in the USA. I then returned to the UK to take up a post at the Natural History Museum. I had children fairly late, after having established my career. Thanks to a supportive employer I was able to choose my work pattern, and after having children, I worked part-time, first for two days a week and then three, for seven years. This made it easier to combine research and childcare. I now head the Division of Mineral and Planetary Sciences, which as well as involving meteorites, covers a very broad range of topics including volcanoes, gemstones and space missions.

**Returned to full-time working.
Head of Division of Mineral and
Planetary Sciences, NHM**

Son Samir born

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Promoted to IMP3

05

**Daughter Imani born,
began working part-time**

Met my partner Riz

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**Joined Natural History
Museum as a researcher**

**NASA postdoc,
Smithsonian Institute**

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**Lindemann Fellow
Caltech, Pasadena**

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PhD, Open University

BA, Cantab

