

## Thomas I. Hill. M.A, Cert Ed.

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[www.housem8.com](http://www.housem8.com)

### *Profile:*

Born 1<sup>st</sup> January 1963. A self-employed, pro-active, lateral-thinking, enthusiastic creative individual from a very diverse background encompassing freelance writing, the photographic industry, customer service and higher education.

### *Education:*

- 1998-2000: Master of Arts in Photography. De Montfort University, Leicester.
- 1996-1998: Certificate of Education, Nottingham Trent University.
- 1997 City & Guilds certificate in Portable Appliance testing.
- 1983-1985: Higher National Diploma in Photography. Blackpool and the Fylde College, Blackpool, Lancs.
- 1982-1983: B.A.(Hons) (1<sup>st</sup> year pass then transferred to above) Humanities, Preston Polytechnic, Preston, Lancs.
- 1975-1981: 6 'O' Levels, 2 'A' Levels, (French, General Studies). John Port School, Etwall, Derbys.

### *Experience:*

**August 2002 - Present date.**

**Tomlin Developments Ltd. Self-employed freelance writer / international house sitter.**

Tomlin Developments Ltd is my own company which I set up after a welcome change in personal and financial circumstances gave rise to an opportunity to 'downshift'.

<http://www.website-design-for-business.co.uk>

I retain a variety of clients in the UK for whom I undertake:

- Copy writing and technical authoring.
- Website Design.
- Photographic services.

During 2002 my partner and I purchased and renovated a near-derelict Victorian house in Burton On Trent. Since realising that we made an excellent team as gardeners, painters, decorators and general handy people; we made our skills available initially to friends and relatives. Later, through Tomlin Developments, we started charging for our services, dependent upon the assignment requirements. Our reputation has since grown, by word of mouth, and also via our website:

<http://www.housem8.com>

We have acted as reliable guardians for large houses, wineries and closed-for-winter hotels in the UK, France, Spain and Australia. We have cared for dogs, large multiples of cats and flocks of poultry. As a house-sitter, often in unfamiliar situations and locations, one must have the ability to 'think on one's feet' in the case of emergencies or difficulties. The itinerant nature of house-sitting allows me to use my compendium of skills; as information technology usually allows me to work from any location in the world.

In September 2005, we let our house to tenants and undertook a world tour. During this time we rode from New York to San Francisco on a Harley Davidson motorcycle, then flew to Brisbane via New Zealand. From Brisbane we drove a camper-van to Perth on the west coast, picking up a house-sitting assignment on the way. We are currently available as house sitters throughout 2008/9.

**August 2000-August 2002.**

**Lastolite Limited.**

**Product / Marketing Manager.**

Lastolite are a medium-sized manufacturing company in Leicestershire making lighting control accessories, reflectors and backgrounds for the photographic industry. As product manager I undertook the following roles:

- Writing press releases and trade advertisements as well as designing mail shots and flyers.
- Demonstrating all our products at international trade fairs. This involved extensive international travel.
- Performing live 'Photoshop' demonstrations to groups of delegates at trade fairs.
- Performing in-house photography, digital capture and scanning for brochures and press-releases.
- Directing photographic shoots and writing copy for company literature.
- Building stands and organising all aspects of the company's attendance at worldwide trade shows.

**Reason for leaving Lastolite:** Change in personal circumstances enabled me to work for myself.

**June 1992-August 2000:**

**University of Derby.**

**Photography tutor / technician.**

Initially, my role involved supporting the B.A. Hons photography department as a lab technician. I undertook all the day-to-day tasks such as:

- Supervising students in the studio.
- Equipment maintenance & basic repairs.
- Ran equipment store loans and booking system.
- Ordering consumables and liaising with Senior Technician over budget issues.

From 1996 I started teaching more and more part-time hours over and above my technicians role.

**P/T Teaching lecturing assignments include:**

- 1996-1998: BA Hons Fine Art (Photography) module. Derby University.
- 1997-1998: BA Hons Photography. Nottingham Trent University.
- 2002-2003: City and Guilds Basic Photography. Tamworth and Lichfield college.

**Reason for leaving University of Derby:**

I decided to opt for a spell in industry and improve my IT and digital photography skills.

**1988-1992:**

**Mayday Personnel Ltd.**

**Sales/Operations Manager.**

Having registered with this temp agency as a driver, after around two years I became a contracts controller in the office, reaching the position of Area Sales Manager (two branches) within a further two years. I reported directly to the MD and had sole responsibility for a team of eight staff. Having an annual office turnover in the region of £1m I was responsible for the day-to-day running of operations and oversaw the creation and service of new accounts. During 1992 I was also involved on a consultancy basis with the setting up of the Southern Derbyshire Training & Enterprise Council. It was my role to assist with the auditing and appointment of approved training providers.

**Reason for leaving Mayday:** Company collapsed financially (not on my watch!).

**1987-1988:**

**Studio Colophon Ltd.**

**Photographic Printer.**

Hand-printing colour negatives in a busy pro-lab in Leicestershire.

**Reason for leaving Colophon:** Pay and conditions.

**1985-1987**

**Cruise ship Picture Company.**

**Cruise ship Photographer.**

Working hard and playing harder under the Caribbean sun.

### *Skills / Training:*

- Current clean driving licence. (Car, motorcycle, HGV Class 2.)
- 20 tonne / meter HIAB lorry crane certificate expires 2009.
- Computer literate in Mac OSX, MS Office, Adobe Creative Suite CS3.
- European Computer Driving Licence passed March 2002.
- Registered electronic portable appliance tester (City & Guilds certificate holder).
- Various sales courses whilst employed at Mayday Personnel: telephone selling and territory management.
- Competent in written and spoken French to almost fluent standard (A level+).

### *Recent publication/Exhibition:*

**Previous to 2006 I have a long list of publication and exhibition, both in photographic and written work, which is too tedious to list here. More recent work includes:**

June 2006: Half page photograph in the Guardian 'Weekend' colour magazine. June 17<sup>th</sup> p7.

June 2006: Full page (900 words) of written copy 'I found love at the supermarket checkout' in the Guardian 'Weekend' colour magazine. June 24<sup>th</sup> p14.

<http://lifeandhealth.guardian.co.uk/relationships/story/0,,1803763,00.html>

March 2007: 'I found love at the supermarket checkout' syndicated to Cambridge University Press for Cambridge Collections - Who We Are. A Citizen Collection anthology CD Rom.

October 2007: Letter published Guardian Newspaper October 6<sup>th</sup>.

November 2007: Whole front page (1300 words) of Guardian 'Money' section Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/money/2007/nov/03/workandcareers.property>

February 2008: Double page photographic spread 'My Weekly' magazine Feb 9<sup>th</sup> pp 14/15.

May 2008: Housem8.com featured in article on house sitting in the Daily Mail, Friday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008.

### *Websites built:*

See a portfolio at my main site:

<http://www.website-design-for-business.co.uk/>

### *Interests*

Italian and French cooking, cryptic crosswords, cinema, travel, country walking and good wine.

### *References:*

Impeccable references, plus clean CRB 'Basic Disclosure' certificate available on request.