

# Burning passion for tigers

## What were you like as a child?

Rather quiet. I played outdoors a great deal and often went exploring, which now seems to be somewhat frowned upon. I watched cartoons and natural history documentaries on TV. David Attenborough and the BBC cultivated my interest in the natural world at an early age.

## And your parents?

My father, Vincent, worked for the CAA and did seemingly strange shifts, which was great because we had the chance to go fishing at a boating lake. I have very fond memories of long summer days watching wildfowl and dragonflies. My mother, Rita, was a consultant at a pharmaceuticals company and yet still managed to keep us fed and the house ship-shape.

## What did you first dream of becoming?

I had various fantasy jobs based largely on what I had seen in films and TV – an Indiana Jones-style archaeologist, or palaeontologist. Either that or a career in earth sciences such as geology or meteorology. I was always fascinated by how the world came to be and how everything around me was created. But my first serious ambition as an advertising designer was quite removed from these earthy aspirations.

## Why have you moved from website design to wildlife photography?

It was really due to circumstance. In 2001, I was very ill with viral meningitis and off work for several weeks. When I got back, I was made redundant. After going through the usual phases of being gutted and then very angry about



ON THE FRONT LINE: Elliott Neep's close-up pictures of tigers have won him acclaim around the world

## WORKING LIVES: WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER

If you had your time again what would you change?  
I would avoid going into 'business'