

How to...

Raise a toddler without modern conveniences. By Lucy Corkhill

Candlelight. Roaring fires. A sky full of stars. The sound of the sea. Wild open spaces. These are the things I hope our son will remember of his time living in a 200-year-old coastguard's cottage on a cliff on the south coast of England. When the opportunity arose to be custodians of this house, my husband and I jumped at the chance. It didn't matter to us that it was without electricity, central heating or hot water, and accessible only by a long, rough track. We'd spent the last few years living aboard a tiny wooden boat so were ready for the challenge.

It's hard to describe the sense of tranquillity being off-grid offers, but I'd be lying if I said it is easy. We relied on candles to light our home, and fires to heat it, and became accustomed to washing in cold water. Every bit of warmth was earned through chopping wood or shovelling coal and manning a range.

Bringing up a child off-grid created its own challenges: nappy changes with a head torch when we ran out of candles; mountains of clothes to be washed by hand; bitter nights when we buried



Lucy Corkhill and her son outside their off-grid cottage.

**Photograph by
Kristina Salgvik**

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ourselves under blankets, with cats and a dog to keep us warm. And of course no CBeebies. I came to respect the generations of women who had raised children before mod cons.

The first signs of spring after a long winter were always exciting. We went swimming off the sea wall down steps at the end of the

garden, or gathered wild food. Running the cottage as a creative workshop space and film location meant that our son mixed with an eclectic range of people.

When our tenancy ended after three years, we found ourselves moving to a modern end-of-terrace with a range of labour-saving devices at our disposal:

a washing machine, a dishwasher, central heating electric light and computer.

As for our son, who is now four, those years without technology created a hardy little creature who prefers climbing trees to screen-time. When I see how happy he is in the natural world, I wouldn't hesitate to do it all again.

What happened next Sepp Blatter



October 2016 After being cleared of corruption charges by the newly convened Nike Air Max Just Do It Court of World Justice in Moscow, Sepp Blatter announces that Fifa will be auctioning quarter-final spots at the 2022 Qatar World Cup on eBay. England are later eliminated in the group stages when their bid is sniped at the last minute by eventual champion Donald Trump.

August 2019 The former Fifa boss Blatter, now officially declared exempt from past and future criticism in a landmark ruling he found outside a Geneva bus station, happily confesses to a BBC chat-show audience that he rigged the Labor rate, back-to-back *Bake Offs* and the 1919 baseball World Series.

'The records say I wasn't even born then, and that didn't

come cheap I can tell you,' he tells a laughing Graham Norton.

December 2041 The John Lewis Christmas advert begins with a sprightly Blatter orbiting our planet astride a giant World Cup trophy. After a wide-eyed boy outside a snowbound Scottish croft volleys a football hopefully towards the distant figure, Blatter impassively bursts it between his fists. 'It's a touching story with a serious message about the curse of immortality,' says a creative spokesman. Life imitates art when the following summer's World Cup is held on Ganymede, one of the least hospitable of Jupiter's moons. Blatter himself referees the final, and under hastily redrafted rules scores a hat-trick at half-time in the Fifa Ethics Committee's 3-2 win over England. **Tim Moore**