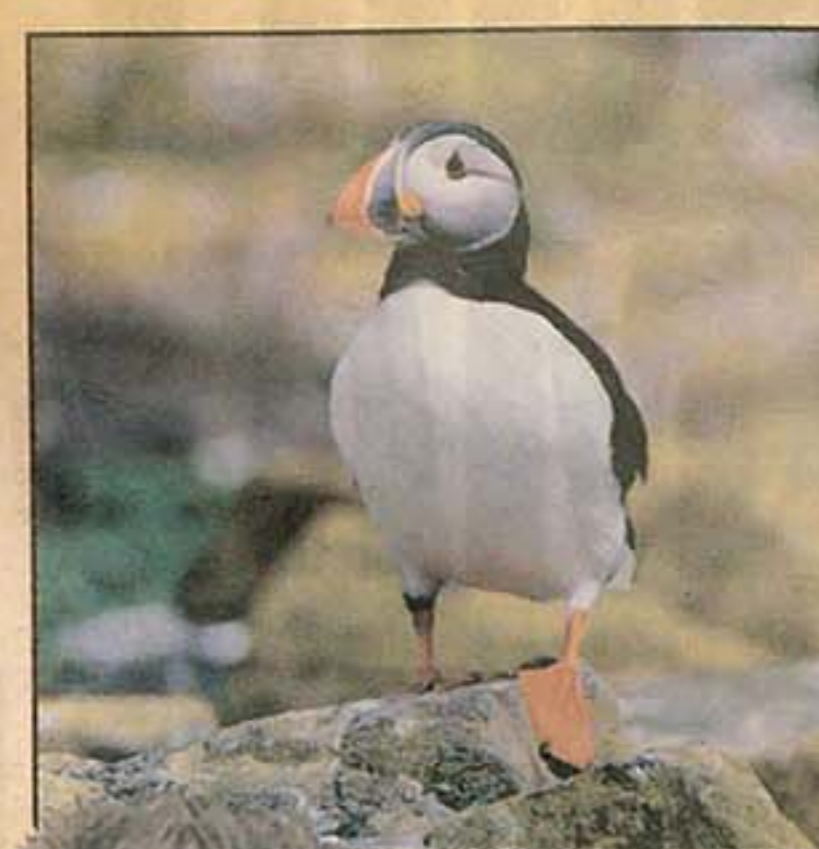


NEW START FOR WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER WHO HAS QUIT THE RAT-RACE



STUNNING: A handful of Kaleel Zibe's snaps of wildlife taken both here and abroad

My wild dream has come true



STARTING AGAIN: Kaleel Zibe has a new career

THERE is no wonder Kaleel Zibe is snap-happy.

The former company boss has quit the rat race to turn his hobby into a career after accidentally discovering he has a real talent for photography.

The 40-year-old of Gosforth, Newcastle, left his job as managing director of an ink company to indulge in his passion for taking pictures.

And now after finding he has an amazing eye for images of wildlife, the dad-of-two has accepted his first major professional commission, photographing birds for the RSPB.

Since leaving his role at Multichem, in Hexham, behind to spend more time with his young children, Kaleel has spent the last year perfecting his new craft.

He found the landmarks and landscapes of the North East the perfect training ground for a budding photographer.

And it was during a recent trip to

By SOPHIE DOUGHTY
sophie.doughty@ncjmedia.co.uk

the Farne Islands in Northumberland that Kaleel captured the images, which persuaded the RSPB to take him on.

"Being commissioned by the RSPB is a significant contract for me and signifies the start of my career as a professional photographer," he said.

"I didn't originally decide to specialise in birds but I have discovered that it is something I'm good at and I would like to specialise in wildlife photography.

"And the North East has got absolutely loads of stuff," he added. "There's the Cheviots, the coast, the Farne Islands, and if you want to get away from the natural there is all the landmarks like the castles and bridges."

Kaleel discovered his love for photography while taking pictures of his two children, Emily, five, and Jake, four.

But it was not until last year that he finally decided to take the plunge and quit his job. And he has spent recent months perfecting his art before finally launching himself as a professional snapper.

"It started off when my daughter was born and I just wanted some decent photos of her," he said.

"But over the last 18 months I have been trying to build-up a body of work. I'm completely self-taught and when I started I thought it would be easy, but everyday I learn something new," he said.

"I just decided to jump ship and have a complete change of career. I own the company so I effectively sacked myself and put in place somebody else to run the company."

Kaleel's first job for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, is to take pictures for its latest marketing campaign, called Feed the Birds, and the charity has taken on some of his pictures for its image library.



Full Leather Restoration Service

CAR SEATS | FURNITURE | DESK TOPS | ETC.
LEATHER CARE & REPAIR SPECIALISTS



DIY and leather care products available to the public from either our website or premises on Team Valley. Most repairs can be undertaken in your home by our qualified leather technicians

• Rips • Cigarette Burns • Holes
• Cat Scratches • Re-colouring
• Colour Matching • Cleaning
• Furniture • Car Interiors
Repairing leather is approximately 20% of the cost of re-upholstering

FurnitureClinic



29 - 30 TEAM VALLEY BUSINESS CENTRE EARLSWAY
TEAM VALLEY GATESHEAD NE11 0QH
t: + 44 (0) 191 4826112 f: + 44 (0) 191 4826113
e-mail enquiries@furnitureclinic.co.uk

www.furnitureclinic.co.uk