



How long have you lived in Newquay for?

I have lived in Newquay now for around 3 years. I made the move down to take a university course in zoology and conservation and hopefully pursue a career in that sector!
(I also didn't like Swindon all that much!)

When did you hear about the Newquay Marine Group?

It was in my first year, and some students I was living with (Ethan and Tyler) long standing members, told me about the marine group. They explained how it was a chilled out gathering of likeminded people, that you could easily come along to and have a chat and a pint about raised issues and plans and projects around the town. A few meetings later (and several pints), I was in full swing with the group.

What made you decide to join?

I was really interested in getting some hands-on experience in the conservation sector, different from what a classroom can often teach. And although I wasn't specifically taking a marine course, some of the projects and my interest in seabirds really caught my attention and made me want to get involved. It isn't like your typical group either, the people in this group really make a difference to help and you can honestly feel like you've done a hard day's work as well as made friends for life.

What work have you done with the Newquay Marine Group?

In the past year I've started to become a lot more active with the group, which is also a great thing as you can do as much of as little as you want. After Ethan, previous secretary, moved to pursue a masters, I started to do some of the secretary work for the group and ended up taking on the secretary role. I have also help lead a beach clean or two and have been a project coordinator for a project sponsored by the lottery fund, providing boat trips for school kids who might not usually get the chance to do so. I've also recently been involved with some work looking at disturbance of waders down the Gannel estuary which has been super interesting!

What work do you do outside of the group?

I also do some secretary work for the Cornwall bird group, CBWPS, since last year. I also do a survey or two for Webs through the BTO and have been learning to be a certified bird ringer through the BTO's ringing scheme. The odd bits and bobs of surveys or gorse clearing days also filled in the edges as well. I have also been able to transfer some of these skills across in order to become a wildlife guide out on a rib this summer.

What impact do you think the group has had on Newquay?

The group has had a real positive impact on Newquay for sure. Having only lived here for 3 years, I might not have the best image of what life in Newquay was like before the establishment of the group. But what I do know, is that there wouldn't be anyone cleaning our beaches, working with the harbour, ensuring our bays are less polluted, raising awareness, standing up for the right issues and collaborating with countless other organisations to tirelessly get Newquay to the best it can be.

What would you say to someone wanting to join the group?

It's a must, even if you don't exactly have a passion for the marine environment, you won't meet a friendlier bunch of people! Like I said previously, you can put in as little or as much as you like, and it most definitely shows in reward. The group has achieved so much since its beginning and only has bigger and better things in store, so make sure you're a part of its future.