



What motivated to create the Newquay Marine Group?

My friend Gabi and I were car sharing to work and discussed the range of marine-y businesses and activities and good causes in the town, but they all seemed separate and with no real joint collaborative focus. We hoped we could make a group that could be a forum - a voice for the marine and coastal environment. Plus, we both loved the ocean and we had nothing to do with it in our jobs – so the group helped us feel a part of the coast again.

What do you do as the chair of the group?

Urm well I do a lot. I field a lot of press, a lot of emails and a lot of admin. The group is very dynamic and active so there is stuff to do on a daily basis. Meetings, talks, public event organisations, me and Liz are asked to do talks and presentations. Plus, I chair the meetings and work with the volunteers to coordinate the work. Its full on but I like it. Although a lot of it is behind the scenes and I would love to be able to join the activities, but I also have a full-time job!

How long have you been doing this for?

We started the group in 2013 after a lot of research and talking to people. Our first meeting was in the pub with a group of real experts in their field – it was terrifying! It's been a part of my life for a long time. I love it.

What kind of job do you do outside this?

I have been in the environmental sector for a long time, but I did a master's in law, so my background is policy and dry stuff like that! I have worked at Eden and the Cornwall Wildlife Trust and currently work at Natural England. It is strategy and policy and really interesting but it's a desk job!

How important do you think it is for Newquay to have a group like yours?

I hope it is important and useful! I think it has allowed those who wanted to get involved in activities and be part of a group / community for the environment a place to do that. I think we can be the voice of the environment and coast and we are well known with most businesses and the council, so they come to us with questions or queries. If we don't know the answer, then we will probably know who will.

Why do you want people to participate with the activities the Newquay Marine Group does?

People volunteer and join for a variety of reasons. And we welcome them all. Some get really heavily involved in everything and some just come for a beach clean when they can. Some come with ideas and thoughts and some just want to chat about the dolphins and have a pint. I am happy and love to see everyone – the group isn't just about working and activities – it is social.

What would you say to others to encourage them to join the group?

Come along. Send us a message. The group is like a family – everyone is welcome. We do a range of things, but we also just hang out and get on. There are loads of way to get involved. We also love anyone who has an idea that perhaps the group can help get off the ground.

Can you tell me about some really successful projects you've achieved?

We won some funding to look at pollution from drains and do some school sessions, we won some funding to regenerate the Harbour Heights area (still ongoing!) we do public events and monthly



surveys, we do talks with some really interesting people. We also partner with local and national organisations on things such as a microplastic survey project which we will be publishing a paper on! There is too many to mention – have a look at our website and Facebook pages. And message us!

What is your vision for the Newquay Marine Group at this point?

Now – this minute. I want to be able to meet as a group for a social!