

**What motivated you to want to clean the beaches?**

So, when I moved to Cornwall, I was walking the dog and enjoying the countryside and the scenery and I noticed there was a lot of litter, I also noticed that there was nothing really done about it. So instead of waiting for someone to do something, I decided that I would do it myself. So, Newquay Marine Group is looking for someone to take over the litter picking on the beach and I thought that was a great opportunity.

What kind of job do you do outside this?

I work full time by supporting adults with learning disabilities for a charity. I did a bit of study when I first came at the collage and now, I combine my job and almost working full time hours at Newquay Marine Group voluntarily as well.

Has there been any litter that you've picked up or found that has shocked you the most?

We've been litter picking now for about seven years and I'm sure that I've seen quite a lot of stuff but the thing that springs to mind are dirty nappies. I think that is really quite shocking and not to mention, unhygienic.

What would you say to the people who litter and what's to come of our future?

I feel really sorry for people who litter because I just don't think they appreciate the environment, the outdoors and the effect that their littering has on our wildlife. So, I'm not sure what I would say to them, I think perhaps they need to experience the environment and be taught about what happens and so rather than be cross, I just feel really sad and I would like them maybe just to come out with us for a day and maybe learn a few things about what happens when you do litter.

How much litter approximately do you pick up each time you do these beach cleans?

It really varies depending on where we're picking and what time of the year we're picking. The winter storms throw up quite a lot of big stuff on the beach, like nets and ropes, and in different seasons there's more bottles and cans and take-away packaging, so it does vary. Over the seven years, we've picked up over three tons of litter, I would say an average pick is about 10-20kg.

How would you get involved?

Well, we always love new volunteers and we're a very welcoming group so anybody can come and join in. The best thing is to find us on Facebook Newquay Marine Group or Newquay Beach Care. Newquay Beach Care is the sister group to Newquay Marine Group and deals with all things litter. If you find us, drop us a message, we can tell you where and when we're going to be picking. We also have other little projects that we might be running and that we might need volunteers for, so just get in touch and we will respond quite quickly.