

**How long have you lived in Newquay for?**

I'm Newquay born and bred.

When did you hear about the Newquay Marine Group?

We'd been involved with the Blue Reef Aquarium, doing some stuff and we were all talking about marine conservation all the time and then we heard that Gabi and Laura were setting up a marine group so we were over the moon with that, so we contacted them and got involved right from the beginning really.

What made you decide to join?

It was a no-brainer for us, we've been involved in marine conservation in various guises over the years and it was just a good idea to get involved with the local group.

What work have you done with the Newquay Marine Group?

We're involved in many different things with the Marine Group, one of them being Trawlshare which is a two-year project to find out about microplastics in the oceans, we've also been heavily involved with seal surveys which the marine group organise and members of the Marine Group are able to join these surveys, which are mainly run by Cornwall Seal Group Research Trust. We're also doing lots of different boat trips for the charities that are involved with so we just help them out as best as we can with the boat.

What work do you do outside of the group?

I am heavily involved in work with universities – conservation work, cetacean, identifications surveys – lots of stuff with the collages, plankton. All sorts of stuff with research with conservation with universities, do lots of dive charters, and of course the sea safari trips that we run daily for anybody.

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

It's having a large impact because a lot of people know about the Newquay Marine Group now, in the beginning there were lots of projects going on which caught everyone's imagination. The marine group have been heavily involved with stuff like Harbour Heights, which has been a big project for them, and the Yellow Fish campaign has been really good so there's lots of positive things coming out of the marine group for the town.

Do you think it has impacts on local businesses?

Yes, I'm sure it has, they've encouraged people to be plastic-free and all this sort of stuff – it's where the town is going, it's really good.

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

Definitely get involved with the marine group! They will be there to help you and give you support in various aspects and I'm sure whoever wants to join will be able to give something back to the marine group, everyone's got something to give.