

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING – NEWSLETTER

2023 will be the 8th year of Women in Engineering at the RNLI. We are excited to see what this year brings, join us for all news STEM related.

FEBRUARY 2023



NATASHA
DESIGNER (NAVAL
ARCHITECTURE)



I work as a Designer within the Naval Architecture team. I started at the RNLI in July 2022 immediately after graduating from Newcastle University with a Master of Engineering degree. I studied Marine Technology and specialised in Small Craft Technology, this involved specific modules aimed at the design of small boats less than 20 metres – which is applicable to our boats at the RNLI. I loved my course and had a few opportunities to get involved in research work outside of a university setting.

I knew I wanted to do engineering or design when I was in school, I enjoyed maths and science much more than other subjects, I was also a lot better at them. In year 11 my DT teacher asked me and two other girls in my class if we wanted to apply for an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. Those who secured a scholarship received a grant to help with studies/furthering development as well as a mentor to help us find our career path. After I passed the exam and completed my interview day in London, I was awarded the scholarship. At the awards ceremony I was introduced by my mentor to the old head of Ship Science at Southampton University, I spoke to him about being unsure what route I wanted to go down. After I mentioned my involvement with rowing outside of school, he asked if I'd ever considered studying marine engineering/naval architecture. Now look where I am!

I think the thing I enjoy most about my role is the diversity in the work. I get to work on projects that cover the many different elements of our lifeboats. This includes testing the boats overall stability performance, developing new designs for stowage's or operational equipment and updating or writing asset related technical documents. Another thing I love about my role is my team. They are always happy to give me advice and support with my work as well as give me lots of opportunities to pursue task work in areas that I find particularly interesting, or in areas that I feel I need further development in.



RUTH TAKES THE HELM AT WHITSTABLE

Whitstable RNLI have just gained a new helm for their Atlantic 85 Lifeboat after 26-year old Ruth Oliver was passed out this week and has become the stations first female helm.

Ruth joined the crew 5 years ago. On joining the crew Ruth soon found herself "in at the deep end" as her first call was as part of the crew who rescued two anglers off Herne Bay whose boat had capsized in June 2018 and, but for the timely arrival of the lifeboat, would not have survived. The incident was recorded by the lifeboats cameras and featured some months later in the BBC's 'Saving Lives at Sea' programme.



[Read more](#)



TECH AND FASHION; A LOVE STORY

This month the infamous London fashion week went ahead. You might be thinking how does fashion and engineering relate? But take a look at how designers like Julia Koerner are using 3D printing to create costumes for the big screen! Koerner' used 3D printing to create some of the costumes worn in Marvel's Black Panther, earning her an Oscar in the process!

She has also been dubbed by Archinect as "Architectures Queen of 3D fabrication". Koerner's originally studied Architecture. She demonstrates that the STEM world is not confined to a box, and by fusing the worlds of fashion and architecture she has attracted some of the biggest names in Hollywood.

Click [here](#) to view and learn more about her fashion and costume work.

WORLD ENGINEERING DAY IS ON THE HORIZON!

World engineering day (4th March) celebrates engineering and the contribution of the world's engineers for a better, sustainable world. So, celebrate world engineering day too, why not tune in, to find out the winners of the global *hackathon* competition. A competition designed to encourage engineering students to work in teams towards a global real-world problem.



[Find out more](#)

DESIGN THIS YEARS LOGO

This year we'd love to have a logo that represents Women in Engineering at the RNLI. However wouldn't it be brilliant if we could harness your fresh ideas! We have decided to hand the task to you! We would like to make this challenge annual. Each year we will ask you to design a new logo and the winning design will become the logo of the Women in Engineering event for that year. If you fancy giving it a go, email your design to the address below.

WomenInEngineering@rnli.org.uk