

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.



ANNA
SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER



I have been the Sustainability Manager at the RNLI for nearly 10 years and have been part of the Engineering and Supply Team for the last 5 years.

When I was at school I didn't really know what I wanted to do. I thought I might like to be a Fireman like my Dad, but women were not operational firefighters at that time.

I left home and school at 16 with 5 O'Levels and worked in hospitality and retail. By my mid-20s I was disillusioned, so I asked myself "what would get me up early on a Monday and stay late on a Friday" if it wasn't just about earning more money?

I always had a love of nature and the environment, so I began a 4 year BSc Hons Degree in Environmental Protection at Bournemouth University.

I studied all sorts of STEM (Science, technology, engineering and mathematics) topics including chemistry, biology, and geology, earth systems and cycles such as climate, technologies such as renewable energy and engineering solutions such as water purification. I also studied environmental legislation and governmental policy. It opened my eyes to what was happening to our planet and the impact it was having on living things, including us. Whilst at Uni' I also spent summers working in the jungle in Peru, at an environmental education centre near Worcester and at Kimmeridge in Dorset. All of these helped me begin to apply all the things I was learning and gain experience of communicating with people and trying to create change.

At the RNLI I work with staff and volunteers from every department and across a wide range of challenges from developing a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, supporting my colleagues on decarbonisation, equality, diversity and inclusion, through to dealing with day to questions on environmental legislation or what to do with waste! My role is to support the RNLI to embed a robust sustainability approach within everything we do. My work is so varied that I never get bored, and there is still so much to achieve that I feel motivated to work hard every day!

In 2022 a Sustainability Apprentice joined the Team, which shows you can also enter the sustainability profession via an apprenticeship. ”

KARLA TAKES COMMAND ON THE THAMES

Fifteen years ago Karla Thresher signed up as an RNLI crew member in Minehead, equipped with little more than enthusiasm and ambition.

Now she has landed one of the most high-profile full-time jobs in the entire lifeboat service: commanding a lifeboat at one of the four stations the RNLI maintains on the Thames.

[Read more](#)



THE WORLDS FIRST PAIR OF ELECTRIC SKATES

Forget the electric bike, Atmos gear has developed the first pair of electric skates. The French company has designed a skate frame that is compatible with any roller boot, that allows you to cruise at an estimated 15mph.

The skates are motorised and controlled via a hand held controller. They can also be used as normal skates as the motor battery is recharging.

[Take a look](#)

STEM LIKE A GIRL. LEARN ABOUT HYDROGELS WITH SQUISHY SOAP

Check out this fun activity that demonstrates the process of crosslinking. You only need gelatin and some body wash.

Gelatin comes from collagen, which is a protein made up of long strands of chemicals called amino acids. (Amino acids are the building blocks of proteins.) When dissolved in water, these gelatin strands like to interact with each other and stick together to form a three-dimensional matrix. This process is called crosslinking and the resulting gel is called a hydrogel (a crosslinked gel containing water).

Watch the video to have a go yourself and make some pretty soap moulds in the process!

[Find out more](#)



GLASSES THAT TRANSLATE YOUR CONVERSATION IN REAL TIME

Chinese electronics brand TCL has launched a pair of augmented-reality glasses, with features including GPS navigation and language translation.

[Read more](#)