



# ‘GET TO KNOW’

In this month's Newsletter we are getting to know Lys Johnson, who joined The Workboat Association on a part-time basis in August 2023.

## **What is your career background?**

When I left school I started work in a graphic studio in Farringdon, creating images for Sainsburys adverts. I spent my days in a dark room making images of cheese and butter. I'd always enjoyed art and design at school but I was sadly made redundant after 18 months (they were moving to digital!) I then joined a research department at Anglia University, as admin support. The team grew over the 15 years I was there, from 6 of us in a demountable hut, to 96! When the head of the department left - I followed him, and began working from home supporting his consultancy. In the next 15 years the consultancy became very successful internationally with clients in Australia and India. I still continue to support him, but less now as he's been unwell in the last year. At the start of 2023 I began working for Learniture – a furniture and resource supplier for schools worldwide, supporting projects from initial interest to installation, again performing support work from home.

## **What is your role within The Workboat Association and what does a typical WA day look like?**

I was asked initially to support Kerrie Forster, the CEO through his paternity leave with a view to seeing how it went. Mostly I keep on top of his email inbox, organise his calendar, the to do's list and make response to members and stakeholders when he is unable to. But, this year I will also be supporting the team in the WA events and workgroups alongside Gareth Bonner. So, I will see you all at Seaworks!

## **What excites you most about working for the Workboat Association?**

The consultant I work for is an avid sailor – owner of a classic Oyster Smack on the historic ships register, which he uses to sail in classic boat regattas, plus many sailing dinghies, including a Brightlingsea One Design, Mirrors and more. Over the years I have learned a lot from him about tides, rigging, sails, docking, how the management of such a vessel goes etc and I have been sailing with him (though I cannot admit it was my favourite hobby)! So although Workboats are a much different world, some of what I know does come in very useful (and already has). Most of all, its good learn new things, stretch your mind, challenge yourself and all that, right?!

## **What are your hobbies outside of work?**

I really enjoy the theatre. I live close to London so if there's something new to the stage I'll get tickets. Last year we added a Basset Hound to our family – it has been life changing. My husband and son are sport fiends – both football referees – there's always sport on the TV so whether I like it or not I do follow lots of different sports. They also both play cricket and we all have a role at our local club. I was invited to be the Child Welfare Officer and have been doing that for the last five years.

I look forward to getting to know more of you and look forward to seeing many of you at one of our events.

**LYS JOHNSON**