

## Diane Wood – Section Manager



Diane is the SPE Aberdeen Section Manager, an SPE member since 2009, previously being the Secretary to the Board of the Aberdeen Section. She sits on the organising committee for the Offshore Achievement Awards and the Schools Career Guidance committee. With a background in science, a STEM ambassador and a published author of 12 scientific papers, Diane is passionate about encouraging the younger generation to study STEM subjects and join the Oil and Gas Industry. Diane previously worked at the Society of the Chemical Industry for 14 years, as Scotland Coordinator, and in the corporate and membership development team, and as an electron microscopist at the Rowett Research Institute prior to that.

### In the Spotlight

*What career advice would you give your younger self?*

Do not be afraid to try something new – it may or may not work out but at least you will have tried. Don't give up as you can turn that corner and find something different is there waiting to be grasped with both hands. Never be afraid to ask because "if you don't ask you don't get".

*What do you think are the benefits of being a member of SPE?*

The opportunities to volunteer on some fabulous projects with the schools or universities. The networking with your peer group is amazing, learning new skills being part of a committee, attending brilliant conferences and events, that are there, because our volunteers are passionate about making it happen.

*Best Achievement so far?*

On a personal level that would be having my son Alex and cycling the NC500 for Friends of Anchor. Workwise, organising an event that was run in four cities on consecutive days with eminent forensic scientists talking to the public about forensic science as part of National Science Week – that was such fun but hard work that paid off.

*What did you want to be when you were younger?*

A vet, an artist with Disney (I still love to draw) or a lorry driver – such opposite extremes.

*What are the main career stepping stones you have taken?*

Having the belief in myself to move from a science career to working for myself and making a good job of looking after the various clients that I gained – learning it's all about trust in yourself and in others who believe you can do it.

*Anything you would do differently?*

Probably not – I am very lucky and privileged to get to do what I do and I think I needed to learn from the first part of my career to be able to believe that anything is possible if you try hard enough.

*Who has been your greatest influence?*

Probably my dad – who showed me that hard work and sheer determination will open doors, to have a great network of contacts and that always to be a good person. I remember being to Offshore Europe in the early days and going around all the stands with my dad – talking to his colleagues and contacts and now some of my contacts are sons and daughters of his network.

*What's your idea of perfect retirement?*

Walking on beaches surrounded by a pack of golden retrievers – heaven!

*What would your autobiography be called?*

One woman, a houseful of goldens and the benefits of owning a Dyson!

*What is the best way to motivate others?*

Show people that you would never ask them to do something that you would never do yourself, always smile – be positive and above all always be kind.

*Your favourite stress-buster?*

Walking my dog by the sea and listening to the crash of the waves.

*What's your dream job?*

I did want to be a pilot at one point.

*Where is your favourite place to go on holiday?*

I love doing USA road trips or travelling around France.

*What are you reading, listening to or glued to on TV?*

Reading New Beginnings at the Birdie and Bramble by Alison Craig and I am totally addicted to NCIS.

*If you were a character in a TV series or movie who would you be?*

Oh – I would be Cameron Diaz in Charlies Angels – or Lara Croft in Tomb Raider – some sort of action character.

*What's on your bucket list – the things you still want to accomplish?*

Sitting my motorcycle test, going on the trans-Siberian train journey, travelling through India by train, and so much more.

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