

**Are you a budding journalist?**

**with a head full of ideas...**

**and ready to report on Dorset's wildlife?**  
**Sign up for an exciting opportunity. Link in our post**



A #YouthVoice Partnership



Dorset Wildlife Trust  
Young Journalists

Bethany Stephenson, one of the Dorset Wildlife Trust's young journalists.

# Overview Of The Program

- AQA-accredited 10-week project
- 8 young champions were recruited by participation people and Dorset Wildlife Trust
- Opportunities to interview experts such as Maria Clarke
- We explored different themes, topics, and journalism approaches and researched current wildlife topics as a team.



# Building confidence and learning new skills

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- Use of zoom
- Making the most of the Covid-19 pandemic
- Making connections to other like-minded people who we wouldn't have been able to meet otherwise
- Learning about the ethics involved with journalism



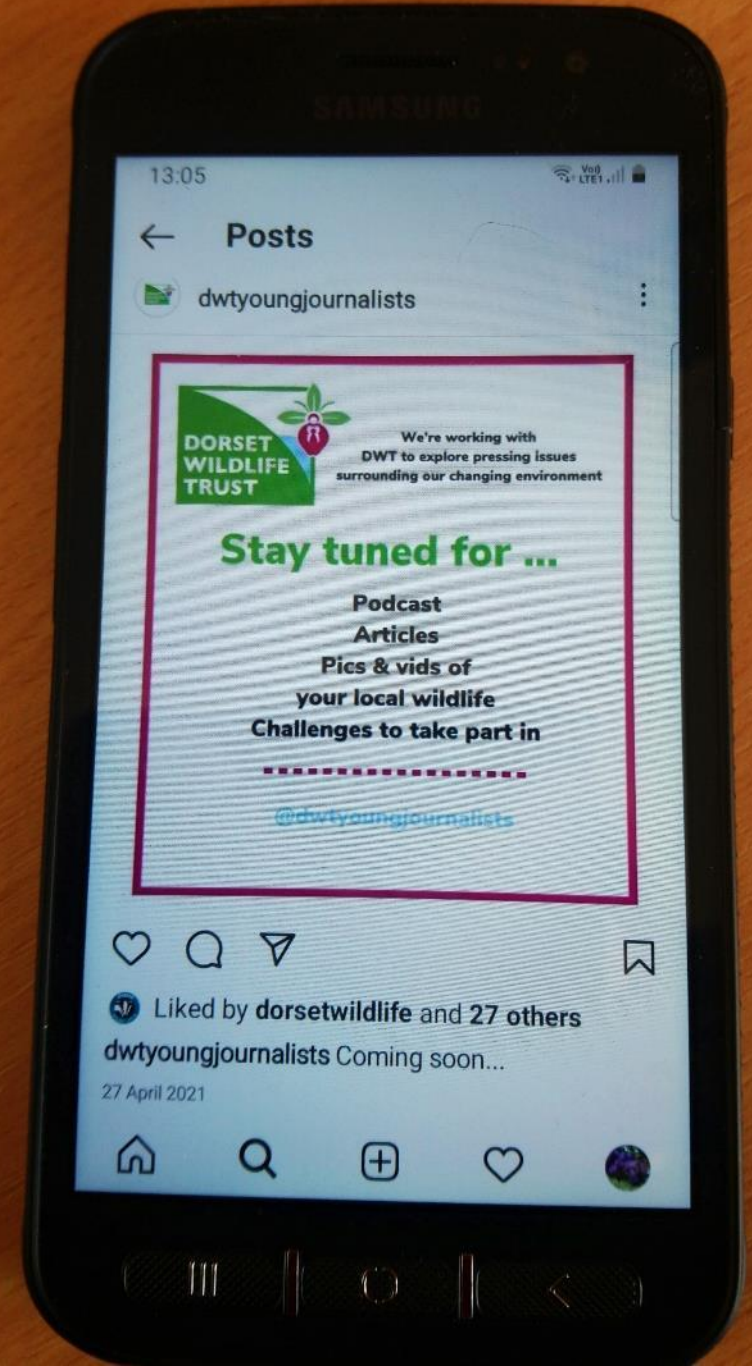
# Teamwork

- We worked together on Miro Board to produce ideas for how to engage young people with the environment.



# Successes of the course

- The DWT Young Journalist's Instagram page gained over 80 followers in the first week alone
- A [blog](#) made on Sound Pollution by Poppy Marshall
- Blogs on 30 days wild and the 5 ways to mental wellbeing by Emma Papka can be found [here](#)
- A joint podcast on environmental issues. This can be found [here](#).





"I've learned a lot and gotten much more curious about learning. I want to do more!"



"It's made me feel like I'm really making a difference"



"Going into detail about things I didn't know before has been a great learning experience"



"Interviewing people helped build my confidence a lot"

The impact the course had on us

- *Ruby*: I have been inspired by the charity's active efforts in how to address the climate and ecological crisis. This makes me motivated to make the small changes to my life to ensure my generation and future generations can enjoy a diverse wildlife.
- Find more of the team's takeaways [here](#).

## Young Journalists

### Their #YouthVoice Skills Journey

We asked Young Journalists to self-assess their skills at the start of this project, and again at the end. The Young Journalists rated their confidence in a number of skills on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not at all confident, and 5 is super confident.



#### Working With Different Types of People

Young Journalists who reported themselves as confident (scale points 4 & 5) increased from 14% to 100%



#### Working In a Team

Young Journalists who reported themselves as confident (scale points 4 & 5) increased from 57% to 100%



#### Using Your Initiative

Young Journalists who reported themselves as confident (scale points 4 & 5) increased from 43% to 100%



#### Communicating Well With Others

Young Journalists who reported themselves as confident (scale points 4 & 5) increased from 43% to 83%



#### Making Your Own Decisions

Young Journalists who reported themselves as confident (scale points 4 & 5) increased from 43% to 83%



#### Identifying Strengths and Areas for Improvement

Young Journalists who reported themselves as confident (scale points 4 & 5) increased from 29% to 67%

## The impact of the program on me

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When I was previously asked what I took away from the course I said: *'We made sure to buy compost that didn't contain peat for our garden to protect the peat bogs.'*

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I am now doing a degree apprenticeship with Wessex Water in the catchment delivery team, where I am primarily working on the Nitrogen Offsetting scheme for the Dorchester Water Recycling Centre.

# Key takeaways



- The confidence I gained from this course has been useful in my job now.
- I have participated in group activities similar to the work we carried out on Miro.
- I have used the knowledge I gained from the journalism aspect of the program, as I am now helping to write the Dorset Catchment Partnership newsletter





## Key takeaways

- Independent working, using skills gained from the independent research and writing done on the program
- I still have a passion for the environment, and have met more like-minded people along the way

See image: sampling porous pots for the Wessex Water Catchment Delivery team