

## The Dorn Youth

On a slightly overcast but dry Sunday in November, a group of young naturalists from an array of backgrounds, ages (between 12 to mid-20s), and different stages in their naturalist journeys, came together at Lodmoor Nature Reserve.

It was a day of firsts for almost everyone, from learning the difference species of egrets, spotting Hen Harriers flying overhead and a glimpse of electric Kingfisher blue, everyone took something away that morning. The most important thing being a sense of community. A sense of not being alone in our love for nature, that there is in fact nothing nerdy about having a strong knowledge and affiliation with the natural world and the wildlife around us.

Those who were avid birders and naturalists were patient and enthusiastic with those only just starting their naturalist journey. Young people across Dorset, from Bournemouth university and Weymouth college to the local secondary schools, were able to bond over the same shared common interest. The love for the natural world, where we all have a place, where we can all find solace.

Sam Levy and I hope to run our next event in the Bournemouth/ Poole area in January. We are hoping to have a social media presence up and running soon for our new youth naturalist community, known as 'DORN Youth' (Dorset Naturalist Youth). So please keep a look out and share to any young people you think may be of interest!

