

## **Press Release**

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017

### **Inspirational Black2Nature wins Environmental Youth Award**

A Bristol-based youth organisation set up by a young Mendip girl to encourage inner city minority groups to visit the countryside has won the prestigious Environmental Youth Award.

Presented at the Royal Bath & West Show on Friday (2 June), the award – now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year - recognises the contribution made by young people in managing environmental projects, with the aim of promoting greater awareness of conservation matters.

Mya-Rose Craig founded Black2Nature in a bid to get Black and Asian city dwellers involved in natural history and environmental issues through walks, talks and practical experience. “I live in the rural Chew Valley but mum’s family grew up in Bristol,” she explains. “In 2015 I was organising a weekend camping and then read something about a lack of minority people getting involved in nature, so I changed the focus of the camp and decided I wanted to get some kids out of the city and into the countryside.”

Since then, Mya-Rose has held three camps and arranged a conference for leading nature organisations, with whom she is working to encourage more inner city minorities out into rural areas. “I recently got funding to do a camp for 8-11 year olds, as there are high levels of mental health issues and I want them to know they can go outside and be calm and feel better about themselves,” she adds.

Having grown up in a keen bird-watching family, Mya-Rose has visited all seven continents, given 40 public talks including at the Hay Festival this year, and has been featured or written in a wide range of environmental magazines. “It’s brilliant, seeing people when they first come on a camp – they’re not sure what’s going on or how to react,” she says. “By the end they’ve settled in and really engaged with nature – it’s fantastic to see people enjoying themselves outside.”

Chairman of judges Les Davies says: “This was a unanimous decision. We were all inspired by Mya-Rose’s approach, innovation and infectious enthusiasm for this ground-breaking project.”

The other finalists in the competition were Frogwell Green Primary School in Wiltshire, Blackbrook Community Primary School in Somerset, and All Saints CE Primary School in Dorset, all of which have been working to get pupils involved in the environment and conservation through local farm visits, tree planting, recycling and cookery clubs.

- The Royal Bath and West Show takes place from 1-4 June, 2016, at the Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. For more information visit [www.bathandwest.com](http://www.bathandwest.com).

### **About the Royal Bath & West of England Society**

The Society was founded in 1777 in Bath by a group of philanthropists led by Edmund Rack. We are a registered charity organisation (Registered Charity Number 1039397). The Society was formed with the aims of encouraging agriculture, arts, manufacture and commerce.

Our charitable activities provide:

- Agriculture, veterinary, educational and art scholarships
- Technical events and Seminars
- Practical farming advice and conferences
- Countryside Education
- Diversification advice for farmers
- Education for children
- A market place for countryside products

As the Society approaches its 239<sup>th</sup> year it continues to deliver a wonderful mix of established traditional exhibits through to the latest energy technology and contemporary entertainment.

The entertainment and features around the 242-acre site ensure enjoyment for every member of the family and include attractions that are spectacular to watch, educational, inspirational, “hands on” or just plain fun.

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