

# FSC Young Darwin Scholarship 2016



## What is the Young Darwin Scholarship?

Every year, 15 nature enthusiasts aged between 16 and 17 are awarded scholarships to support and encourage their interest. The Young Darwin Scholars (YDS) attend an introductory field course at FSC's Preston Montford centre in Shropshire. The aim of this course is to allow the year's Young Darwin Scholars to meet each other, and to develop knowledge. In future years, the YDS receive bursaries for further FSC courses and there are also reunions which allow the Young Darwin Scholars to meet again, and to meet Scholars from other years. Application for the course is via the FSC website.



This year's YDS included birders, botanists and entomologists. We were all able to share our knowledge and passion for nature, as well as learn from the experts at the FSC.



## Diary extract:

"The afternoon session was the one I'd been waiting for... botany with Mark Duffell! We soon reached a sandy, and in places sparsely vegetated, area on the pond margin where we found yet another rush, the diminutive *Juncus bufonius*.

This small area also produce an exciting record. We spotted a small pink flower in the turf. This turned out to be *Centaurium erythraea*, the first official record of this species at Preston Montford since 1963! There were around 3 flowering plants, and one rosette that will most likely flower next year. "



The FSC rely on financial and practical support from organisations such as BSBI to run the Young Darwin scheme and this ensures that scholars are given wide range of experiences across a variety of disciplines.