



CHESTER ZOO
YOUTH BOARD

Chester Zoo Youth Board Youth Symposium 2023



21st and 22nd October
Information Pack



Welcome

Over the past 2 years we've been delighted to bring together young people from across the conservation world to share stories, meet new people and develop new skills.

We're delighted to welcome you back to the zoo for our 2023 Chester Zoo Youth Symposium and our biggest event yet.

With the rise in youth-led; movements, campaigns and integration into major organisations in recent years, it gives us an insight into the extensive possibilities, and the exciting prospects in the near future, for young conservationists to shape the conservation sector.

Through these events we can reflect and celebrate the innovative ways we have had a positive impact. Whether it be in research, politics, decision-making or behaviour change. It also gives us an opportunity to create stronger alliances and networks to build and amplify our messages and learn from each other. With the hopes of obtaining new inspiration from these shared stories, we can strive to break down even more barriers and be an even more prominent force in the conservation world.

With a whole host of incredible speakers, workshops, panel discussions and presentations it's certainly going to be an event to remember and we can't wait to welcome you all along.



Izzy Cook

Chair - Chester Zoo Youth Board

General

Our Youth symposium will be held in The Square at the heart of Chester Zoo. Workshops and presentations will be held in multiple rooms within the building.

Youth Board members, volunteers and staff will be on hand to support throughout the event. There will be time to explore the zoo during an extended lunch break and when traveling to and from the main entrance. We are a large site so would recommend wearing comfortable shoes. The weather in late October can be a little chilly so please bring a warm coat.

Getting here

By foot or bike: We really encourage green travel- it's good for the environment and helps us in our mission to prevent extinction. We've got plenty of cycle racks at the main entrance.

By car: Our main entrance is just off the A41 / Moston Road; and we're well signposted when you approach Chester, just look out for the brown signs. Once you get onto the A41, from whichever direction, simply stay on that road until you reach a roundabout with a large wooden ark on it. From there follow the signs into the zoo. Sat Navs get confused so please ignore them once you get onto the A41 – do not turn down Flag Lane North as it is a dead end. We have free onsite parking.

By Train: Our two nearest train stations are Bache and Chester City Centre.

By Bus: We have a bus stop right outside our main entrance with regular buses running from Chester and Liverpool. Find out more [here](#).

When you arrive at Chester Zoo

Please arrive at the main entrance between 9.15am-99.30am so that we can get you to The Square before the first talks of the day, which starts at 10am.

Once you arrive at the main entrance please head to Adventure HQ (round building just through the main gates). Our Youth Board members and zoo staff will be accompanying small groups through the zoo over to The Square. If you are running late or unable to make it to the main entrance before 09.50am then the gates team will have your details so just give them your name and they will direct you over to The Square and we can arrange to meet you and help you get across the zoo once you have arrived.

Once you have arrived at The Square we will get you registered and hand you your name badge and Lanyard Programme. There will be refreshments and the opportunity to sign up to workshops and presentations.

Sickness

With a few early winter colds making the rounds, we want everyone to feel as comfortable as possible at the event. Please feel free to wearing a face covering in indoor spaces and being respectful of others who might choose to maintain extra distance. We have hand washing and hand sanitising stations located around the zoo and in the venue which is regularly cleaned.

Food

There will be a number of breaks throughout the programme where refreshments will be provided. Lunch is included in the price. Saturday 21st October will be Fish goujons. Sunday 22nd October will be Mini Pizzas. Vegan options will be available on each day.

Point of contact

If you have any questions before the event please email learning@chesterzoo.org. During the event, the main contacts are Sean Dick (Schools Engagement Manager) and Clare Carter (Youth Development Coordinator)

A question for you...

Throughout the weekend we will be celebrating young people working in conservation. We will hear from inspiring and passionate young speakers who will share their experiences, knowledge and good practices to strengthen the youth environmental movement, empower young people to develop solutions and take positive actions for nature. There will be plenty of opportunities during the symposium to discuss all things conservation. We will be using Vevox to add your thoughts, comments and questions throughout the event.



Meet our inspiring keynote speakers



Amy Meek

Amy and her sister, Ella, launched an award-winning campaign, called Kids against Plastic. KAP, which has since become a charity. KAP has a bold vision to empower young people to become agents of change on environmental issues close to their hearts, all while building essential life skills and self-confidence.

Amy has worked tirelessly to raise awareness of the negative effects of plastic on the environment, and empowered others to take action. Kids against Plastic now have a team of over 280 young people around the world as part of the KAP Club.



Inka Cresswell

Embark on an inspiring journey with Wildlife Filmmaker and Photographer, Inka Cresswell, as she takes you behind the scenes of her extraordinary career in ocean conservation. With a background in Marine Biology and a passion for capturing the beauty of our oceans, Inka's storytelling has led her to explore marine protected areas around the world, coral restoration initiatives, and even explore the world of shark tagging.

Join her as she shares tales of her adventures and collaborations with leading scientists and camera professionals worldwide.



Aneeshwar Kunchala

Aneeshwar is an eight-year-old conservationist who uses his art to inspire and share an important conservation message to young people and adults around the world. He started this remarkable journey after seeing a picture of a dead whale on the beach with its stomach filled with plastic. This incident made him want to do something for the natural world. Aneeshwar is determined to do his part by raising awareness through his poems, paintings, and documentaries.



SATURDAY

#CZYouthSymp23



9.15-9.55 Registration at The Square
(include presentation & workshop sign up)

10.00-11.00 Welcome - Izzy Cook - Chair CZ Youth Board
Jen Kelly - Sustainability at Chester Zoo

11.00-11.40 Invited Speaker - **Amy Meek**
Kids against Plastic

11.40-12.00 Break - Atrium

Workshop 1

Workshop 2

Workshop 3

12.00-13.00

Atrium

Joinery

Smithy

BIAZA Public Affairs:
How to effectively
engage people with
Biodiversity issues

**Chester Zoo: Youth
Consultation**

**Action for
Conservation:**
Conservation action -
From research and
habitat restoration
through to
campaigning and
volunteering

13.00-14.30 Lunch and free time in the zoo

Presentation 1	Presentation 2	Presentation 3
2.30-2.55		
Atrium	Joinery	Smithy
The Conservation Volunteers The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)	Global Youth Biodiversity Network The role of GYBN in UN Biodiversity Negotiations	Amber Flewitt A 10 year journey to becoming a zoo professional
Presentation 4	Presentation 5	Presentation 6
3.00-3.25		
Atrium	Joinery	Smithy
Planty Planty Zoo Zoo Planty Planty Zoo Zoo, you can do it too (too)	Charlotte Stevenson Saving a species: The importance of education in conservation	Record What is biological recording and why do it?
Presentation 7	Presentation 8	Presentation 9
3.30-3.55		
Atrium	Joinery	Smithy
British Trust for Ornithology Showcasing Youth Voices	National Education Nature Park Hidden Nature Challenge	ZSL Youth Ambassadors Diversity in the Conservation World
4.00-4.15 Break		
4.15-4.50 Panel Discussion Diversity in Conservation Panel Maggie Chen, Frankie Lawrence Thompson, Claire Rigby, Sam Craig		
4.55-5.00 Summary of the Day		



SUNDAY

#CZYouthSymp23



9.15-9.55 Registration at The Square
(include presentation & workshop sign up)

10.00-10.30 Welcome - Izzy Cook - Chair CZ Youth Board
Chester Zoo Speakers

10.30-11.00 Invited Speaker **Aneeshwar Kunchala**
Save the Animals

11.00-11.40 Invited Speaker **Inka Cresswell**
From Science to Cinema: My Evolution as an Ocean Advocate

11.40-12.00 Break - Atrium

Workshop 1

Workshop 2

Workshop 3

12.00-13.00

Atrium

Joinery

Smithy

**Chester Zoo
Youth Board**
Conservation, My Way

Chester Zoo
Youth Consultation

UK Youth for Nature
Creative
Campaigning

13.00-14.30 Lunch and free time in the zoo

Presentation 1	Presentation 2	Presentation 3
2.30-2.55		
Atrium	Joinery	Smithy
Paradise Wildlife Park Sharing the wonder of wildlife	Alicia Hayden Exploring Activism	Chester National Park City The Chester National Park city campaign
Presentation 4	Presentation 5	Presentation 6
3.00-3.25		
Atrium	Joinery	Smithy
Susie Phillips Diving into the gene pool: Unraveling the secrets of water vole conservation	Abbey Nickerson Decolonisation	Jimmy's Farm From Marketing assistant to Marketing manager
Discussion and Open Mic Session		
3.30-4.00 - Atrium		
Opportunity to discuss some of the key themes across the symposium weekend with a chance to promote anything upcoming		
4.00-4.15 Break - Atrium		
4.15-4.55 Panel Discussion Conservation Conversations Panel Charlotte Evans, Aaron Whitnall, Lauren Dodman, Andy Hall		
4.55 Symposium Summary and Thanks		
5.00 SYMPOSIUM ENDS		

Detailed Programme - Saturday 21st October

Workshops

Action for Conservation - Conservation action - From research and habitat restoration through to campaigning and volunteering

This workshop is run by Action for Conservation's North West ambassadors, a group of young people who are passionate about the environment and conservation. The workshop will focus on insects, why they are important, and what we can do to protect them. Participants will learn some facts about insects in a fun and interactive way and will compete in groups to make the best bug hotel!

BIAZA Public Affairs – How to effectively engage people with Biodiversity Issues:

Join members of the BIAZA, British and Irish Association of zoo's and Aquaria)and Chester Zoo's Public affairs teams to find out more about how to engage other with vitally important issues.

Presentations

Amber Flewitt - A 10 year journey to becoming a zoo professional

Join Amber as she takes you on a journey through her progression in the zoo industry, with examples of research and fieldtrips, which will help to inspire you on your own unique journey in to a zoo career.

Global Biodiversity Youth Network - The role of GYBN in UN Biodiversity negotiations.

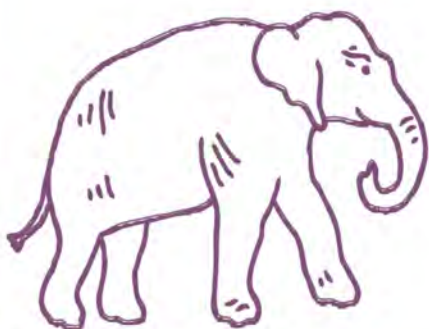
Join inspiring young people from GYBN, the global youth biodiversity network, who will share more about their work, how young people have influenced global biodiversity policy and how you can get involved.

The Conservation Volunteers - The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)

The aim of TCV is connect people and green spaces to deliver lasting outcomes for both. With sites and programmes all over the UK. Come and join them for a fantastic talk to find out more!

Record - What is biological recording and why do it?

The local Environmental records centre network spans the entire country, yet these hard-working conservation organisations often go largely unnoticed. Come along to discover what they are and out how your own wildlife observations can help towards understanding and protecting local species and habitats.



Detailed Programme

Presentations

Saturday 21st October

Charlotte Stevenson - Saving a species: The importance of education in conservation. Join Charlotte as she talks about her work with youth clubs. The aim is to highlight the importance of youth led movement and how it can lead to conservation action right now, each and every day, with the aim to keep supporting as many species as we can so that they prosper as they should.

Planty Planty Zoo Zoo, You can do it too (too)

With digital content creation becoming increasingly accessible, engaging people with the natural world has become a lot easier.

Steph and Connor, hosts of new nature podcast Planty Planty Zoo Zoo, discuss how podcasts can be used effectively for conservation communication, how to get started, and the importance of not taking things too seriously.

British Trust for Ornithology - Showcasing Youth Voices

An overview of BTO youth, highlighting different young people and their voices in conservation. We want people to feel empowered to take on youth activities in their local area. Join us for a fun kahoot!

National Education Nature Park and Climate Action Awards

Join the team from the National Education Nature Park project and take their hidden nature challenge.

ZSL - Diversity in the Conservation World

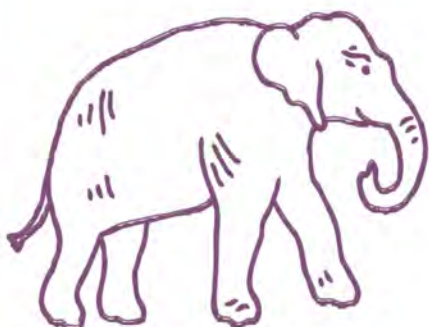
This presentation will shed light on the current scenario, providing an understanding of what it means to be part of the conservation and zoo community today and key statistics of diversity representation in the field.

Presentations

Keynote Panel Discussion - Diversity in Conservation

Maggie Chen, Claire Rigby, Sam Craig, Frankie Lawrence Thompson

Join our panel as they discuss Diversity in the Conservation sector, initiatives to increase diversity and what we can all do to make a difference. There will be a number of starter discussion points before we open up the floor for audience Questions.



Detailed Programme - Sunday 22nd October

UK Youth for Nature - Creative Campaigning

Campaigning comes in many shapes and sizes, cutting through the media to reach your target audience can be tricky. UK Youth for Nature specialises in highly creative campaigns that celebrate nature and push for positive change. In this workshop we will discuss the steps of putting together a campaign and how to grab the attention of your target audience. During the session you will be working with members of the UK Youth for Nature team to design your own creative campaigning stunt!

Chester Zoo Youth Board - Conservation: My Way

Join the Chester Zoo Youth Board for this engaging workshop as they showcase the many ways that they take action to protect the future of wildlife and how you can do it too. This practical session will give you the tools and knowledge to make a change. Whatever your depth of background knowledge.

Chester Zoo Youth Consultation:

We're looking to create a digital changemakers toolkit to support young people making change in their lives and the lives of others. Come and help us work out what we should included in this consultation workshop.

Presentations

Chester National Park City

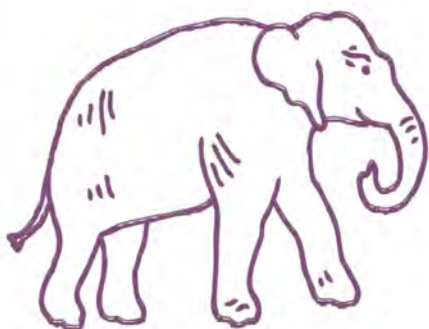
A youth-led group, Chester National Park City is supported by Cheshire Wildlife Trust. Its members want to connect urban communities to wildlife and want to join the only other two cities with current National Park City status – London and Adelaide. Find out more about their work.

Alicia Hayden - Exploring Artivism

In this session, Alicia will explore what wildlife artivism is and why it is important for modern day wildlife conservation and science communication - especially with a young audience, who is increasingly engaged with social media platforms such as Instagram and TikTok. It is on these image-based social media platforms that artivism can thrive, and the threats facing our natural world can reach a new audience.

Paradise Wildlife Park - Sharing The Wonder Of Wildlife

Paradise Wildlife Park and the Big Cat Sanctuary have been running educational engagement programmes with schools and people from under privileged backgrounds to help inspire the next generation of conservationists. They have numerous projects run through the zoos that have been engaging the local community and children in innovative ways. Find out more in this inspiring talk.



Detailed Programme

Presentations

Susie Phillips - Diving into the gene pool: Unraveling the secrets of water vole conservation

Water voles are one of the UK's fastest declining mammal species, living in increasingly fragmented populations. Many conservation projects have traditionally focused on habitat restoration and management. However, recent advancements in the field of conservation genetics have shed light on the importance of genetic diversity and population structure in ensuring the long-term viability of this species.

Jimmy's Farm - From Marketing Assistant to Marketing Manager

Join Lauren from Jimmy's farm to find out all about her career in Marketing, from assistant to manager. Find out a little more about her day to day job and pick up some top tips for you own career.

Panels

Keynote Panel Discussion - Conservation Conversations

Charlotte Evans, Aaron Whitnall, Lauren Dodman, Andy Hall

Join our panel of communications experts as they discuss all things conservation communications. How do we get important conservation messages out there to people. There will be a number of starter discussion points before we open up the floor for audience questions.

Promotion

To help us promote the Youth Symposium and celebrate all those involved please share your experiences.



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The event's official hashtag is #CZYouth

Be sure to follow us at @chesterzoo @LearnatCZ @scienceatCZ



LinkedIn

The event's official hashtag is #CZYouth

Be sure to follow us at @ConservationandScienceatChesterZoo



Instagram

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