



GUY WILLCOCK

AGE: 17 years old FROM: England - South West

“Being part of a thriving group dedicated to protecting a declining species has fostered an amazing sense of community spirit.”

Each year 30 tonnes of toads are killed by motorists in the UK, and the population is in decline. Toads cross busy roads to get to their ancestral breeding grounds, and are destroyed simply because humans are too busy or lazy to care.

It's difficult to get people interested in saving toads as they're not seen as attractive animals. Even in fiction they're always portrayed as ugly.

Yet toads are a valuable part of our eco system and we must protect them. It requires great determination and conviction to help save this species, but it's absolutely vital that we do.

I was nine years old when I first joined a toad patrol, going out every night for hours on end to rescue toads, stop cars and explain to motorists the effects of their actions.

It's hard work to save toads from being killed by cars on the roads. It's usually late, dark and raining, and motorists can sometimes be antagonistic when you explain why they need to change their driving habits.

Eight years on and I'm still involved in toad patrolling. Now I also run social media campaigns for my local toad rescue group, write articles and speak on amphibian protection to schools and youth groups. In addition, I train new volunteers on how to handle amphibians, and engage with groups on road safety for volunteers and amphibians.

This summer, I undertook a 12 day trek in the remote Markha valley in the Himalayas where I got to experience other species and habitats up close. I hope to create a presentation from this trek to help inform and inspire school children and youth groups.

Educating people about the environment is paramount. Every action we take is a step towards creating a better planet.



ORGANISATIONS I'VE WORKED WITH

CHARLCOMBE TOAD RESCUE GROUP

CHARACTER STRENGTHS

LEADERSHIP, COMMUNICATION, TRUST, COMMUNITY AWARENESS, PROBLEM-SOLVING

