

Local Naturalist has made the Shortlist for the 2017 UK Awards for Biological Recording and Information Sharing

Hugh Tooby, 56, from Stenhousemuir, Stirlingshire, has been shortlisted in the Adult Newcomer category of the 2017 UK Awards for Biological Recording and Information Sharing.

These annual awards started in 2015, and have been developed by the National Biodiversity Network, the National Forum for Biological Recording and the Biological Records Centre. Their intention is to recognise and celebrate the outstanding contributions made to biological recording by adults and young people, which is helping to improve our understanding of the UK's wildlife.

Hugh Tooby says:

"I'm 56 years old and used to be a GP. I left the NHS in 2013 to give myself time to pursue a different career path. I'm a great believer in the benefits of active engagement with the natural world and wanted to do something to support this.

"Over the last few years this has taken various forms including supporting friends and family to get involved in outdoor activities such as hill walking, canoeing and cycling. I've also volunteered with conservation charities such as the John Muir Trust and Scottish Wild Land Group supporting them in their campaigning work.

"However, my main focus - and great passion - over the last two years has been citizen science wildlife surveys. This started with the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative in central Scotland where I live but has steadily expanded since to include such initiatives as Capturing our Coast and various British Trust for Ornithology schemes.

"As a lover of the sea and mountains I'm drawn to doing surveys in these places and I can use a lifetime of skills acquired in wild camping, hill walking, canoeing and mountain biking to support this - which will hopefully help to fill in some of the blanks on the data map and increase our understanding of the natural world on which we ultimately all depend."

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The **winners** of the 2017 UK Awards for Biological Recording and Information Sharing will be announced at a special ceremony on **Thursday 16 November** during the National Biodiversity Network's annual conference in Cardiff.

This year we are indebted to three organisations for their support:

1. [Opticron](#) for sponsoring the prizes for the Youth Awards and for the Adult Newcomer Award.
2. [Paramo Directional Clothing](#) for sponsoring the prizes for the Gilbert White Adult Award and the David Robertson Adult Award.
3. [Field Studies Council \(FSC\)](#) for sponsoring the prize for the Lynne Farrell Group Award. **/Ends.**

For more information, to arrange an interview, and/or for a photo of Hugh Tooby, please contact **Purba Choudhury**, NBN Communications Officer, on: **0115-9247133** or via: **p.choudhury@nbn.org.uk**

Notes to Editors:

1. The full, national, shortlist is:

Adult Newcomer Award

- Dave Braddock – from Surrey
- Adrian Cooper – from Suffolk
- Annie Irving – from Vale of Glamorgan
- Liam Olds – from Rhondda Cynon Taf
- Hugh Tooby – from Stirlingshire

David Robertson Adult Award for marine and coastal wildlife

- George Catchpole – from Essex
- Paula Lightfoot – from Tyne & Wear
- John Newnham – from West Sussex
- Jack Sewell – from Devon
- Rob Wells – from Cornwall

Gilbert White Adult Award for terrestrial and freshwater wildlife

- George Catchpole – from Essex
- Peter Hodge – from East Sussex
- John Newnham – from West Sussex
- Adrian Norris – from West Yorkshire
- Dan Watson – from Stirlingshire

Lynne Farrell Group Award for wildlife recording

- Community Science – from Derbyshire
- Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership – from South Yorkshire
- Inner Forth Landscape Partnership – from Falkirk West
- NESBReC Mammal Atlas – from Aberdeenshire
- Sorby Natural History Society – from South Yorkshire

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Youth Awards for wildlife recording

- Jann Billker – from Buckinghamshire
- Tyler Ingleheart – from Somerset
- Mhairi McCann – from Inverclyde
- Evan Potter – from Greater Manchester

2. **David Robertson** (1806–1896) was a Scottish naturalist who founded the [University Marine Biological Station at Millport](#), which opened in 1897. Millport Marine Biological Station closed in 2013, but reopened in 2014 as Millport Field Centre thanks to the Field Studies Council.
3. **Gilbert White** (1720 – 1793) is remembered in these awards because his name is synonymous with biological recording. He was one of the first English naturalists to make careful observations of his surroundings and record these observations in a systematic way. He transformed the way we look at the natural world and is recognised as one of the fathers of ecology.
4. **Lynne Farrell** is a well-respected botanical tour, expedition and field meetings leader. She co-authored the first 'British Red Data Book on Vascular Plants' and has produced and illustrated a pocket book 'Wildflower walks on Mull'. Since 1995 Lynne has been the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland's voluntary recorder for Mull, Coll and Tiree and is working on writing a new 'Flora of Mull and the Mid Ebudes'.