**Liam Olds – winner of the 2017 Adult Newcomer Award for biological recording**

Liam Olds is passionate about the wildlife of colliery spoil heaps. He did a traineeship looking at this unique habitat through the Conservation Volunteers, and since then has successfully applied for his own funding to continue this important work. Liam has not only raised awareness of the wildlife of these sites (especially the invertebrates), but of biological recording as a whole. He has also been involved with producing a briefing paper on the biodiversity value of old re-vegetated coal tips. In addition, Liam has been featured in a number of magazines and newspapers, thereby educating and enthusing the public about wildlife and biological recording. He also increases understanding by running workshops and events on these spoil heaps.