

News Release

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Local Naturalist has made the National Shortlist for the 2018 UK Awards for Biological Recording and Information Sharing

Andrew Grayson, 56, from Beadlam in North Yorkshire, has been shortlisted in the “Gilbert White Adult Award for recording terrestrial and freshwater wildlife” category of the 2018 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.

Andrew Grayson says:

“All biological recording, even that of apparently mundane and common species, ultimately fulfils many objectives and has many uses, including monitoring trends such as species declines and range-expansions.

“I discovered at an early age that, so far as the natural world as a whole is concerned, we know surprisingly little, and that much knowledge gained by naturalists is unfortunately never published or forwarded to others, and is ultimately lost. With the advent of the Internet and the centralisation of record collating facilitated by The National Biodiversity Network, we now live in exciting times for biological recording, where all biological records are useful and used.

“We are gradually gaining an adequate understanding of the individual species which comprise the natural world, and even the most basic biological recording still helps to establish their current ranges or monitor changes, for example. As a specialist with a lifetime's experience of recording obscure and neglected invertebrate groups, I recognised that my resulting data was of importance to others; therefore, I was initially strongly inclined to accurately record as much as was possible from as many sites as possible, and to forward the records to those organisations and individuals which would find the records of use.

I have always felt motivated to carry out biological recording and get involved with projects that will generate biological records - it is part of my nature, and it has never wavered.

“I don't think of myself as in any way inspirational to others, yet I have on occasions been called thus, and that is good to know that I have made some sort of positive contribution to fire the enthusiasm of others. One of the most pleasing aspects of my biological recording work is to observe the enthusiasm and interest of the present generation of natural history students and children - for some of them will undoubtedly be the outstanding naturalists of the future.”

The **winners** of the 2018 UK Awards for Biological Recording and Information Sharing will be given their prizes at a special ceremony on **Wednesday 21 November** during the National Biodiversity Network's annual conference in Nottingham.

This year we are indebted to five organisations for their support and sponsorship of the prizes:

1. [Opticron](#)
2. [Paramo Directional Clothing](#)
3. [Field Studies Council \(FSC\)](#)
4. [Nature Photographers Ltd](#)
5. [NHBS/British Wildlife](#) /Ends.

For more information, to arrange interviews, and for images of the people who have been shortlisted, please contact **Purba Choudhury**, NBN Communications Officer, on: **0115-850 0172** or via: **support@nbn.org.uk**

Notes to Editors:

1. The full, national, shortlist is:

Adult Newcomer Award

- Brian Atkinson – from Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
- John Fergusson – from Tarbolton, Ayrshire.
- George Greiff – from Ventnor on the Isle of Wight.
- Fiona Rock – from Kingswinford, West Midlands.
- Georgia Vessey – from Chichester, West Sussex.

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David Robertson Adult Award for marine and coastal wildlife

- Bryony Chapman – working in Maidstone, Kent.
- Hannah Grist – working in Oban, Argyll.

Gilbert White Adult Award for terrestrial and freshwater wildlife

- Ryan Clark – from Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.
- Gordon Corbet – from Lundin Links, Fife.
- Andrew Grayson – from Beadlam, North Yorkshire.
- Trevor James – from Ashwell in Hertfordshire.
- Sarah Whild – from Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
- Derek Whiteley – from Wardlow, Derbyshire.

Lynne Farrell Group Award for wildlife recording

- Capturing our Coast – covering all the coasts of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- LERC Wales – covering the whole of Wales
- Longshaw Fungi and Lichen Survey Team – from the National Trust property in the Peak District, Derbyshire and South Yorkshire.
- Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group (MWHG) – from the Manhood Peninsula in West Sussex.

Youth Awards for wildlife recording

- Mya-Rose Craig – from Compton Martin in Somerset.
- Dylan Jenkins – from Gower, Swansea

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'.