

News Release

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National Nature Group has made the Shortlist for the 2018 UK Awards for Biological Recording and Information Sharing

Capturing Our Coast, based at Newcastle University but covering all the coasts of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, has been shortlisted in the “Lynne Farrell Group Award for wildlife recording” 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.

Dr Jane Delany, Project Lead at Capturing Our Coast, says:

“Many of our volunteers get involved because they have a love of the coast, they live on the coast and want to explore it more, or because of an interest in wildlife and marine species.

“What keeps them going are the exciting, unexpected finds, and the fact that when you start looking, you find far more than you ever expected. The sheer diversity of wildlife they encounter feeds their interest and makes them want to learn more. It is also a great way to spend time outdoors, do something meaningful, get involved in local marine conservation and meet people with similar interests.

“The sheer variety of activities we offer has been the key to the breadth of our appeal to such a wide range of audiences – people can get involved despite limitations of time, tides and knowledge, and can find things to do as part of an existing hobby, or to entertain their family, and whether it be at home or on holiday. We hope we are right in saying that there has been something available for anyone who has shown any interest, whatever their motivation!”

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: p.choudhury@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.

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.

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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'.