

News Release

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Peak District Naturalists have made the National Shortlist for the 2018 UK Awards for Biological Recording and Information Sharing

Derek Whiteley, 64, of Wardlow, Derbyshire, has been shortlisted in the “Gilbert White Adult Award for recording terrestrial and freshwater coastal wildlife” category of the 2018 UK Awards for Biological Recording and Information Sharing, and the 4-year old **Longshaw Fungi and Lichen Survey Team** has been shortlisted for the “Lynne Farrell Group Award for recording wildlife” category of these national Awards.

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.

Derek Whiteley says:

“I just love all aspects of biological recording, from being outdoors in fabulous places in all weathers to the challenges of identification, to data processing, mapping and publishing.

“I love the history and social aspects, especially running training courses to share knowledge and skills. Traditionally I have focused on “Sorbyshire” but now I am exploring the rest of the UK. It’s a great life.”

Chris Millner, Area Ranger of the Longshaw Estate, speaking about the **Longshaw Fungi and Lichen Survey Team** says:

“The team members are deeply committed to nature conservation, and the preservation of species diversity. They relish any opportunity to open the eyes and minds of others to the often-hidden world of fungi and lichens.

“Also, the desire to discover new species (or re-discover ones that have not been seen for decades), pushing knowledge forwards and adding to what we seek to protect as conservers of Nature, are huge motivators!”

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Jenny Gerrans, Visitor Experience Officer at National Trust Longshaw, speaking about the **Longshaw Fungi and Lichen Survey Team**, says:

“I have worked with this team for years and they are dedicated, enthusiastic, they inspire visitors young and old, and have developed a great sense of fungi conservation here at Longshaw. They have helped us to share the wealth of fungi at Longshaw with families, photographers and their fellow expert mycologists.

“Their work also informs our estate management plans, helping us to steer visitors away from areas rich in rare fungi. And they are also a good laugh!”

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'.