

## News Release

12 October 2018

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

**Sarah Whild**, 57, from Shrewsbury in Shropshire, 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 national 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.

**Sarah Whild** says:

“What excites me about biological recording? What doesn't! It's been my life for the past thirty years, as a county recorder for BSBI, looking at the fantastic records that all of these dedicated volunteers collect; as a lecturer in biological recording (now retired) seeing students build their ID skills, become employed or engaged in recording, and pass me by, going on to do fabulous things in consultancies and record centres.

“My main research areas were ID skill development and measurement, through Field Identification Skills Certificates (FISCs), developed together with Sue Townsend.

“What motivates me? Well, I'm a recording tart, so I love an exciting new record, but you can't beat seeing records as fragments coming together to make a picture of ecological change, so that we can answer some of the big environmental questions with the data that many of us collect as volunteers. I've always referred to myself as a card-carrying botanist, but I have been known to stray over to the dark side, and occasionally look at a fly...”

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. **/Continued...**

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](#)

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.

#### 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

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- 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'.