

Nominations now open for 2nd UK Awards for Biological Recording and Information Sharing

Building on the success of the inaugural awards in 2015, the National Biodiversity Network, the National Forum for Biological Recording and the Biological Records Centre are today launching the second *UK Awards for Biological Recording and Information Sharing*.

Sponsored again by Swarovski Optik UK, the Awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding contributions made by individual adults and young people as well as by groups, to biological recording – which is helping to improve our understanding of the UK's wildlife.

These contributions can include anything from a significant number of records made in a year, the number of participants at a BioBlitz, plugging of gaps in knowledge in a specific area of the UK, through to the number of datasets available for download, technical innovation in recording wildlife or encouraging participation through the development of apps or games etc.

The awards have under-18 and adult categories and target the two main recording environments - terrestrial and freshwater; as well as marine and coastal:

- the **Gilbert White** youth and adult awards (for terrestrial and freshwater wildlife)
- the **David Robertson** youth and adult awards (for marine and coastal wildlife)

In addition, there will be an extra award this year – for groups – working with either terrestrial and freshwater wildlife or working with marine and coastal wildlife.

Nominating someone for an award couldn't be simpler. Just complete the [Awards nomination form](#) and return it to the National Biodiversity Network by **31 July 2016**.

[Unfortunately you can't nominate yourself!]

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Professor Michael Hassell, Chairman of the National Biodiversity Network said:

“The painstaking work that individual and groups of biological recorders undertake over many years is all too often not publically recognised. We want to correct that, and celebrate the outstanding contributions that British biological recorders are making to improve our understanding of wildlife in the UK.” /Ends.

For more information, please contact **Purba Choudhury**, NBN Communications Officer, on: **07929-356 908** or **0115-9247133** or via: **p.choudhury@nbn.org.uk**

Notes to Editors:

1. The National Biodiversity Network Trust is a charitable organisation with an ever-growing membership which records the UK's wildlife, collects and cares for the data and makes it universally accessible to the public, for education and research, for conservation management and environmental decision-making.

The Network has 160+ members including most of the UK's national biological recording schemes and societies, many of the UK's largest wildlife charities and non-governmental organisations as well as most Local Environmental Record Centres, government agencies, research institutions, museums, botanic gardens and members of the public. Network members have collected and shared more than 127 million biological records via the NBN Gateway – the national online database.

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. Rules of the awards

- Nominations may be made by anyone (including people and organisations that are not Network members), but you can't nominate yourself.
- Individuals, groups of people or entire organisations are eligible for the awards.
- The Awards committee will decide on the winners each year. This will include the Chair of the NBN Board of Trustees, the NBN Patron (Earl of Selborne), a representative of any sponsoring organisation, the CEO of the NBN and representatives of the Biological Records Centre and National Forum for Biological Recording.
- Nominations open on **20th April 2016** and close on **31st July 2016**.
- Successful nominees will be notified by the end of October and invited to attend the awards ceremony.