

Winner

Ian Bond CEnv MCIEEM

Section: North East

Ian Bond has been a fixture of the wildlife conservation scene in the north-east of England for over 20 years. His frequent appearances on local radio, TV and in the print media have made him familiar in the region as an advocate for biodiversity conservation, and for the benefits of enjoying wildlife and the outdoors. He brings energy and enthusiasm to a wide variety of activities and initiatives, and is consistently generous with his time and effort in sharing his knowledge of ecology, conservation and of wild plants and animals.

Since graduating from the University of Sunderland with a first class degree in Environmental Biology, Ian has made a huge contribution to the promotion of wildlife and conservation in his home area of Teesside. This is a heavily industrialised landscape, but one which also has vast biodiversity potential, with the river Tees and its estuary including Seal Sands, coastal cliff and dune habitats, and much lowland grass and marshland, as well as an enormous acreage of former industrial brownfield sites.

During almost 20 years as a professional ecologist with both Stockton and Hartlepool Borough Councils, Ian has been at the heart of the huge environmental improvements seen in the area over the same period. His achievements include co-ordination of the development and expansion of Wynyard Woodland Park on the edge of Billingham, and the establishment of a successful breeding and introduction programme for Harvest Mice in the Tees Valley, which is at the very northern edge of the species' range in Britain. Since 2003 he has been the Borough Ecologist for Hartlepool Borough Council, overseeing all ecological matters within the borough, including representation on the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast European Marine Site Management Group, and the Tees Valley Local Nature Partnership for which he has chaired the Wetlands & Coast and the Sites sub-groups. He has also taken the lead in developing an ecological consultancy service for the borough.

In 2015 Ian moved from his job at Hartlepool Borough Council to take up a new post as Ecologist with INCA,

the Industry Nature Conservation Association, where he continues to make an outstanding contribution to wildlife conservation in the Teesside area. Outside of his professional work, Ian is equally active, being a member of the 'Friends of Rockwell', which manages a Local Wildlife Site near Darlington, and he has also been a key member of the Durham Bat Group for almost 20 years.

Ian has an infectious enthusiasm for his subject, and also has a great ability to establish rapport with professional colleagues, clients and the wider public. Maintaining links with the University of Sunderland, he has provided regular mentoring and work placement opportunities for students working towards their MSc degrees in Environmental Management, and has provided similar opportunities for postgraduate students at Northumbria University. He is an in-demand speaker, and regularly gives talks on wildlife-related themes to local community groups. He has also been a regular trainer for the Bat Conservation Trust's National Bat Monitoring Programme, and has recently delivered training events for the Durham Wildlife Trust's Harvest Mouse monitoring programme, which has greatly expanded knowledge of the species in the area.

Ian is also a talented writer/journalist, contributing regular wildlife features to the Northern Echo, as well as contributing a column to the Northumbria Mammal Group's newsletter. He also edited the recently published 'Mammals, Amphibians and Reptiles of the North East', which has rapidly become the definitive record of the current status of those species groups in the area, as well as contributing many of the species entries himself. Ian is the 'go to' option for local broadcast media on environment and wildlife topics, and is a past winner of the BBC Wildlife Magazine's Wildlife Travel Writing Competition.

Ian has been a member of the CIEEM NE Section Committee since its inception, during much of which he has fulfilled the Secretary role, and his diligent notetaking and prompt circulation of minutes has proved to be an invaluable asset for the committee. Ian also initiated the highly



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successful NE Section field club in 2013, with the primary intention of providing opportunities for members to practice plant identification skills, but also for members to share field skills of all kinds. While leading a high proportion of field club outings himself, Ian has also regularly recruited local experts to attend outings and share their knowledge with members. Visits have ranged from Alnmouth and the Simonside Hills in north Northumberland to Coatham Stob and Maze Park on Teesside, and from Crimdon and Castle Eden Denes on the Durham Coast, to upper Teesdale and Weardale in the west of the region.

Also in 2015 Ian took the lead in organising the NE Section Conference, held at the University of Northumbria in April. Entitled 'Advances in Survey Techniques' with 10 main speakers, and attended by over 80 delegates, the resounding success of the conference speaks volumes of his organisation skills and ability to attract high quality contributions from a range of leading practitioners.

The 2016 Members' Award is, in the opinion of his nomination Section, a fitting recognition of the huge and largely unsung contribution that Ian has made, both to CIEEM and the wider community, over more than two decades.