



## Two Awards in One Week

### ***Back from the Brink – Saving our Small Blue Butterfly***

It's been an astonishing week for the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership – an invitation to a conference on 'Getting Ready for Biodiversity Net Gain' in London culminated in being lauded as the Winner in the *UK Biodiversity Project Award* category of the **ALGE (Associated of Local Government Ecologists' Local Government) Silver Anniversary Awards**.

Over 145 delegates from across the United Kingdom attended the event, not just from local authorities but also many other government and non-government agencies. Madeline Moon, MP (and President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly) presented the Awards which included a Lifetime Achievement Award named after her late husband, ecologist Steve Moon. ALGE's press release says, "This landscape-scale project to restore habitat and manage it for the benefit of the Small Blue Butterfly impressed the judges with its broad project partnership, extensive engagement with community groups, landowners and volunteers and the result of Small Blues at new sites within the project area."

The category winners include:

- *Biodiversity Project Award* – Tayside Biodiversity Partnership for Back from the Brink: Saving our Small Blue
- *Local Government Changing the Way We Work Award* –



© ALGE - 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award Winners



Lichfield District Council for the Lichfield Biodiversity Net Gain Model

- *Regional Champion Award* – John Edwards (Surrey County Council)
- *Unsung Local Hero Award* – Annette Smith (Ceredigion Bats)
- *Collaborative Working Award* – Bumblebee Conservation Trust for Making a Buzz for the Coast
- *Steve Moon Lifetime Achievement Award* – Michael Oxford for his services to ALGE and local government ecology

Further details are available via <https://mk0partnersdevoovx4n.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2019/12/ALGE-25-Year-Aniversary-Awards.pdf>.

In October, at a Scottish Parliament Reception, we were shortlisted in the prestigious **2019 Nature of Scotland Awards** ('celebrating some of the country's most incredible nature heroes'). This alone was exciting and we were very happy just to be nominated. Other contenders in the same category had equally worthy projects so we happily attended the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Nature of Scotland presentation dinner at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Edinburgh, along with 400+ other guests. The annual Awards are for "recognising the people, projects and organisations dedicated to protecting Scotland's natural heritage"; they are organised by RSPB Scotland and co-sponsored by Scottish Natural Heritage.

In total 11 winners were announced after a record-breaking year of nominations. Further details are available here – <https://www.rspb.org.uk/about-the-rspb/at-home-and-abroad/scotland/nature-of-scotland-awards/winners-and-finalists/the-2019-winners-and-shortlist/> but suffice to say we won the **Community Initiative Award!**

The heartening outcome is that those who chose us as Winners for both these awards knew the breadth of community input that this project has achieved. So many individuals, local groups, businesses and organisations were mentioned and that is what this is all about. Everyone deserves to be congratulated.

This is just one of 70+ biodiversity projects in Tayside, but it is THE project that has caught the imagination as not only is conservation at the heart of the initiative, but people are too. One would not happen without the other and this has now been recognised.



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Thank you everyone!



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On behalf of the Small Blue Interest Group (Tayside Biodiversity Partnership)  
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