



Penrith & District Red Squirrel Group Newsletter Aug 2018

The Reds need us ALL

Penrith & District Red Squirrel Group is now a victim of its own success. We are delighted to have resident red squirrels across the whole of our managed area of 650 square miles covered by our contracted Rangers and their supporters. There is little doubt that without the Rangers' work, reds would have all but disappeared. However this success comes at a huge annual cost and we really are struggling to raise the £120,000 a year needed to keep this up.

We know that any let up will allow greys to spread back very quickly and undo brilliant progress made.

We are therefore appealing to existing members to look at their current contribution and increase this if at all possible. Many are still paying at a rate set some years ago. We are also looking for new members contributing £5 per month and hopefully

more on a standing order.

In addition to helping financially, please promote our plea and share this newsletter with family, friends, neighbours. Other ways you can get involved are included in this newsletter. We invite all, along with landowners and businesses to be part of our success and in doing so help to secure the future of red squirrels in our part of Cumbria.

Please complete the form (on the back page) today and benefit from being part of our success story and join others who are proud not only to show they care about red squirrel conservation but also that they are doing something about it.

For further information please contact:
Robert Benson, our Chairman on 07836 610463 or at robert.benson@hotmail.com
or Julie Bailey, our Administrator & Treasurer via the contact details below.



General Data Protection Regulations

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) came into force on 25th May 2018 and this new legislation means we need your consent to continue to contact you and send you news from Penrith & District Red Squirrel Group. Please complete and return the back page with your details and GDPR preference.

Penrith & District Red Squirrel Group. Woodside, Armathwaite, Cumbria CA4 9SX. Registered charity number 1117418.

For General Enquiries Contact Julie Bailey, P&DRSG Administrator/Treasurer on 07788 264571, via e-mail at info@penrithredsquirrels.org.uk or write to address above.

How are we doing?

Andrew—P&DRSG Red Squirrel Ranger - Hutton area



Things had quietened down on the greys for me with the odd one turning up here and there however, after what seems like a successful breeding period there has been a mini revival. This has resulted in an increase in grey kills but things seem back under control now. Red numbers are still steadily increasing with some areas seeing big numbers. As always it's so very important we get any reports of greys as soon as possible after seeing them as they are on the move and won't settle in areas for very long. Thank you all for your continued support of the red squirrels' cause.

David—P&DRSG Red Squirrel Ranger - Dalston/Caldbeck area



It's encouraging to learn that a red squirrel has been sighted where they have been absent for many years. Six years on from when I started controlling greys, I am pleased to report that this is happening with greater regularity and that greys are much less abundant. I am fortunate to have a team of reliable helpers who have made all the difference to my control effort particularly during the summer trapping campaigns. It's an opportunity missed not to exploit all control methods available when greys are hungry and vulnerable to trapping and feeder based shooting. To be able to mobilise help at this time is crucial to maximising the impact on grey populations. I thank those that have helped me over the year and given me free access to their woodland.

Gary—P&DRSG Red Squirrel Ranger - Upper Eden Valley area



Another good year in the Upper Eden Valley regarding the red squirrels but did lose three reds to the squirrel pox at Fieldhead, Stainmore. Thankfully it did not spread any more and reds are back in Isabelle's garden. Lost thirty reds to road kill so please feed the squirrels away from the road. I have now got some help in the Stainmore area which means I have more time for the rest of the upper eden valley. Thanks again for all the red and grey sightings. If you enjoy watching the reds or have reds in your garden then why not become a member of P&DRSG; with your help we will be able to see reds for a long time to come

John— P&DRSG Red Squirrel Ranger - Northern Eden Valley area



Spring saw a slightly decreased number of grey sightings but as we have moved on into early summer; May saw an increased number of greys trapped and shot. Things have gone a lot quieter into June with fewer grey sightings. I'm seeing red squirrels and their kittens in good numbers around the Lazonby, Kirkoswald, Ainstable and Armathwaite areas which is very encouraging indeed. Red sightings reports have been coming in more regularly than previous and especially throughout June in various locations across the Northern Eden Valley. If you see a grey or red squirrel, please send me an email or give me a call, all sighting are vitally important. I thank all of my volunteers and landowners for their help over the year, it is much appreciated.

Justin—P&DRSG Red Squirrel Ranger - Ullswater area



After taking on the job of Ranger late last year and a gap of six months with no ranger presence in the Ullswater area, the grey squirrel's had got a foot hold again in many woodlands. In the last 6 months I've culled good numbers of greys on both sides of lake Ullswater and I finally feel that the grey's are well under control. With constant trail camera monitoring and supplementary feeding over the lean winter period, I'm glad to see good numbers of red squirrels back in most woodlands. I've seen quite a few red kittens over the last month which is going to expand the population even further, also with public sightings supporting this. I'm still picking the odd grey up here and there and would encourage anyone sighting a grey to report it so we can act on this information swiftly. Many thanks again to all the landowners for allowing me to continue to work on their land. We also urgently need funding to carry out this vital work; if anyone can help, please do get in touch.

Jerry—Center Parcs Red Squirrel Ranger - Whinfell area

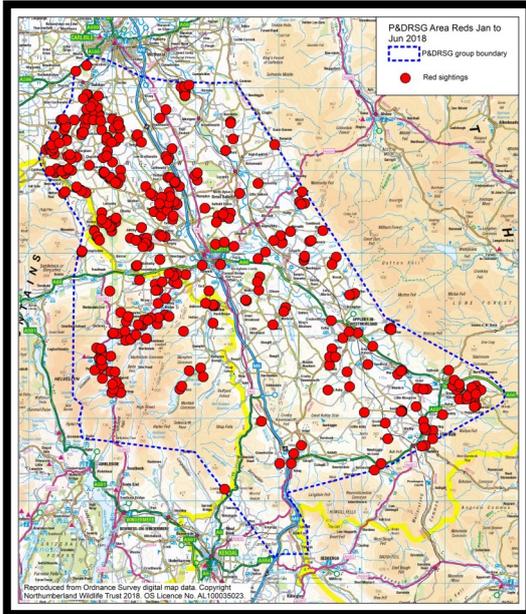


Following the squirrel pox outbreak at Whinfell a couple of years ago I am finally pleased to report that red sightings by staff and guests is on the up. We have also put up a number of feeders across Whinfell and these are being monitored by the rangers on site and trail cameras. I have seen red kittens in various areas I cover. Lowther Castle and Gardens has a nice population of reds at the moment. Pox hit The Beacon, Penrith and continues to cause issues but healthy reds are still being reported. Early May to present has seen an increase in grey numbers in some areas of my patch. Let's hope this good weather continues to possibly aid the chance of more red kittens. Thank you to everyone for their continued support.

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The Big picture



The map to the left shows a recent correlation from data gathered from our rangers, volunteers and members of the public who report red squirrel sightings and gives a good snapshot of red squirrel distribution in our group area. This is only possible thanks to all your reports and help.

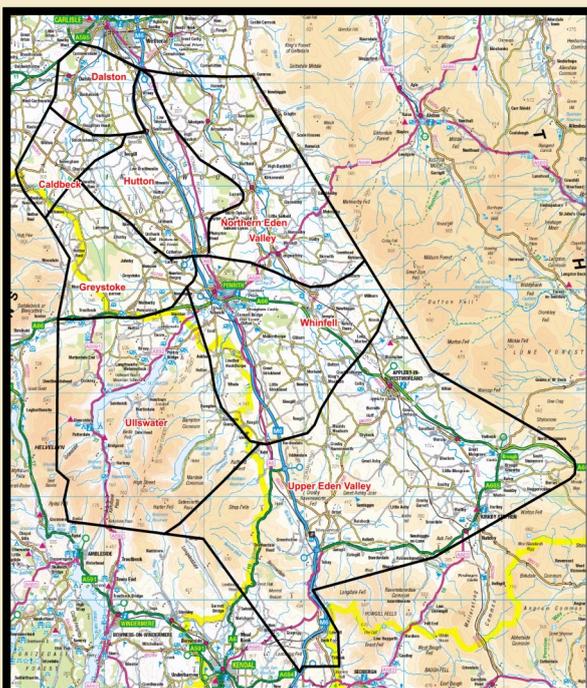
Figures for our group from standardised data Jan - June 2018 - 1,229 grey squirrels culled, **1,794 red squirrel sightings' reports**. Encouraging indeed!

Squirrel Data Recording - It's Essential

It is essential to red squirrel conservation that EVERYBODY involved provides records of their activities so we have evidence based data which proves how successful (or not) current methods are. This applies to all groups across the whole of the north of England.

If you see any squirrels don't delay, contact your area Ranger today!

Andrew	07983 459918	silverhodge@hotmail.com
David	07542 191865	dec@davidcowen.co.uk
Gary	07974 788434	garymurphy2408@btinternet.com
John	07841 449648	john.lisle@btinternet.com
Justin	07388 831150	info@penrithredsquirrels.org.uk
Jerry	07736 779965	jmossjerry@aol.com
Matthew	07949 366334	(RSNE Ranger, Greystoke area)



To report any squirrel sightings outside the P&DRSG's area, please report them to; northernredsquirrels.org.uk



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Jodie Squirrel

The Little Red Squirrel with a Big Personality

In May of this year, this little female red was found in a garden at Greenside near Ravenstonedale by a supporter of Penrith & District Red Squirrel Group (P&DRSG). It was clear to all concerned that the damp lethargic youngster was in need of plenty TLC, so contacted our P&DRSG ranger Gary Murphy who covers that area.

Gary delivered the red squirrel kitten to the home of Jerry Moss, P&DRSG trustee & senior red squirrel ranger for Center Parcs and his partner Sarah McNeil, red squirrel conservation volunteer. The couple are experienced in taking care of orphaned, abandoned, sick or injured reds and know the drill when any come their way.



Sarah would regularly syringe feed the youngster with supplement milk and gradually, over time, would introduce solid foods such as nuts, seeds, and fruit & veg for a more varied diet.

Happy with the little reds' progress Sarah and Jerry transferred the squirrel outdoors and into a bigger purpose built enclosure where she would enjoy more freedom of movement. Sarah regularly foraged raspberries, sloes, hazelnuts and pine cones from local woodlands in order to give her growing little friend a change of food and a taste of what she will

eventually look forward to when released back into the wild.

Sarah and Jerry kept our P&DRSG facebook users gripped with the comical little squirrels' antics as well as updates. Many people have been inspired to share her story onto their own social media pages and lots of awareness was raised about our group on the whole, which is great as it keeps everyone connected.



Sarah and Jerry named the squirrel kitten Jodie after a young lady from the Eden Valley. Jodie very kindly looked after her for a week while the couple were away on holiday and was delighted to learn that the little red was to be named after her.

At the time of the little reds' release, her own nesting boxes and flip lid squirrel feeders were placed in situ to aid her in her early stages of freedom.

Jodie was asked if she would like to do the honors of setting her free and gladly accepted. She and her family are very passionate about red squirrels and live near the release site so handy for her to monitor her little red friends' activities.

This chosen area is covered by one of our other P&DRSG rangers, John Lisle. John is responsible for making this site a grey squirrel free zone and is lucky enough to monitor a small colony of red squirrels within it.

Many thanks to our young volunteer Jodie, we hope you continue your caring work for the reds into the future.

Without doubt, the huge commitment and absolute dedication to red squirrel conservation by the whole team involved in this success story has secured a bright future for 'Jodie Squirrel', the little red with a big personality.



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How can you help

Local support is the key to all our activities and we would urge individuals/landowners/businesses to help fund but most importantly to retain their local ranger by becoming a member of this group. Details and the application form are at the end of this publication.

Donate online via our website at www.penrithredsquirrels.org.uk - You can make a donation by simply clicking on the 'Donate' icons on our website's 'Make A Donation' page.



Foreign & obsolete coins

Drop off your foreign & obsolete coins at drop off points, the Herald office, Penrith and Langwathby Post Office and we'll turn these into cash!



P&DRSG now has its own **Ebay shop**. If you have not visited it yet, why not have a look today? It has plenty of merchandise etc. available to purchase; bargains galore!



Leave a Legacy of Hope for our Reds.

It means you decide what happens to your money and belongings. Without a Will a Court can decide and there is the possibility that the Government could take it all. There are also tax benefits for bequests to Charities so ask your Solicitor to include P&DRSG in your Will. There are many ways to give, two of the most popular and effective are:

A Residual legacy - You make specific bequests to family and friends etc. and leave what is left to us.

A Specific legacy - A gift of money or specific item or items of value.

Leave a legacy of hope for our reds



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How can you help

Collection box success.



P&DRSG distributes our charity collecting boxes to local businesses and we now have approximately 125 situated in premises across our group area.

We are delighted with the success of this scheme and by how much we can raise from 'loose change'.

It is a significant and regular part of our income and we would like it to build on this.

Please contact us below should you wish to join this scheme and have one on your premises.



P&DRSG feeders & feed available - Developed by our red squirrel rangers, these substantial flip lid feeders have been specifically designed to allow supplementary feeding of red squirrels to help keep them thriving when natural food availability is scarce. They are great for gardens that have visiting reds (without cats) too!



These feeders are made from 100% recycled plastic; they do of course still need to be regularly cleaned and disinfected.

A feeder full (350g) 'starter pack' of mixed squirrel feed is available to purchase from us as are other quantities of this mix from 1kg - 20kg.



To purchase feeders/feed or for prices, please contact Jill on 07845 644035. Our feeders are also available to buy at WCF, Brunswick Road, Penrith and The Birds Bistro, Penruddock, Penrith.

For other P&DRSG information please contact us via the contact details at the foot of this page.

Join us on Facebook to share your red news. Facebook reader code below.



You can ALSO help us by;

- Sponsoring our contractor team
- Organising a fund raising event
- Sponsoring our feed costs
- Hosting our merchandise for sale
- Sponsoring our newsletter
- Recruiting new members



Fees & thanks

P&DRSG Thanks

Thank you to our regular sponsors who provide products and services to the group free of charge!

H & H Reeds Printers for generously providing all of our leaflets - www.hhreedsprinters.co.uk

The Brantwood Country Hotel for sponsoring our monthly meetings - www.brantwoodhotel.co.uk

Alan McViety, our independent accounts examiner - www.doddaccountants.co.uk

Cumbria Open for Business for sponsoring our website - www.cumbriaopenforbusiness.co.uk



Maize benefactors - Penrith & District Red Squirrel Group express our gratitude to both **J Stobart and sons Ltd & Carrs Billington** for their contributions to our cause.

Newsletter edition - This newsletter edition was kindly sponsored by **Center Parcs**, Whinfell Forest, Penrith. Thank you for your continued support of our group.



P&DRSG also give their huge thanks to all of our rangers & volunteers for their hard work and vigilance, our members for their support and all other individuals, businesses and landowners who continue to support our group, we really couldn't do it without you all!

Membership, Fees & Standing Orders

Please can **all** existing members complete the membership form overleaf and the GDPR section of the form and follow the asterix (*) symbols to circle with your preferences.

We retain our standard individual membership fees at £20 and family membership fees at £30 per annum by standing order, cash or cheque;

However in view of our funding position we hope very much that existing members will consider changing to - **a new monthly standing order** - by completing the form and standing order instruction overleaf.

Thank you so much for your support - we realise this is a big ask but this is vital as was made clear at our Annual Public Meeting recently - we enclose a copy of the Membership Drive presentation.

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Penrith & District Red Squirrel Group - Registered Charity No. 1117418

Membership / Donation Form Your donation provides a One Year Membership

Your details

Title _____ **First name** _____ **Surname** _____

Address _____ **Telephone** _____

_____ **Email** _____

_____ **Post code** _____

Existing * member/s * Please circle existing **New** * member/s application * Please circle new

I will pay * £5 £10 £15 £20 * Please circle one **by monthly standing order**

or other amount £ _____ * **monthly / yearly / by standing order** * Please circle one

Signature _____ **Date** _____

For Standing Orders please complete the Standing Order Instruction below.

For cheques please make payable to Penrith & District Red Squirrel Group or P&DRSG.

Gift Aid?

Want to increase your contribution by 25% at NO COST to you?

* **Yes / No** As a registered charity, Penrith & District Red Squirrel Group can reclaim 25% of the amount you donate from the tax you pay.
* Circle one above

For us to claim Gift Aid, you must agree we can, and your taxes must exceed the Gift Aid amount.

As a UK taxpayer if you pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed it is your responsibility to pay any difference



Penrith & District Red Squirrel Group

Standing Order Instruction

To _____ **Bank / Building Society**

Bank Address 1 _____

Bank Address 2 _____ **Post Code** _____

Regarding **Account Number** _____ **Sort Code** _____
Eight Digits Six Digits

Account Name _____
The name of the account holder

Please pay HSBC Bank, Market Square, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 7SN Sort Code **40-36-10** for the credit of Penrith & District Red Squirrel Group, Account Number **01310968**

the sum of £ _____ . _____ Beginning _____ of _____ , _____
day month year

and thereafter every month / year * on the same day until further notice,
*Circle one above

and debit my/our account accordingly, cancelling any previous Standing Order to P&DRSG

Signed _____ **Dated** _____

The signature of the account holder

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Penrith & District Red Squirrel Group (P&DRSG) captures **your details** in a membership database that is **shared with P&DRSG Trustees and Rangers for your area**. To comply with GDPR we need your consent to hold your data so we can contact you and send newsletters and messages. * Please circle around your preference below.

I would like P&DRSG to send me newsletters and messages. * I would not like P&DRSG to send me newsletters and messages. *

Please return this form to Penrith & District Red Squirrel Group, Woodside, Armathwaite, Cumbria CA4 9SX or by email to info@penrithredsquirrels.org.uk