

Fram news December

At a recent Northern Red Squirrels meeting I had the chance to meet up with volunteers from many groups throughout the county, and I was quite surprised and heartened to hear that every single one of them has some reds within their boundaries, from the Allen Rivers in the west, to Seaton Deleval in the west, the Tyne valley in the south and the Border in the north.

We even had an interloper from south of the Tyne... did you know there is a thriving nucleus of reds in Co Durham?

Generally all groups suffer from the same problem, not enough volunteers on the ground to deal with the rapid reproduction of the grey squirrel. The smallest of tasks, even putting up a few posters, or keeping an eye on a feeder for us would be appreciated. The Fram Running Fox now has a supply of Christmas cards too, very reasonable and very cute!

More bad news from Newcastle this week, there has been an outbreak of squirrel pox in the reds at Havannah Nature Reserve, which is between Hazelrigg village and the Airport. The reds there are really under pressure and as development is planned for the area it doesn't sound as if there is much of a future for any of the precious wildlife there.

We desperately need to keep our red populations as healthy as we can where they have a chance of long term survival away from the planners.

There is quite a lot of natural food around right now for squirrels who in theory are storing nuts and seeds to dig up later in the in winter although opinion differs as to how good their memory is to locate their own caches!

We are getting sightings of both reds and greys, thank you to all those who have made the effort to report them. In this Fram news there is a bookmark with our website details, directing you towards our handy "report a squirrel" button.

Many thanks.

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