

Carolyn is latest trophy holder

Carolyn Ferguson is this year's trophy holder. Carolyn has been helping with fundraising and shows for the last 10 years. She is very reliable and competent, a must when you are organising events and going to shows.



Shop window

If you are in Newport, do have a look at our window display. It's 61 High Street, next to Castlehold Lane. Tufty is sporting a smart mask with a red squirrel design and snazzy blue gloves. There is also a lot of information on the display boards.

Facebook

As I said in the last bulletin, Karena is leaving as Facebook and Instagram page administrator. Julia has kindly offered to take the job on, for which I am extremely grateful. Social media is great for keeping in contact with red squirrel fans but my time is so stretched already I could not do it justice.

What I am doing though is to send Julia my experiences over the 30 years I've been working with red squirrels. Starting from 1991 and uploading a few sentences at a time, plus pictures a few times a week, it will take a while to reach 2020!

Calendar

The calendar this year is for The IOW Red Squirrel Trust as it alternates with Wight Squirrel Project. If you would like a copy please contact Beth on 07746 573707 or email: iowredsquirreltrust@gmail.com



Next year I aim to produce a calendar showing colour variation in red squirrels. I've advertised on Facebook already. Photographers have until the end of May 2021 to send pictures for what will be the 2022 calendar sold in aid of WSP.

This photo was taken by a gentleman who lived in Brook and it's pre-digital, so the quality is not good enough for a calendar. Photos need to be 300 dpi and pin sharp. The colour variation is obvious!



Publication progress

This enormous task is making steady progress. I'm grateful to a number of volunteers for copying out old reports that were typewritten and for running graphs. If you are bored and would like to help please contact me.

Michael Hodge retiring

Michael has been inputting sightings for many years and even wrote the programmes to make the job easier. He was the first person to have the WSP volunteer trophy. Trevor Humphreys is taking over this valuable help.

Don't forget to let me know if you see a squirrel on the Isle of Wight, alive or dead. Go to the website: www.wightsquirrels.co.uk to download the app or fill in the online form. Alternatively, use the phone number or email address at the bottom of this page.

Squirrel sightings

Monitoring is THE most important aspect of red squirrel work and we need your help to cover the island. If you see a squirrel on the Isle of Wight please let me know via the app, online form, phone or email.



Zoe is a 'guinea pig' trialling new ways of citizen science monitoring. I'm also looking at different ways to monitor our reds without invasive techniques that will stress and sometimes kill them. It's not what we are about. Camera traps and hairtube surveys as well as walking transects are all effective and used by groups in other parts of the country.

Technology is advancing fast and I like the idea of using hairs to extract DNA as a means of monitoring. The hairs are taken off the sticky pads placed in hairtubes, so it's non-invasive.

New hazelnut crop eaten early July

The squirrels are starting on the new crop earlier as the years pass. It used to be early August, then the end of July. This year, I found these partially ripe nuts opened in Firestone Copse on July 11th!

There are fircones in Firestone Copse as well as other foods so it's not as if they are desperately short of food.



Keep well everyone. *Helen*