

Red squirrel sightings

Without the shows, I must admit I thought the number of reported sightings would be far fewer this year. At the moment sightings are on track to reach over 1000, which is not bad considering the weird year we have had. The app is equalling, if not outperforming the online form at present. I still welcome emails and phone calls of course.

Having to do it myself now, I'm really appreciating the work Michael did inputting data. It is time consuming, especially when technology fails or entries are not made properly.

Once all the data is collated for 2020, it will be analysed and put into graphs and tables ready for the hard copy 4 page newsletter in the spring.

This is the pen-ultimate bulletin. I will send one more out and then work on the data and newsletter. The '30 years of red squirrels on the Isle of Wight' publication is moving along slowly but surely. The aim is to have it ready for publication in the spring as well.

It is in 3 volumes, with volume one complete and I'm well into volume two, which is the longest and hardest as it contains most of the data analysis. I am very grateful to Sally for running the graphs, she is making an excellent job of extracting answers to the questions I send along with the spreadsheets.

You can support Wight Squirrel Project buying our Christmas cards, here is the link—

<https://www.fluidic.co.uk/c/6042/wight-squirrel-project>

Shop display

Tufty is back from his film role and as he has the acting bug now, he is happy to be Father Christmas Squirrel for a few weeks. I'll add to the display once lockdown is over.



Feeders and dreys

Mike has been making feeders and dreys for over 15 years now. They have evolved over time, according to timber availability and customer feedback. For example, several times, a squirrel has been killed by a heavy lid or another squirrel jumping on the lid whilst one has its head in the box, not from one of our feeders I hasten to add. We leave a gap at the top of the plastic insert.

Dreys are difficult as each location needs a different fixing, so I don't think we will make these anymore. Accessing suitable timber has been a challenge as well.

Calendar 2022

Red squirrels come in many colours, including grey. The challenge for photographers wanting a picture in the next calendar is to take pin sharp photos of red squirrels in a variety of coat colour. Here are a few examples.



There are many more colour variations and mixtures, with summer coats differing from winter. It's nothing to do with age or gender, just genetic variation. Happy snapping and I look forward to seeing the results! Please email to: wightsquirrels@hotmail.com

Don't forget to get your 2021 red squirrel calendar!

Contact Beth for your copy—

iowredsquirreltrust@gmail.com

Films uploaded to u-tube

You can now download 7 red squirrel films from u-tube using the link on our website or this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnwqLyLyMoHsx2-0a9rkNLA>

Helen