

Photo competition winners

The bluebells and red squirrels photo competition run on Facebook for us by Karena Barton was a great success with 40 very good entries.

Alan Marriott from the IW County Press and Chris Griffin from Bluebells Cafe, Briddlesford Road had the hard job of picking the winners. Fiona Bannister scooped the first prize in the red squirrels and bluebells class and her picture will appear in the 2021 calendar. Mark Linnell won the bluebells class.



Facebook and Instagram

Karena has made an excellent job of Facebook and Instagram and I thank her for volunteering for this job. Sadly Karena is moving on and I thank her for the excellent job she has done in a short time to get Wight Squirrel Project Facebook and Instagram pages up and running.

Masks

Red squirrel enthusiast Debbie Hart, and her neighbour Shirley, made masks out of material with red squirrels on for us to sell. They are lined and the material is good quality so will survive the washing machine plenty of times. If you would like one, please email Beth as she is distributing them. They are £5 each plus £1.50 P+P if posted. The email address is: iowredsquirreltrust@gmail.com



Squirrel sightings update

As expected, once restrictions were eased, resulting in more traffic, red squirrel road kills rose. Two squirrels were killed in March, none in April and 8 were hit by cars in May. One was particularly distressing as the mother squirrel was killed and the youngster with her kept going back to her in the middle of the road. It did go into a garden eventually. Fingers crossed it was weaned and could manage without mum.

Otherwise it's pretty much as normal with sightings of young squirrels and plenty of garden activity now natural food is shorter. If you have garden squirrels don't forget to put water out for them, preferably off the ground. Thank you to Sandy and Brian for letting me sit in their garden to take this photograph of a squirrel taking a drink—off the ground.



Shop window

As there are no shows this year and you will be missing us (I hope) I asked a local estate agent re putting up a display in an empty shop window. There are so many empty shops in the High Streets it is quite depressing. A colourful and informative display will liven up one shop window in Newport High Street until a tenant is found. Thank you for the use of 61 High Street, Newport goes to Mr Saunders and agents Hose Rhodes Dickson. I'll aim to change the window monthly.

Helen