

NORTHEAST RED SQUIRRELS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2018

‘Red Squirrels Back on Tyne’ project Launched

It’s been a very busy year for our charity culminating with the welcome news in September that we had received a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £59,500 for our ‘Red Squirrels back on Tyne project’. Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players, the project will focus on surveying, stabilising and then expanding the range of red squirrel populations that are found to the east and west of the city of Newcastle.



“Our aims are to restore red squirrels to woodlands in the project area and to encourage the local community to 'adopt a wood' and take over long term monitoring and care of their red squirrels. The key to our project is community engagement. The understanding and support of the local communities along the Tyne are crucial to our success. To be sustainable, and really allow red squirrels to repopulate local woods and survive long term, we need landowners and local

people to help and get involved with our project.”

The project was officially launched on the 27th October at Hazlerigg War Memorial Hall. We would like to thank Heritage Lottery for putting its faith in us!

Our third project ‘RED SQUIRRELS BACK ON TYNE’ is underway!

Our new project is now underway and we are making progress with our aims. We have, in the past month, managed to secure relationships with several landowners in our project area and have begun to deliver our aims. We are also working closely with local volunteer groups and will be encouraging communities in the project area to get involved through the delivery of several organised talks and training events. We have participated at two lively community meetings in the North Tyne this autumn. We have further talks scheduled in 2019. Watch this space!



COMMUNITY RED SQUIRREL TALK

Matfen Village Hall Sunday 20th January 2019 at 2pm

Find out all about our native red squirrels and more information about our Charity, our latest project and how you can get involved

EDUCATION, EDUCATION, EDUCATION!

We believe that education is a key part to helping our red squirrels to thrive and children are at the heart of this! We are organising several talks at local schools in 2019 and have already begun helping children appreciate the need for red squirrel conservation. Rachel Locke led a group of children and their parents around Havannah NR near Hazelrigg in September for "Red Squirrels Revealed". The children had a great time and saw some beautiful 'tufties' in action at the reserve feeders. [A Northumberland red by A Worthington](#)



REDS RETURN!



Our rangers have already seen success with reds recolonising a woodland in the northern edge of our new project area!

After intensive squirrel conservation efforts our rangers were thrilled to see reds back in the woods and feeding happily on the feeders. A fantastic result! We hope to report more success stories in the new year.

(Photo taken by a feeder camera in a Northumberland wood)

COME AND MEET OUR RANGERS!

Our Rangers will also be at several **Farmers' Marts** in south Northumberland during January and February 2019. They will be available to chat about our work and explain how landowners and the community can get involved. For further information please contact us.

NORTHEAST **RED** SQUIRRELS PROJECTS UPDATE

Our charity is unique as it is volunteer led. This means that all our funds can be steered directly to our projects on the ground and, as a result, our funds go further! **Northeast Red Squirrels** works closely with local volunteer groups and we help to support their work when required. We are continuing to attract further volunteers to help us to deliver the aims of our projects.

Our strategy is to deliver our aims through a series of projects. Along with our most recently launched project we also have two other projects underway. Our first, '**Southeast Northumberland**' was launched in 2016 and its aims are to support local volunteer groups where needed. To date, this project has been supported by several private donations and this has enabled us to support several groups with funds and materials. Our second project '**Red Squirrels Newcastle**' launched in 2017. Its focus is to consolidate and expand the range of red squirrels within the Newcastle boundary. With a Postcode Lottery Grant we have been able to exceed our expectations with reds beginning to be sighted in the Newcastle City area on an increasingly regular basis. Each of our current projects are ongoing and our work will continue in each area. Our long term aims are to continue to launch further projects each linking and building on the work already underway.



If you would like to get involved please get in touch. **Volunteers are key to our success!**

WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN HELP OUR NATIVE REDS!

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