



## Winter 2018

Welcome to the winter 2018 email newsletter. We do hope that you had a good festive break and had plenty of opportunities to get out wildlife watching. There have been some red squirrel good news stories in the media over the past couple of months. For the first time in decades red squirrels are being seen in Aberdeen; Denbighshire's Clocaenog Forest has been recognised by the Welsh Government as providing safe haven for red squirrels; and there has been a successful reintroduction of red squirrels to north-west Scotland.

Do keep an eye out for the Red Squirrels United information boards that have now been installed across the stronghold areas that we are working in.



## Scientific advance

Genomes (the complete set of genetic information) of both red and grey squirrels are going to be sequenced for the first time. This means that scientists will have more understanding than ever before of how they grow and develop.



## Award-winning blogger

A big thank you to Dara McAnulty for his support of the programme. Have a read of how he's been getting involved in the Ulster Wildlife RSU project here.



## Red squirrel appreciation day

Red squirrel appreciation day is taking place on Sunday 21 January 2018. Keep an eye on our Facebook and Twitter pages for events to get involved in on the day. Do let us know if you are planning an event that you would like us to promote for you.



## Surveying volunteers needed

Would you like to get out in the woods this spring? Northumberland Wildlife Trust and Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside are looking for squirrel surveying volunteers. It's a great opportunity to see areas of the forest that you've never seen before, whilst benefitting your physical and mental health through a good old walk in the woods. You'll just need to set up a trail camera and feeding box and return to check what has been recorded two-three weeks later. Sticky pads are placed in the feeder to take hair samples to establish whether grey or red squirrels have been feeding. With over 300 sites monitored in the north-east England and 32 sites in the north-west (which they are looking to expand), there are plenty of places to visit. You'll be playing a vital role in mapping the squirrel populations which will help monitor the progress of the red squirrel conservation. If this is something you would like to get involved with contact Simon (Northumberland Wildlife Trust) or Rachel (The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside). Have a look at our video to see what it's like to survey the squirrels.

Red Squirrels United is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and EU LIFE14 and brings together organisations from across the UK to help protect red squirrels by raising public awareness and engaging community groups. LIFE14 NAT/UK/000467

For regular updates follow our social media channels:

