



Winter Newsletter

Ballypatrick Feeder Site Report

The Ballypatrick feed site consists of three feeders at the edge of the car park next to the path that makes its way through the trees. There are three more feeders next to the forest access gate that served the old camping site; this area was cleared in 2010 as part of harvesting. The feeders in Ballypatrick are well used through the week but the squirrels only use them early in the morning over the weekend as the car park becomes very busy with cars and walkers. The squirrels can be seen crossing the road as they forage for food. Ballypatrick forest is made up of many different large plantings of coniferous trees with some small sections of broadleaf trees.



Please contact us if you'd like to help out. We always need new volunteers

Deer can often be seen in the winter months as they eat the grass from the road edges. There are number of birds of prey in the area such as sparrow hawks, buzzards, kestrels and hen harriers. Ballypatrick has a wide variety of animal and insect life. The best place to see this is in and around the horse shoe car park where the pools and ponds host many dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies from early summer to September.

GRSG PONS Project .. When did you last see a red squirrel?

This is a question that we are asking people in the Larne Ballygally area. The Red Squirrel is our native Squirrel and is one of our iconic mammals that are a joy to watch and are a part of the natural balance of our Woodlands. The Glens Red Squirrel Group with the support of the Northern Ireland Environmental Link NGO Challenge Fund has launched an ambitious project to protect all of our Native Species in Carnfunnock Country Park and Ballygally area and pave the way for the return of our native Red. The greatest threat to our native wildlife, songbirds, Trees and Red squirrels is the invasive and alien Grey Squirrel. This predator devastates songbird's nests, destroys trees and carries a fatal disease that will kill a red squirrel in a matter of weeks. The plan is to remove Grey Squirrels from the area with the "Protecting our Native Species" (PONS) Project. The Group are looking for volunteers to report sightings and if people wish to do more we will train them to humanely Trap Grey Squirrels that can then be removed. For more details visit our website www.glensredsquirrelgroup.com contact any local member of the Group or ring 0871 315 7376.

www.glensredsquirrelgroup.com

BT Volunteer wins £700 FOR GRSG

BT has rewarded the Glens Red Squirrel Group a grant of £700 to recognise the group's commitment to protecting and maintaining the population of red squirrels in the Glens of Antrim.



Gerard and his manager Joe Friel explore the recent technology being deployed.

The grant has been awarded through the company employee recognition scheme "The BT People Awards" The scheme recognises and rewards BT's volunteers, who offer their time and skills to help people in their local communities, by providing grants to the organisations in which they are directly involved. Gerard Mc Caughan, a BT Employee volunteers for the Glens Red Squirrel Group and he nominated them for the BT People Award.

Pine marten and Squirrel Survey 2015

Quercus (at Queens University) have been fortunate enough to be funded by the Challenge Fund (plastic bag tax) to survey Northern Ireland for pine martens and squirrels using citizen scientists. To do this we need volunteers to help us between January and March next year. If you think you can help then please get in touch! **Contact: chair@glensredsquirrelgroup.com**

The group are assisting Dave Tosh with an information meeting and there is great interest from volunteers, group members and people interested in the survey and wishing to take part. This survey will benefit the Glens and the whole of N.Ireland in giving an overall view on red, grey and pine marten population across the country.



Red goes to Town.

On the run up to Christmas and while we were all getting involved in the bustle of shopping, shoppers in Ballycastle were shocked to see that the local squirrels were no different.

Ballycastle shop Indigo Jewellers had an unexpected shopper. A red squirrel decided to pop in. The Squirrel had been seen running down the main street and entering the open door of Indigo Jewellery where Nuala Scally Hill (pictured) who saw the squirrel going into the shop gave pursuit. Nuala was able to capture it only after it had taken some time to browse around the jewelery. Staff and Nuala were able to release the squirrel safely to the area behind the shop that leads to the Tow River and the newly restored Tow path Walk.

So keep your eyes open for any more Red Squirrels in Ballycastle's Main Street and along the Tow. And a Big thanks to Nuala for helping this wee red out!



chair@glensredsquirrelgroup,
secretary@glensredsquirrelgroup.com
info@glensredsquirrelgroup.com

GRSG HOTLINE

If you see it - Red or Grey,
Report it!

0871 315 7376



www.glensredsquirrelgroup.com