

Perth & Kinross Red Squirrel Group – update for SSG

National Lottery: Community Wildlife fund

PKRSG's Red squirrel conservation efforts were significantly boosted by receipt of a funding award from the National Lottery (via its Community Wildlife Fund) for over £3,500. Across two weeks in May (w/c 16th and 23rd) and with the help of the Royal Mail some 36,470 'Reds on your doorstep' leaflets were distributed to all PH1 and PH2 residential postcodes as part of the daily postal delivery. The leaflet highlighted two areas close to Perth city where red squirrels can still be encountered – Kinnoull Hill and Moncreiffe Hill. It also highlighted the direct threat posed to the red squirrel by the grey squirrel.

Response from the public to the leaflets has been overwhelming with lots of squirrel sighting reports submitted via our website and many leads still being followed up.

Kilgraston School, Bridge of Earn

Back in March one of the teachers at Kilgraston school outside Bridge of Earn got in touch with PKRSG to let us know that she had been amazed to come across two red squirrels in the school grounds which were over-run with greys. A red squirrel conservation project began shortly afterwards with a 'red only' squirrel feeder being installed in the grounds and maintained by the nursery school children. In addition a discrete trapping operation began and to date 40 greys have been removed. Members of the grounds staff who have worked at the school for many years have been delighted to see their first red squirrel which have now become a common sight (the reds bred successfully in the spring with the young red squirrels becoming quite bold and approachable).

Perth city Update

We are actively helping a number of householders trap greys at key locations around the city with a focus on Kinnoull Hill (in private gardens by the monastery, on the south bank by Kinfauns castle across 20 acres of woodland and also around Branklyn Gardens). 25 greys caught so far. We intend to support the South Perth Users Group trap greys on St Magdalene Hill and by Buckie Braes in the springtime. We also intend, in conjunction with the Scottish Golf Environment Group, to explore trapping options in King James VI Golf Club (below Friarton bridge).