

The following items were received after the December magazine went to print.

Pat Taylor would like to thank all those who helped during her recent illness. She writes:

Dear Friends and members of the WI and St. Oswalds Church.

Brian & I are so grateful for your kindness and support during my recent illness.

Your rota system which produced a main meal for both of us was both substantial, varied and tasty. We were never hungry or short of a meal, indeed, we had to ask you to stop as we no longer had space in the fridge or freezer. It was astonishing. Brian looked after Saturday nights with a nice piece of steak. (his favourite!)

My Daughter in law Glenys was there all the way even taking time off work to look after me, making my bed, cooking and shopping etc. She was and is my angel!

I continue to improve although I still have my off days. I hope to be back to normal by Christmas.

Love

Pat Taylor

Red Squirrels Update

After many years working as our part-time Squirrel Ranger, Robert Dixon is to retire from this role at the end of November 2016. We are most grateful to Robert for his dedication to the task and highly effective work keeping Grasmere free of greys throughout this period.

We are pleased to say that Jonny Perrem will take over the Ranger role for Grasmere from 1st December. Jonny lives in the village and will keep on the tradition of Grasmere being 100% self-sufficient in grey control effort. Please

get in touch with Jonny on 07809 871868 immediately you see a grey squirrel in Grasmere.

News of the reds

Due to an exceptionally high number of greys entering Grasmere in the autumn of 2015 they gave Squirrelpox to our reds in the Greenhead area and 16 died between November and March. By the time of the population survey in August 2016 the number of reds in Greenhead has recovered to 8.

The total red population for Grasmere in August this year was estimated to be 45, down from 55 the previous year. Through the summer there were hardly any reports of reds in the central village, but quite a lot in the Autumn. None have been seen at Helmside. In October a cat killed a red at Broadgate Orchard. So far the number of red roadkills this year is 10 (6 on the A591 and 4 on Red Bank Road).

Tackling the greys

After a disastrous 2015 when we were overrun with greys, especially in the Autumn, the total number entering our area so far in 2016 is less than 40.

How you can help

In order to sustain the red squirrel conservation work to ensure the reds have a home in Grasmere forever will require both effort and money. The Grasmere RSG would very much like to hear any ideas and thoughts you may have on how these requirements might be achieved now and for the long-term.

For example, GRSG would welcome a volunteer to help with fundraising in Grasmere, say by engaging our local businesses. Anyone with enthusiasm to take this on, especially if they had experience in fundraising, would be a tremendous benefit to us.

If you would like to make a donation to the conservation of the red squirrels in Grasmere, please send me a cheque or use a collection box, they are located in these shops in Grasmere:

Beck Steps Gift Shop
Post Office

IF YOU SEE A GREY ANYWHERE AROUND GRASMERE PLEASE TELL US IMMEDIATELY – Don't leave it till tomorrow! The main contact is

Jonny Perrem 07809 871868. If he isn't available then call Trevor Cooper 35502 Jane Cooper 35589 or myself 35263.

Thank you

Many thanks to everyone who has contacted us with local sightings – especially greys - they are really helpful.

A big thank you to all the entrants of the Grasmere Gallop run by the National Trust which raised £4000 to support our squirrels. Also those Grasmere RSG supporters and NT staff who helped with the organisation.

We have received donations from individuals and collecting boxes. Many thanks to all concerned for their generous contributions.

This is a short version of the newsletter which is emailed several times a year – contact me if you want to receive them.

Stewart Sutcliffe