

Annual Report of the Fermanagh Red Squirrel Group (October 2017 - November 2018)



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October 2017

- FRSG Public Meeting and AGM (18/10/17)
The AGM followed a successful public meeting at Castle Coole, R Cremia (Secretary) gave an update of the year gone past and Michael Sinson, the Fermanagh Red Squirrel Officer gave a presentation on his project.

March 2018

- FRSG renewed public liability insurance cover through Zurich Insurance.
We have public liability insurance to cover our activities at a cost €84 (14th March '18 – 13th March '19). The amount has reduced from previous years as we are now more realistic about how many public events we run.

March/April/May 2018

- Red Squirrel United Monitoring/Survey programme – 2nd Programme with RSU
The Red Squirrel's United project ran a survey project across Northern Ireland to get up-to-date distribution data on red squirrels, greys and pine martens. In Fermanagh, a meeting/workshop held at Waterways Ireland was run to encourage and sign people up to the survey. A number of FRSG members and others from the county signed-up to take part in the survey.

April 2018

- RSU Small Grants Programme
We received news from Ulster Wildlife that our application was successful for approximately €2,000 worth of equipment to monitor grey squirrels for red squirrel conservation. The Ulster Wildlife purchased equipment on behalf of applicants, which we collected at a RSU Meeting on 14/8/18 at Fermanagh House. Following are the items we took receipt of:

Name/Activity	Indicated Item Cost (€)	Requested Amount
Revised 13497 Ulster Squirrel Camera x 10	€24	€240
Scrub Squirrels x 20	7	140
Batteries - Lithium batteries 16 pack x 10	20	200
Revised 13497 Ulster Squirrel Camera x 10	24	240
RSU Small Grants Programme	20	200
RSU Small Grants Programme	20	200
Storage Battery 220 mAh	18	180
Storage Battery 220V x 10	12	120
Fermanagh 50kg	70	70
Total		€1,980

May 2018

- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 25/5/18
FRSG complied with GDPR and emailed-out to its contact list requesting members to opt-in if they continued to receive posts from us. This has resulted in a considerably-reduced email list however we do feel this represents members that are active/interested.

www.fermanaghredsquirrelgroup.com
13th December 2018

June 2018

- BBC's Countryfile filming with RSU at Ely Lodge with FRSG volunteer
Ulster Wildlife's Michael Shison was interviewed by Countryfile on the project with a specific focus on pine martens using Ely Lodge as site. Veina McCullough kindly agreed to appear with Michael which was press press for the project and our group. Well done all!

July 2018

- Outdoor Adventures' event at National Trust's Crom Estate (1/7/18)
We attended a great event at the property – helped by the good weather. We brought along our mammal track activity tiles which were a great hit. The stand was really busy and demonstrated the real interest people have in red squirrels and mammal conservation.

August 2018

- Red Squirrel's United Meeting - Follow-up from Spring Monitoring Programme
A number of FRSG attended an open meeting for an update on the RSU Project and also handed-back any equipment, data etc we held. We also took receipt of the items purchased on our behalf through the Small Grants Programme.

November 2018

- FRSG/RSU – Grey Squirrel Monitoring Event @ Bawnacre, Irwinestown (7/11/18)
We co-hosted a meeting organised by the RSU to encourage volunteers to in the north/north-east bordering Fernanagh/Tyrone to monitor for greys. This attracted an additional 4 new volunteers to the group and equipment was given to them on loan.

Equipment Use

We have now added another 10 cameras to our current 11 making a grand total of 21 trail cameras that we have for members to use along with associated equipment and feed. A record of these cameras and who they are currently on loan to is held by the Secretary.

Email, Website and Facebook

We continue to respond to queries via our website and Facebook. We have 400 FB followers/likes ☺ Our email account is also monitored regularly and we

Special Mentions

Thank you to our Committee members and members who have volunteered their time to help with the work of the group. We would also like to thank the Forest Service, the National Trust, Ulster Wildlife, NISF, NIEA and Fernanagh & Omagh District Council. We would also like specifically to thank:

- Thank you to all those who put some much effort into the RSU Grant bid.
- Andy Smith, Trenbana for continuing to host and manage our website for free;
- Stephanie Blakely for managing our Facebook page;
- Thank you to our out-going Chair, Malachy Martin for all his support over the years.
