

Penrith & District Red Squirrel Group

Trustees' Report and Accounts

For the Period 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2020



**Penrith &
District
Red Squirrel
Group**



Penrith & District Red Squirrel Group

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT For 2020

Trustees for the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020 were:

Robert Benson (Chairman), Julie Bailey (Treasurer), Jill Pettigrew (Secretary) Edward Lowthian, Jerry Moss, and Ian Jack who were all re-appointed at the Virtual Annual General Meeting held on Zoom on 17th April 2020.

The Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees and all retire at the next AGM after appointment but can offer themselves for reappointment.

The governing document for the Group is the constitution adopted on 10th October 2006 and it is the Trustees who conduct the business of this charitable trust.

The Trustees continually seek to advance the objectives of the charity by promoting the preservation of the red squirrel population in their natural habitat of Penrith district and their protection from extinction for the public benefit and to advance the education of the public and conduct research concerning the red squirrel population in the Penrith district and its endangered status.

In addition to the Annual General Meeting the Trustees held 2 other trustee / ranger meetings during 2020. Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic all were held virtually and the Annual Public meeting was cancelled.

The main activities of the charity during the year can be summarised as follows:-

1. Promoting red squirrel conservation throughout the Penrith & District area by organising and carrying out a number of activities. All such planned events were however cancelled due to Corona virus although one or two talks were given by Zoom.
2. Publicity by press releases, newsletters, email and website to educate and encourage the public to become members and/or volunteer and report squirrel sightings continued.
3. Undertake the control of grey squirrels across the Penrith & District area using all legal methods and where funding is in place, engage the services of full or part time contract red squirrel rangers. This work was largely unaffected by Covid and all contract rangers continued their contracts.
4. Recruit, train, organise, encourage and support volunteers to undertake grey squirrel control and/or squirrel monitoring throughout the Penrith & District area.
5. Obtain funding from all possible sources to support these activities.

The main achievements of the charity during the year can be summarised as follows:-

1. The Group were delighted that in 2020, despite CV they were able to continue to have red squirrel ranger cover across the whole of their areas of operation (650 square miles) by funding the engagement of three full time and two part time contractor red squirrel rangers.
2. Continued to support and strengthen the network of coordinators and volunteers who undertake grey squirrel control and squirrel monitoring throughout our areas of operation. This local knowledge, and support continues to be vital to our strategy and ensures the efficient reporting of all squirrel sightings.
3. The successful application to the Green Recovery Challenge Fund for grant with receipt of the first tranche of funding in December 2020 will make an enormous difference – expanding the number of contractors doing grey control to 4 full time and 3 part time and adding a lot of equipment which will help the sustainability of the group. Working in partnership with RSNE (Red Squirrels North England) and Centre Parcs, coordination of our standardised squirrel data recording in 2020 shows that red squirrel sightings remain encouragingly high and relatively stable across most of our area of operations but Trustees are concerned about the spread of grey squirrels particularly in the North Eden Valley, hence

the addition of a further full time contractor to this area – 2020 having been a very good breeding year with a lot of natural feed.

4. The sale of Squirrel Feeders made by Rangers in their own time has provided a very good source of funding.

The Trustees are very pleased with the results and achievements of another successful year despite the pandemic which has severely curtailed fundraising and events. The GRCF funding has greatly strengthened the charity in the short term. New fundraising initiatives will need to be undertaken in order to maintain the ranger programme in its current enlarged form going forward. The Trustees hope that this current level of ranger cover can be maintained in order to try and ensure landscape coverage of the P&DRSG area.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees this day... Date September 23rd 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Benson', with a horizontal dotted line underneath it.

R. Benson - Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Bailey'.

J. Bailey - Treasurer

Penrith and District Red Squirrel Group

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Report to the Trustees/members of Penrith and District Red Squirrel Group on the accounts for the year ended 31/12/2020 for Charity number: 1117418 as set out on pages -

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examine

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act.
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directors given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented by those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

(2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Signed:

Date: 15 February 2021

Name: Alan McViety FCA

Dodd & Co
Clint Mill
Penrith
Cumbria
CA11 7HW

Penrith and District Red Squirrel Group (Registered Charity No:1117418)

Receipts and Payments Account for the period 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2020

	General	Restricted	Total
RECEIPTS			
Contracts/Projects/Grants	10,550.00	139,000.00	149,550.00
Donations	27,089.03		27,089.03
Membership	36,837.99		36,837.99
Collection Boxes	956.55		956.55
Merchandise	31,863.65		31,863.65
Events	807.95		807.95
Gift Aid	8,275.29		8,275.29
Total Receipts	<u>116,380.46</u>	<u>139,000.00</u>	<u>255,380.46</u>
PAYMENTS			
Mileage	467.40		467.40
Projects	81,520.45	39,468.39	120,988.84
KISSS	120.00		120.00
Postage, Stationery, Printing	218.41		218.41
EDC Lic	40.00		40.00
Insurance	1,198.95		1,198.95
Merchandise	13,063.67		13,063.67
Equipment	2,155.14		2,155.14
Total Payments	<u>98,784.02</u>	<u>39,468.39</u>	<u>138,252.41</u>
NET of RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS	17,596.44	99,531.61	117,128.05
Cash Funds Last Year End	29,290.04	17,702.80	46,992.84
Cash Funds This Year End	<u>46,886.48</u>	<u>117,234.41</u>	<u>164,120.89</u>