**AGENDA - Knowledge Fair 2020**

**Saturday 22 February – Sunday 23 February**

**The Grand Hotel, High Gosforth Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 5HN**

**Saturday 22 Feb**

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| **Time** | **Session** | **Speaker** | **Chair** | **Roving Microphone** |
| 9.30-10.00am | Registration, coffee and refreshments |  |  |  |
| 10.00-10.05am | Introduction and housekeeping | **Nikki Robinson**  Red Squirrels United | Dr Craig Shuttleworth | Becky B and Gillian F |
| 10.05-10.30am | **Invasive species: one of the biggest threats to global biodiversity?**  In the red squirrel community, we're all too aware of the disastrous impact that grey squirrels have had on the population of the UK and Europe's only native squirrel. This talk will explore the wider context of invasive non-native species and what practical lessons can we offer to other species conflicts - and what can we learn from them in tackling grey squirrels? | **Stephen Trotter**  Chair, Red Squirrels United Project Advisory Group |
| 10.30-11.00am | **Red Squirrels United: The good, the bad and the ugly!**  Funded through EU LIFE and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Red Squirrels United is a four year multi-partnership programme aiming to safeguard red squirrel populations in nine locations across the UK. Taking place between 2016-2020, Red Squirrels United was the first programme to join together some of the red squirrel initiatives across the UK. As the programme draws to a close, this talk will provide an overview of Red Squirrels United, reflect upon achievements, the challenges, project legacy and the future | **Nikki Robinson**  Red Squirrels United |
| 11.00-11.30am | **Return of the Reds**  A brief look at the journey Red Squirrels Northern England has been on over the last decade; the challenges faced, the opportunities embraced, the annual monitoring programme established and what the future may entail | **Heinz Traut**  Red Squirrels Northern England |
| 11.30-12.00pm | Coffee and refreshments |  |  |  |
| 12.00-12.30pm | **Evaluating Strategies for Invasive Alien Species Management**  We review the work of Red Squirrels United rangers and volunteers across the different project areas. We describe how the strategies employed varied in response to differing objectives dependent on the local landscape and squirrel densities. We consider how the project contributes to the challenges faced when managing widely spread invasive species | **Dr Zelda van der Waal**  Newcastle University **Esther Serem** Newcastle University  **Dr Aileen Mill** Newcastle University | Dr Mariella Marzano | Gillian F and Becky B |
| 12.30-1.00pm | **Understanding grey squirrel re-invasion pathways on Anglesey using genetic tools**  We are currently analysing over 400 grey squirrel samples from Anglesey and North Wales to help characterise the genetic diversity present, and to establish differences in genetic composition across North Wales. Understanding differences in genetic composition across the region will help understand how grey squirrels disperse across the landscape and will help inform future management and conservation decisions for the region | **Dr Denise O’Meara** Waterford Institute of Technology |
| 1.00-2.00pm | Lunch |  |  |  |
| 2.00-2.30pm | **Red Squirrels United: Grey squirrel disease analysis. The Results!**  The talk will briefly refresh squirrelpox virus and adenovirus appearance for those who may not already be familiar with them and describe the timeline needed to complete each stage of the disease screening process. The talk will then reveal the numbers of samples received and analysed from each of the project areas, and the results obtained. Levels of each virus detected from the project areas will be presented giving an overall detection rate of viral presence | **David Everest** Animal and Plant Health Agency | Rachel Cripps | Becky C-R and Becky B |
| 2.30-3.00pm | **Scottish Invasive Species Initiative – controlling American mink on a landscape scale**  The Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI) is an ambitious partnership project, delivering an innovative community-based strategic approach to the management of a suite of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) plants and American mink in rivers and watercourses in northern Scotland. The project is working at a huge landscape scale – covering 1/3rd of mainland Scotland with a total area of total 29,500km2. The presentation will, focusing principally on our American mink control programme, share our approach to engagement, strategy and tactics and how we are working with a large partnership and volunteer network | **Callum Sinclair**  Scottish Natural Heritage |
| 3.00-3.30pm | **Attitudes and values in and outside of red squirrel areas**  We will provide an overview of our RSU funded research looking at volunteer and landowner attitudes and motivations to conserve red squirrels and provide a comparison from two surveys looking at how perceptions of squirrels and their management differ between those in red squirrel areas and the wider population, and what these findings mean for local action | **Dr Mike Dunn** Forest Research  **Dr Mariella Marzano**  Forest Research |
| 3.30-4.00pm | Coffee |  |  |  |
| 4.00-4.30pm | **Successful management of the invasive raccoon dog (Nyctereutes procyonoides) and the evolution of a national task force for invasive alien species - the Swedish Raccoon Dog Project**  The talk will cover adaptive management and development of tools and methods for control/eradication of raccoon dogs in Sweden. Over the years of active management, Instead of letting staff go as the population are decreased by the work conducted, the government has contracted the project for management of more invasive species | **Per-Arne Ahlen**  Swedish Association for Hunting and Wildlife Management | Dr Aileen Mill | Nikki R and Becky B |
| 4.30-5.00pm | **Orkney Native WildLIFE project**  The talk will cover preparatory work carried out to design the project and progress made in the first year of a five year project to confine spread within the islands, eradicate stoats from the Orkney islands and ensure stoats cannot return in the future | **Sarah Sankey**  RSPB |
| 5.00-5.30pm | **Futureproofing for Conservation Success**  With the success of red squirrel conservation on Anglesey, there needs to be a level of futureproofing in order to safeguard this population from grey squirrel populations on the mainland. The Gwynedd pine marten project is hoping to achieve this by restoring a native arboreal predator and with it the presumed ecosystem service, natural control of grey squirrel populations. The talk will highlight why this release is being performed and what is being done to assess these animals prior to release | **Jack Bamber**  Red Squirrels Trust Wales  **Dr Craig Shuttleworth** Bangor University |
| 5.30pm | Close |  |  |  |
| 6.30-7.30pm | Pre-dinner drinks and resource/display showcase | Refreshment area |  |  |
| 7.30pm | Dinner and quiz (with prize!) | Main room |  |  |

**Sunday 23 Feb**

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| **Time** | **Session** | **Speaker** | **Chair** | **Roving Mic** |
| 9.30am | Welcome day two | **Nikki Robinson**  Red Squirrels United | Nikki Robinson | Becky B & Mariella M |
| 9.30-10am | **An Introduction to Gosforth Nature Reserve**  One of the best wildlife watching sites in Newcastle and Tyne & Wear, this private nature reserve is important for its rare fauna and flora. Ahead of the site visit an introductory talk giving an overview of the history, habitats and context of one of the oldest nature reserves in the region. | **Clare Freeman**  Natural History Society of Northumbria |
| 10.00-10.30am | Comfort break, change into suitable attire and coach transfer to Gosforth Nature Reserve |  |  |  |
| 10.30-12.45pm | Excursion Gosforth Nature Reserve |  |  |  |
| 12.45-1pm | Coach transfer to Grand Hotel |  |  |  |
| 1.00-2.00pm | Lunch |  |  |  |
| **2.00-3.15pm** | **Workshops**   * Early warning and rapid response – **Dr Aileen Mill** * Accessing new audiences – **Dr Mariella Marzano, Dr Mike Dunn** * Messaging and communication – **Rachel Cripps, Stephen Trotter** |  | Nikki Robinson |  |
| 3.15-3.25pm | **Funding for Nature and Landscape**  An overview of the National Lottery Heritage Fund strategic framework’s priority for nature and opportunities for future funding. | **Steven Hughes**  National Lottery Heritage Fund |
| 3.25-3.30pm | Thanks and Close | **Nikki Robinson**  Red Squirrels United |