

# SPRING NEWSLETTER

THE FALLEN OAK & RED  
SQUIRREL HIDES AT  
THE ROWLEY ESTATES



## | Feature Story

# A Very Big Thank You!

Welcome to our very first newsletter — and we hope it's the first of many! We'd like to begin by saying a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us on our journey so far, especially the wonderful photographers and nature lovers who have visited during our first three months, as well as those who have purchased vouchers through the website. We hope you've loved (as much as we have) the array of wildlife visiting the hides!



Image by Sheila Ivison

We've also really enjoyed the process of building the Fallen Oak Hide and gradually making small improvements along the way. Recently we added a reflection pool and a feeding post to encourage the buzzards, while keeping the hide feeling as natural as possible. The fallen tree itself still provides so much of the character and has its own little ecosystem that has grown up around it.

The Red Squirrel Hide has seen a few updates too, including the addition of a new reflection pool, which we're excited to see featured in future photographs. It's been a fantastic start, and we're looking forward to seeing what the next few months bring.

We'd like to also thank Christine and Charlie Rowley for their ongoing support and enabling us to make all of this happen!

## | What Customers Say About Us

"It was an outstanding experience. We couldn't recommend it more highly. For wildlife photographers, the setup is thoughtfully designed for optimum bird viewing and photography. It's definitely worth the trip."

Sheila - Fallen Oak Hide

"Spent a whole day at the hides last weekend. Superb setup and great communication with both Jason and Paula from booking through to sharing images after we left. The hides are excellent. And great places to visit at different times of the year. Within 5 minutes we were photographing red squirrel. I cannot recommend this place highly enough. Get booked and give it a go."

Mike - Red Squirrel Hide



**Vouchers:** Gift vouchers are available to purchase for a friend or loved one.



**Special Promo:** Visit both our hides on the same day and get a reduced rate.

| What's New

## Looking Forward to Spring

As the days grow longer and the woodland begins to wake up, we're really looking forward to the arrival of Spring at the hides. It's one of the most exciting times of year, with wildlife becoming more active and the first signs of new life appearing in the woods. We can't wait to see young birds arriving, and hopefully a few different feathered visitors stopping by the hides. Spring always brings a sense of change, and it's exciting to see what the new season might bring.

One project we'll be continuing to work on is encouraging the local buzzards to visit the area more regularly. They're certainly around, but persuading them to come in close enough for great views and photographs is proving to be a bit of a challenge! As anyone who watches wildlife knows, patience is all part of the process — which makes the moment even more rewarding when it finally happens.



Sparrowhawk image by Paul Delaney

We're also looking forward to welcoming many more visitors to the hides over the coming months. Spring is a wonderful time to experience the woodland, with longer daylight hours and plenty of wildlife activity. If you're thinking of visiting this season, we'd love to see you at the hides and share the experience with you. Here's to a fantastic Spring ahead in the woods.



A buzzard visiting The Fallen Oak

| And Finally

## In Other News

We're pleased to say we've made our first donation to the Penrith and District Red Squirrel Group. Thank you to all who have visited the Red Squirrel Hide and have made this possible. We will be making regular donations in the future to support this wonderful organisation. If you are interested in donating, there is a link on their website at [www.penrithredsquirrels.org](http://www.penrithredsquirrels.org)



## Get in Touch

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| Competition Spotlight

## Jumpshot Challenge

Our first competition – The Jumpshot Challenge – at the Red Squirrel Hide has been well and truly knocked out of the park.

Luke Spooner was the first to capture the elusive jumpshot — and what a shot it was! Timing, patience, and a little bit of luck all came together to produce a

fantastic image that perfectly captures the energy and agility of these brilliant little animals.

A huge well done to Luke for setting the bar so high in our very first challenge. We're looking forward to seeing what other incredible moments our visitors manage to capture next!

Our next challenge is already in the works, and the prize could mean your photo ends up somewhere you'll be seeing all year long. More details soon! Each of our hides has their own Facebook page - follow us at:

- 📌 - Fallen Oak Wildlife Hide
- 📌 - Red Squirrel Hide Melmerby



Luke's winning shot from the Red Squirrel Hide in Melmerby. January 2026

“We need the tonic of wildness.”  
— Henry David Thoreau