

## Tree-mendous effort for endangered Cumbria species

By Editor on 03/02/2014



Some of the volunteers who planted the 500 trees on the River Ehen

Volunteers have branched out to help protect one of Cumbria's most endangered species.

An army of helpers descended on the banks of Ennerdale's River Ehen to plant 500 trees in a bid to safeguard the future of an important colony of freshwater mussels.



Volunteers at work on the River Ehen

Experts say the growing tree roots will help bind and stabilise the river bank preventing silt and other pollutants entering the mussels' watery living space.

"The River Ehen catchment supports the largest viable population of freshwater pearl mussels left in England but they are under serious threat of extinction and urgent action is required to prevent this happening," said Diane O'Leary, Pearls in Peril Project Officer for West Cumbria Rivers Trust.

"Planting trees is one of the practical ways to aid their survival. This fascinating species is one of the longest-lived invertebrates known, living for well over 100 years and are essential to the functioning of a healthy river."

The 500 native saplings – including species like blackthorn, quickthorn, alder, willow and rowan – were provided by the Woodland Trust and were planted along the riverbank at Ennerdale Scout Camp.

Volunteers from the Scout Camp, West Cumbria Rivers Trust, Environment Agency, and Wild Ennerdale all took part.

Search in site...

LUXURY  
MADAGASCAR  
HOLIDAY

[imagineafrica.co.uk/Madagascar](http://imagineafrica.co.uk/Madagascar)

Amazing Wildlife, Forests & Beaches  
UK based Madagascar holiday experts



1 Flat Belly Tip  
Lose A Stone of Belly  
Fat With This 1 Weird  
Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Old Tip

Advertise Here

### Most popular stories

- Elderly woman critical after A66 crash
- Drug dealer jailed in heroin seizure worth more than £1m
- Police hunt absconded prisoner
- Arrest warrant issued over Penrith drugs offences
- Employees 'seeing double' at Oxley's of Ambleside
- Penrith man in court charged with underage sex
- Man admits sex assault on Carlisle to Newcastle train
- Penrith teenager admits supplying cocaine
- Police advise motorists to avoid travelling as snow falls across the county
- Man tries to remove bottle from anus using curved piece of wire



Freshwater mussels. (Photo Ian Killeen)

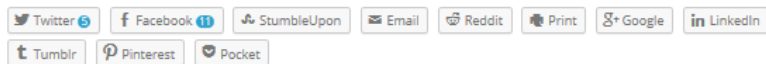
Mike Farrell of the Environment Agency said the project was a great example of partnership working making a positive difference.

"This new woodland strip will not only benefit the Scout Camp by securing the site boundary but also provides habitat and food for many animals and helps to bind the riverbank together. A stable riverbank will reduce excess silt input from eroding banks and can also trap potential pollution from entering the river, both of which are detrimental to the mussels," he said.

The tree-planting is one of many projects carried out by the 'Pearls in Peril' (PIP) Project, a UK wide project to safeguard the future of the freshwater pearl mussel in Scotland, England and Wales. PIP is funded in part through the European Commission along with 22 organisations across the UK. West Cumbria Rivers Trust is responsible for delivering the project in England as well as its partner the Environment Agency.

For information about the project or to find out how to get involved contact Diane on 017687 44347 or visit [www.westcumbriariverstrust.org](http://www.westcumbriariverstrust.org). Keep in touch with their progress on twitter by following @mothemussel. Check out [www.wildennerdale.co.uk/](http://www.wildennerdale.co.uk/) for other activities in Ennerdale.

Share this:



Related



Blueprint for future of West Cumbria's water supplies



Buried Ennerdale brook bubbles back to life



Trust-y support for West Cumbria's lakes and rivers