



Hawthorn blossom  
Photo : Wild Ennerdale



Tree planting at the valley head  
Photo: Wild Ennerdale

## Volunteering

We begin this spring newsletter with a thank you and recognition of our amazing Wild Ennerdale volunteer team, who collectively contributed almost 2,000 hours in 2023. Many of the team are local to Ennerdale Bridge and West Cumbria, along with a few volunteers who travel from further afield every Tuesday, year round and in all weathers. Their work requires varied skills and comprises a range of tasks across partnership land and is always done with commitment and enthusiasm. A lovely meal and quiz was enjoyed in the New Year at The Shepherds Arms.

## Ennerdale Easter Trail

The Gather and Wild Ennerdale are again partnering to offer an Easter Trail during the school holidays. The trail follows the 'Ennerdale Views' route, with various family friendly activities to do along the way. A chocolate treat can be collected from The Gather afterwards.

**Happy Easter!**



## THE GREAT ENNERDALE EASTER TRAIL!

29th March - 14th April 2024



The Gather and Wild Ennerdale are partnering up to bring you an Easter Trail so you can explore Bleach Green this Easter Holidays.

### How to get involved?

- Collect the Trail Questions from the Gather.
- Complete Trail - Family and Dog Friendly walk - suitable for pushchairs.
- Return to Gather to collect your Easter Treat!\*

\*One treat per child under 18.  
Children must be accompanied by an adult.



## Forestry Update

The despatch of timber from the felling completed in 2023 is ongoing with four loads left. Unfortunately, Phytophthora Larch disease has been found in several new areas of the forest. Forestry England are developing plans to respond to these new findings (which will be shared with the local Parish Council) once they have been developed. It's likely that harvesting operations will restart in the valley in the Autumn and continue into Spring 2025.

If you're visiting the east end of the valley, you will see that Forestry England's contractors have been busy erecting small fence enclosures in the valley bottom. These will be planted with native trees through early April and the enclosures will help protect the new trees from grazing animals. Most of the timber used is sweet chestnut which is naturally durable and doesn't need chemical treatment. Combined with not using plastic tree shelters, the option of enclosures is more environmentally friendly. The work has been supported through Forestry England's DEFRA funded Wilding Programme.



## United Utilities land (West)

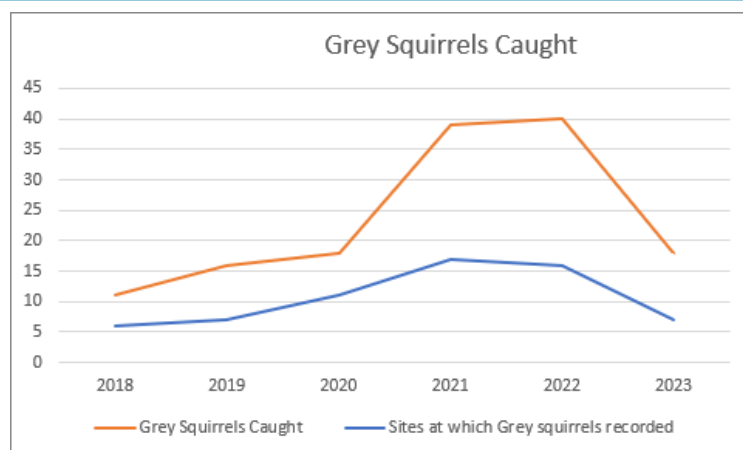
Ongoing tasks by West Cumbria Rivers Trust and the volunteers to improve the River Ehen has included bank stabilisation works, woodland management, tree planting, improving fish passage, wildflower planting and improving in-river habitat. Looking forward, works to reduce sediment and nutrient input, enhance biodiversity and increase water storage are planned by drain blocking at Low Moor End. Further works to improve fish passage, reduce sediment and nutrient runoff and improve habitats are planned throughout the catchment through bank stabilisations works, fencing, culvert removal/replacement and tree planting.



## Red Squirrel Monitoring & Grey Squirrel Control 2023

Two periods of monitoring (Spring & Summer) were carried out last year by a local contractor over a total of 18 weeks. 80 locations per season were camera monitored with Reds present at 86% of sites in Spring & 85% in Summer. Greys were present at 6% of sites each season. A total of 18 Greys were caught and dispatched.

The graph opposite shows how the records have changed over the last few years. Hopefully the high number recorded and trapped in 2021 and 2022 has contributed to the lower numbers in 2023. The Red Squirrel population seems in abundance despite the recent large-scale harvesting period.



Source: Forestry England

**Wild Ennerdale** is a partnership of people and organisations led by the Forestry England, National Trust, United Utilities and Natural England. The Wild Ennerdale Partners are allowing the landscape to evolve naturally with reducing human intervention and invite you to explore this unique valley and experience its special sense of wildness. [wildennerdale.co.uk](http://wildennerdale.co.uk)

