



Eden Rivers Trust
Dunmail Building
Newton Rigg College
Penrith
Cumbria CA11 0AH

Tel: 01768 866788

News Release

19 December 2013

Thank you do with a difference!

People who have volunteered to help Eden Rivers Trust in 2013 were given an unusual reward to end the year.

A group of 16 people were given a guided tour of Shap sewage works to see United Utilities' state-of-the-art facilities in operation. The waste water treatment works were completely rebuilt and reopened in 2012. They take sewage and other waste water from the Shap area, treat it and return clean water to Shap Beck, a tributary of the River Leith, benefiting wildlife as well as people.

The tour of the works was the idea of the Trust which wanted to demonstrate the role United Utilities plays in protecting the river. Joanne Backshall, Conservation Officer at Eden Rivers Trust, said, "We are so grateful to all the volunteers who have helped us this year and we wanted to give them a fun and informative outing as a thank you. It was a fascinating visit and a real eye opener about what goes on. There was also valuable information for us and the work we do in improving the rivers in the Eden Valley."

The volunteers enjoyed their very different reward and Dave Greaves, a student at Cumbria University who has helped the Trust with crayfish and fish surveys, said, "It was very interesting. We are all "customers" of the waste water facilities but usually we never think about it!"

United Utilities' Christine Fleming said it was good to be able to show off the great work being done at Shap, which was fitted with some of the company's most cutting-edge equipment.

"Shap has our only membrane bio reactor which treats water to an extremely high standard. They're not suitable everywhere, but it's just what we need in Shap because the beck is particularly sensitive. We're very proud of our plant and it was

lovely to show how it works to people who share our concern for the environment,” she said.

Eden Rivers Trust is a charity concerned with the conservation of the River Eden and its miles of tributaries in the Eden Valley. It relies heavily on volunteers to help with its work. Volunteers have been involved in projects such as surveying for fish and crayfish, removing litter and invasive plants along rivers and planting trees along river banks.

The trip ended with a delicious meal at the Shap Chippy which the volunteers agreed lived up to its reputation as being one of the best in the county!

ENDS



Stephen Gargett of United Utilities explains the operation of Shap Wastewater Treatment Works to volunteers and staff of Eden Rivers Trust



Eden Rivers Trust volunteers and staff enjoying a fish and chip lunch at Shap Chippy

Notes to Editors

Eden Rivers Trust

1. Eden Rivers Trust is a charity dedicated to conserving the beautiful River Eden in Cumbria and its hundred of miles of tributaries.
2. It was set up in 1996 and has completed over 350 projects to improve the condition of the river for its wildlife and for people to enjoy.
3. The River Eden is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and is classed by Europe as a Special Area of Conservation.
4. The Trust has been working with more than 200 farms to help them manage their land in the most environmentally-friendly way for the river.
5. To protect the Eden from erosion and pollution fences have been installed along more than 100 miles of the river bank and in excess of 80,000 trees have been planted. This has not reduced access for people but it has stopped animals trampling the river banks and polluting the water.
6. In the last five years staff from the Trust have engaged, influenced and spread the word to more than 10,000 people, half of them school children from 50 different schools.
7. Annual surveys use electronic devices in the water which momentarily stun the fish, allowing experts to assess their numbers and whether the population is improving. This is carried out at hundreds of sites and allows the Trust to identify any problems.

8. The Trust relies on fund raising and grants to carry out this vital work. It needs sponsorship and donations from individuals and businesses. People can donate, become a Friend of Eden Rivers Trust or volunteer.
9. Funding and support for certain projects is also provided by a number of partner organisations including the Environment Agency, Natural England and Defra.
10. Contact details for the Trust are Eden Rivers Trust, Dunmail Building, Newton Rigg College, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 0AH, tel: 01768 866788 or email: office@edenrivertrust.org.
11. Further information on Eden Rivers Trust is available at www.edenrivertrust.org.uk.

Media enquiries should be addressed to:

Joanne Backshall tel: 01768 866788 or email: joanne@edenrt.org