



Experience the River Project Update 2016/17

Thank you for your amazing support for Experience the River.

During Autumn 2016, the project ran in 4 South Lakeland Primary schools. Led by an ecologist and an artist, each school spent two days learning about their local river.

The first day, a science day, taught the children about river ecology and ecosystems, endangered species, invertebrates, pollution problems and water quality. Tying in with SCRT's new project to restore freshwater mussel rivers in South Cumbria, the science session also had a special focus on the life cycle of the fresh water pearl mussel and the factors leading to its decline.

As part of their learning, the children produced a fresh water pearl mussel life cycle which detailed the various stages, the importance of good habitat and water quality, and the impact this has on the river as a whole.

Using measuring calipers and a fresh water pearl mussel growth chart, the children measured the shells of mussels originating from their local river – the oldest was assessed to be a venerable 85 years old!

The second day consisted of art sessions, with the communal art work produced by the children of each school being used as props and scenery in the presentation of a school play.

The funding from Visitor Giving has been vital to the continued implementation of this project which has reached over 1000 local children since 2006.

Thank you so much for your fantastic support!

