

Elma and the Giant

*Rivers are stories, with secrets untold,
Some rivers so special a legend unfolds.*

*Meanders of memories, a myth in their mouth,
A spring at their source and a tale to the south.*

*In the vale of Lyvennet, where clear waters rush,
Through elm trees, wild flowers and meadows so lush.*

*There once lived a giant, so brave, big and bold,
Gruesome and grisly and ever so old.*

*This giant, named Mauld, just loved to daydream,
Down by the banks of his fine meadow stream.*

*When the river did speak, the giant did hear,
What are babbles to us, to him were quite clear.*

*"Let me be bendy, let my flow slow and ponder,
Clear water to flourish and the freedom
to wander."*

*The watery voice whispered, "Listen to me"
For all rivers know what they're
Destined to be.*

Did you know ...

'Llwyfnydd' means
'abounding in elm trees' and
sounds like 'Cloyveneth'?
It might be how the Lyvennet
got its name!



1

"Excuse me!" said a little voice,
"You're standing on my tail!"

Mauld looked down and noticed a
little white-clawed crayfish next to his
big toe. "Terribly sorry!" said Mauld,
who took a step backwards.
Mauld had only just realised that
rivers talk; maybe he had only just
started to listen. "I am trying to find
the voice of the river," he said.

"Oh, Elma you mean?" said the little
crayfish, snatching at a shrimp. "Yes,
she's always nearby but you have to
listen very, very carefully if you want
to hear her."

Mauld thanked the crayfish, stepped
up onto the bank and walked
carefully through the meadow
flowers. Last time he
had heard Elma he had
been sitting quietly next
to 'Foaming Eddy',
trying to figure out the
picture Eddy was painting in the river.

As Mauld wandered along the banks
he listened to the river babbling
beside him. Around every bend the
sounds changed - rushing, gurgling,
rumbling, gushing, trickling, swirling,
murmuring ... then at last a whisper ...

Did you know ...

Crayfish are related to lobsters.
When they feel threatened they
raise their pincers and arch their
backs ... KAPOW!



Can you find ...

Foaming Eddy' on your map?
An eddy occurs where the water
swirls around and often creates
air bubble pictures.

2

*"Oh, the giant named Mauld
has returned to my banks,
A favour I need and in return a
great thanks."*

*"The kingfishers tell me there's
need for more trees,
Shelter for fishes, the birds and
the bees"*

... and with that Elma was gone.

Mauld scratched his head and
thought for a moment (giants take a
long time to think):

"Maybe this meadow stream isn't just
for me after all," he wondered.

As Mauld looked along the edges of
the riverbank, he noticed trees where
birds were peacefully perched; he
noticed bees buzzing around their
blossom; and insects humming in
their branches. Under the trees were
little fish resting in shady pools.

Did you know ...

The roots from trees and plants
along the riverbank help to hold the
soil together, stopping riverbanks
washing away?
Their branches and the shade they
create are great for wildlife too.



3

Please watch out for the
electric fence, it will give
you an electric shock if you
touch it. Before you start the Tale
Trail you will need to unhook the
electricity cable to allow you to
reach the path. To do this safely,
hold the blue plastic handle when
unhooking the cable. Once you
have all passed through, re-hook
the cable so that the electricity
supply is restored.



gazing animals.
lead to avoid disturbing the wildlife and
grazing animals.
Take Care Please keep dogs on a
lead to avoid disturbing the wildlife and
grazing animals.

Directions Grid reference for parking
activity sheets.
some of our fun river-based family
edentivestrust.org.uk to download
your family's trip to the river by visiting
wellington boots are recommended,
ground so sturdy walking boots or
over uneven and sometimes very wet
Terrain The Tale Trail takes you
is steep on the other side of the wall.
the stile, please be aware that the stile
start of the Tale Trail. When climbing
large wooden stile on the right hand
side of the road. This stile marks the
side of the road.

Wildlife A variety of wildlife can be
found here, including dipper, heron,
grey wagtail, crayfish, salmon, trout,
bullhead, and lots of river insects and
river bank flowers.
Explorer extra Make the most of
your family's trip to the river by visiting
edentivestrust.org.uk to download
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wellington boots are recommended,
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over uneven and sometimes very wet
Terrain The Tale Trail takes you
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start of the Tale Trail. When climbing
large wooden stile on the right hand
side of the road. This stile marks the
side of the road.

The bit for grown ups ...

To access the Tale Trail, walk down
the road (signposted towards Morland
and Penit) for 275m. Shortly before
you reach Howe Beck you will see a
large wooden stile on the right hand
side of the road. This stile marks the
start of the Tale Trail. When climbing
the stile, please be aware that the stile
is steep on the other side of the wall.
Terrain The Tale Trail takes you
over uneven and sometimes very wet
ground so sturdy walking boots or
wellington boots are recommended,
particularly after heavy rain. The Tale
Trail is a wild place, which means
there are no visitor facilities on site.
Explorer treats After your adventure
treat yourself to a spot of lunch, or
tea and cake at the Butchers Arms,
in the village of Crosby Ravensworth,
or The Mill Yard Café, in the village of
Morland.
Take Care Please keep dogs on a
lead to avoid disturbing the wildlife and
grazing animals.

farm.
junction of the King's Meaburn and
Mauld's Meaburn roads, next to the
situated near Meaburn Hall Farm,
between the villages of King's Meaburn
and Mauld's Meaburn. Limited parking
is on a small grass verge opposite the
junction of the King's Meaburn and
Mauld's Meaburn roads, next to the
farm.

4

The next day was a hazy, lazy kind
of day and Mauld decided to rest his
feet in the 'Rumbling Pool' under the
shade of the perfumed pine trees.
All around him were the rainbow
colours of glorious summer flowers
... red campion, pink cuckoo flowers,
yellow cowslips, purple vetch and
Mauld's favourite ... forget-me-nots.
He chewed on some old bones and
watched the river switching from left to
right and the flow of the water resting
in pools, before rushing around the
bends. Mauld tilted his head and
closed his eyes, so he could hear
more clearly. At last a whisper ...

*"Pools I require
where big fish can live,
Gravel bars for insects
and beds for the fish."*

*"Stony shallows
where tiddlers can hide,
And rushing riffles
where herons can glide."*



Did you know ...

Gravel beds allow fish like
salmon to lay their eggs and
spawn safely? These precious
nests are called redds.



Once again Elma's voice faded away
and Mauld sat quietly thinking.

That night (giants always work at
night, you know) by the emerald light
of the glow-worms, Mauld used his
gigantic hands to scoop out peaceful
ponder-pools and scatter boulders
and rocks to make riffles. As he gently
dozed off into a deep, deep sleep, he
heard the dreamy hum of dragonflies
and damselflies in a nearby pool and
knew this was Elma's way of saying
thank you.

*For 100 years the giant
lay sleeping,
For 100 years the river
ran weeping.*

*So straight, so unnatural ...
no riffles or pools!
Barren and bare with banks
made of walls.*

*Elma is whispering but no
one can hear,
If nature's not heard she
will soon disappear!*

*"WAKE UP MAULD THE GIANT
and listen once more,
So the waters may flow as
they once did before."*



Can you spot ...

Any riffles? Riffles are where
water flows faster and is often
shallow and rocky. Great for
young insects like stoneflies,
caddisflies and mayflies.

Suddenly the ground started to shake
and tremble and Mauld the giant
awoke from his faraway slumber.

"What strange dreams I have had!"
Mauld said to himself as a little dipper
came to rest on his shoulder.

"Crabbits and fibbits and newts with
beards? Dragons, strange jellyfish
bubbles, 'Bogsquelchers', and even
rivers without bends!"

Mauld and the dipper shook their
heads in disbelief. The dipper made
a lovely little trill and flew off towards
the river to catch some larvae and
nymphs. Mauld stretched his long,
hairy arms and stomped down to the
Pool of Reflection, his favourite
bone-crunching spot. He peered into
the crystal clear waters and waited ...

5

At last a whisper ...

*"Like the butterfly effect
small changes can grow,
A stick starts a dam and a
hand slows the flow."*

*"All that touches a river
becomes part of its story,
When floodwaters arrive the
bends show their glory!"*

*"Longer and bendier
more water I hold,
Floodplains by my side
that increases tenfold!"*

*"Mauld the river whisperer,
we will never forget,
How you watch over our land
and the lovely Lyvennet."*

Can you spot ...

The difference between the old
and the new river channel?

Incredibly, when Eden Rivers
Trust restored this little stretch
of meadow stream Elma
remembered exactly where
nature intended her to flow.

Look at your map and compare
the old straightened channel
to the natural bends that
meander once more.

Look out for the pretty
blue forget-me-not
flowers near the
riverbanks. They are
Mauld's favourite
and a reminder
that he is always
watching!



6

fun local story walks

for children and
the young at heart

Elma and the Giant

A story trail along the banks of the Lyvennet

By Anja Phoenix

And the wonderful, creative ideas of the children of
Crosby Ravensworth C.E.(A) Primary School



Easy to follow Map & Story

Explore, spot things & search for clues on the way



Walks around
Eden Valley



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REMEMBER

- Please follow the Countryside Code.
 - Keep dogs on a lead at all times.
 - Take litter home with you.
 - Always check the weather forecast before setting off.
- (for 'top tips' go to www.edenrivertrust.org.uk/activity-sheets and download our handy 'Keep your family safe at the river' leaflet). Details correct as of March 2016.

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KEY

- ① Interesting Fact
- ? Quizzical Question
- A Amazing Activity

