

Herdwicks are go

Final preparations are being made for this month's launch of the Go Herdwick public art trail to help the Calvert Trust raise £1.3 million. The organisers say the response so far has exceeded their expectations

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A flock of 61 decorated Herdwick ewe figures is on the march and due in Cumbria soon. The sponsored sheep, which have each been transformed into a colourful work of art, will be placed in accessible public spaces and outside business premises on a trail taking in Keswick, Grasmere, Rydal, Ambleside and Windermere.

Designed to raise money for the Lake District Calvert Trust, the Go Herdwick trail follows in the tradition of similar public art trails staged around the country.

Calvert Trust business manager Justin

Farnan said that while there was still a lot of preparation to do, the response so far had exceeded their expectations.

Not only are all the sheep now sponsored but the Go Herdwick website, Facebook page and Twitter account are well supported and the local media have rallied behind the project.

"The interest in the project has been better than we could possibly have hoped for and thanks go to everybody for getting involved," he says.

All the sheep are now either finished or are being worked on at an artist's studio.

Libby Edmondson, of Levens, near Kendal, who is known for her landscapes and use of vibrant colours, is decorating a ewe for sponsor Heart of the Lakes



Levens artist Libby Edmondson with her Herdwick sheep showing Great Langdale

'The interest in the project has been better than we could possibly have hoped for'

Calvert Trust business manager Justin Farnan at the wheel of a decorated electric Renault Twizy



holiday cottages. She has chosen two of her favourite views - the Langdale Pikes and Westwater - to recreate on the sheep figure.

Although Libby is used to working in acrylics, which are suitable for use on the sheep, the process has taken longer than anticipated partly because of the unusual surface.

"It's taken me a lot longer to do than I thought, because of the finish," she says. "I've enjoyed it."

Meanwhile, two of the decorated ewes were taken to the Rheged centre, near Penrith, for a photocall at the launch of a fleet of electric Renault Twizy cars. The cars, which have been decorated on a sheep theme and given old dialect names, are available to hire from visitor attractions through the

See More sustainable travel programme run with the car sharing company Co-wheels Car Club.

There has also been strong support for the two Hide and Seek lamb trails which are being staged in Keswick and Windermere as part of the Go Herdwick project. So far, 30 of the 50 Herdwick lamb figures have been sponsored and the Keswick trail is already full. Sponsors are still being sought in Windermere and Bowness.

Next month's Cumbria Life will include a map and details of how to take part in the Go Herdwick trail by spotting the sheep.

For information on how to sponsor a lamb see www.goherdwick.co.uk or tel: 017687 72255.



How to follow the Herdwick Trail

The Go Herdwick public art trail has been launched by the Lake District Calvert Trust to help the charity raise £1.3 million. From Good Friday, March 25, 61 models of Herdwick ewes will be put on display in the Lake District. The ewes, which have each been decorated by an artist and sponsored by a business, organisation or school, will be placed outside business premises and in accessible public spaces.

The trail will follow the approximate route of the 555 bus service and will take in Keswick, Grasmere, Rydal, Ambleside and Windermere. Go Herdwick is going ahead as planned despite the temporary closure of the A591 between Keswick and Grasmere following last December's floods.

Maps and merchandise will be available to buy and it's hoped that locals and tourists will take up the challenge to spot all the Go Herdwick figures. In addition, from Friday, May 25, two Hide and Seek lamb trails will be launched - one in Keswick and one in Windermere and Bowness - with opportunities for children to spot 50 lambs hidden in shop premises.

Finally, in September the entire flock will be rounded up in time for a grand gala auction in October.

The money raised will go towards the redevelopment of Old Windebrowe, the Calvert Trust's Grade-II listed farmhouse and tithe barn in Keswick.

The charity, which provides adventure holidays for people with disabilities, plans to use the centre to provide specialist accommodation, therapy and rehabilitation for people who have had strokes or acquired brain injuries.

Cumbria Life is proud to be media partner for Go Herdwick.