



# Ravenglass Village Forum

May 2003

No 4

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## **Not just a load of cobbles...**

*Ann Edwards (Chairman) reviews the Forum's achievements over the past year.*

### **Traffic calming**

The traffic calming work in the Post Office/Pennington Arms area of Main Street was delayed for several months while the Forum worked at raising money for this project. The majority of the cost was once again met by the Lake District National Park and the shortfall was made up with grants and donations from CWMET, J.P. Jacobs Charitable Trust, Seascale & Bootle Neighbourhood Forum, Ravenglass Charter Fair Committee, Muncaster Parish Council and Copeland Borough Council. The Forum would like to thank all the above for their contributions and I would like to thank Peter van Zeller for his efforts with all the grant application forms.

Work eventually began in February this year in some of the wettest conditions of the winter. There were a few problems along the way with drainage and the quality of the cobbled sections. The Forum had been promised that the workmanship of the contractors would be of the highest quality. We were however badly let down as the work turned out to be substandard, which naturally caused a great deal of concern and disappointment among villagers, Parish Councillors and Forum Members alike. However after consultation with the Highways Authority, the contractors and Andrew Lowe, it was agreed that the cobbles should be re-laid. This has now been done to a much higher standard and it should last for many years. I hope you all agree that this section of Main Street now looks very much improved and helps to slow the traffic down to a reasonable speed.

### **Millennium Garden**

This year the Millennium Garden was spared from any flooding and the plants put in last autumn seem to be surviving. Thank you to those people who have kindly donated plants and those who gave their time to weed and plant. Due to the unusual conditions it is a matter of trial and error to find what can best cope in this climate.

Last summer a flagpole, kindly donated by the Ravenglass Boating Association, was erected just in time for HM The Queen's Golden Jubilee by Brian Kennish and his team of helpers.

### **Promoting Ravenglass**

The leaflet *A Quick Look at Ravenglass* was continued throughout last year with a print run of 10,000 copies. This was partly funded by local businesses and partly from the remains of the Copeland Borough Council grant. There are enough leaflets left to start us off with a good level of publicity for the early part of 2003 but a further print run will be required for the high season.

A sub-group has for the last six months or so been working on a publication to be called the *Ravenglass Heritage Trail*. This will be a more detailed leaflet, probably A3 in size, laid out in the form of a walk around the village drawing the readers' attention to things of interest and giving an insight into some of the history of our village. It is hoped to illustrate the leaflet with line drawings similar to those used in the first leaflet. The Forum hopes to publish this leaflet sometime this summer. Many thanks to the sub-group, Kate Hunter, Carol Stent and Peter van Zeller, for their work so far.

Ravenglass along with Eskdale has the opportunity to become a "Hidden Britain Centre" which is a new venture at present in the pilot scheme stage. Peter van Zeller and I will be working with people in Eskdale to promote our area within this scheme. We feel that this is a new and exciting opportunity to promote our special corner of Cumbria to a wider audience.

On behalf of the Ravenglass Village Forum I would like to thank all those who have been involved in the conservation and rejuvenation of our village during the past year. Finally I would like to say thank you to the committee members for their hard work and support and also to all of the residents for their support and encouragement.

## Notice of AGM

The third Annual General Meeting of Ravenglass Village Forum will be held on **Tuesday, 20 May 2003 at 7.30 p.m.** in Muncaster Parish Hall.

### Agenda

Welcome.

To confirm the Minutes of the Second Annual General Meeting held on 21 May 2002.

Matters arising.

Chairman's report.

Treasurer's report.

Examiner's statement on the accounts.

Elections for Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and six other members of the Committee.

Any other relevant business.

The meeting will be opened for discussion after the formal business. The Committee has no formal resolutions to put to this meeting. Any resolutions from the floor must be proposed and seconded by members.

## Are you a member?

The Forum now has 37 members and we have plenty of room for more. The more the better!

You have to be a member to vote at the AGM or to stand for office. There are no other privileges but the number of our members is evidence of the village's support for the work we do. It gives us democratic legitimacy and increases our authority when we apply for grants and deal with the local authorities and agencies that supply the services on which we depend. Your support is valuable to us.

You can be a member if you broadly support our aims, you are aged at least 18 and you live in the village, which includes Raven Villa and as far up the road as The Grove. You pay nothing.

Second home owners can join too. Buying a property in Ravenglass village with a view to eventual full-time residence is evidence of sufficient commitment to the welfare of the village to satisfy the Constitution, even if buyers have to be part-time residents until they can move in permanently. However, those who rent or borrow the properties for holidays while the owners are not in residence are still excluded.

If you are not yet a member and you wish to join, please ask the Editor for a registration form or fill one in when you arrive at the AGM. Time will be allowed for enrolment of new members before the formal meeting opens.

## Power to the people!

The AGM is democracy time! All the Committee will retire when we reach Elections on the agenda and it will be up to the members present to re-elect them or elect replacements.

The present committee consists of:

<i>Chairman</i>	Ann Edwards
<i>Treasurer</i>	Kate Hunter
<i>Secretary</i>	Mike Harrington
<i>Members</i>	
Alan Bell	Norman Inglis
Shirley Broadhurst	Carol Stent
Steve Hallett	Peter van Zeller

Norman Inglis wishes to stand down from the Committee with effect from the AGM. As far as the Editor knows at present, all other Officers and Committee members are offering themselves for re-election.

However, nothing says that we all *have* to be re-elected. Would *you* like to be a committee member?

If you want to know more, please ask one of the present committee members. If you decide to stand for election, you will need to find a proposer and seconder. You and they must all be members of the Forum.

Not a member yet? Please see the column on the left for advice on how to register.

## Shock Horror Dept.

The Lake District National Park Authority has written to the Forum and Muncaster Parish Council to say that it is considering whether to impose charges for the use of our village car park, which it owns. Our Committee is holding a special meeting on 15 May to consider its response.

The Letters page in the *Whitehaven News* of 1<sup>st</sup> May shows the effect of the introduction of parking charges in Seascale by Copeland Borough Council. Be warned!

However, the Authority has indicated that it will listen to arguments in favour of continuing free parking. Parking charges would frustrate our efforts to persuade visitors to park safely in the car park and explore the village on foot and might even drive visitors away. The Forum and Muncaster Parish Council will both lodge objections to the plan.

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