



# Ravenglass Village Forum

May 2006

No 7

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## Heritage Trail leaflet success

You will have seen copies of the Heritage Trail leaflet, either to read yourselves or in the hands of visitors. It has been the result of a long collaborative effort by a small sub-committee, assembling information, refining and balancing it to lie in the right order with drawings and simple maps.

It appears to be very successful, if only that we have not yet heard of anyone being lost or led astray, while many kind comments have been passed on from the users. The other satisfaction is that stockists have come back for repeat orders and over two thirds of the initial print run has so far gone out in the first 12 months. The pricing was pitched to cover the costs of reprinting in due course and a reprint has been done, supporting evidence that the production of the leaflet will be self sustaining.

Our particular thanks are due to our financial backers, Val Holmes for the delightful drawings, Mia of Printexpress for her patience on the layout, and all our helpers who tested trial versions of the leaflet. Obviously there is a great deal more which could be added about each subject. However, within the confines of an A3 sheet it appears to tell a simple, readily understood story of the village that can be walked in just under an hour and add interest to everyone's visit.

*Kate Hunter, Carol Stent, Peter van Zeller*

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## Our Hungarian connection

In July 2003 the village of Hollókő, in NE Hungary, contacted the Forum and asked about the possibility of a partnership with Ravenglass. The name Hollókő, meaning 'Raven's Rock', derives from legends about the castle that stands above the village. Its Municipality was looking for an English village of about the same size with a 'raven' connection.

Like Ravenglass, Hollókő consists of an old village and a 'new estate'. The houses in the old village are built in the traditional style and the inhabitants retain other traditions too, especially the Palóc dialect, rural crafts such as weaving and the richly decorated traditional dress that they wear for important occasions. Because of the care that Hollókő has taken of its traditions, it is recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Since the first contact, the relationship has developed informally but fruitfully. Your Editor and his partner visited Hollókő for the first time in September 2004. Last year some of you met Csaba Tóth and his family, who came here for the Charter Fair, and Attila Tóth (no relation) and Zsuzsa Sztrémi, the Director of the Hollókő Public Foundation, who visited us last September. Leo Saldanha spent his birthday in Hollókő last year. Waberthwaite School is in regular email contact with the school in Hollókő and may organise a visit there later in the year for senior pupils.

Now Muncaster Parish Council is working with our friends in Hollókő to achieve a formal twinning of the two villages. Parish Councillor Brian Kennish is in charge of a working party that includes representatives of the Forum, Muncaster Castle, the WI, Waberthwaite School and La'al Ratty. A useful Hungarian Language Survival Kit for anyone planning a visit there is available from the Editor on request. *Még egy sört kérek. Egészségünkre!* MH

## Notice of AGM

The sixth Annual General Meeting of Ravenglass Village Forum will be held on **Tuesday 23 May 2006 at 7.30 p.m.** in Muncaster Parish Hall.

### Agenda

Welcome.  
Minutes of the fifth Annual General Meeting held on 9 June 2005.  
Matters arising.  
Chairman's report.  
Treasurer's report.  
Examiner's statement on the accounts.  
Elections for officers and members of the Committee.  
National Park Adviser's comments.  
Any other relevant business.

The meeting will be opened for discussion after the formal business. Any resolutions from the floor must be proposed and seconded by members.

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## Website

The Ravenglass Village Forum website is coming! Jill Paul, IT manager at Muncaster Castle, is designing it for us and we hope to go live in the next few weeks. We shall post notices in the village when we are online.

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## Chairman's report

The past year has not produced many visible results of new activities, as happened last year, but we have not been sitting idly by.

We have spent much time preparing new ventures: further improvements to the Village Green, especially to the 'graveyard' of old signposts by the railway bridge, and new signs and information boards to allow visitors to find their way around more easily, using the main car park as their starting point.

A set of proposals for a traffic direction scheme, to encourage visiting drivers to leave their vehicles in the village car park and enjoy Ravenglass on foot, has been produced and circulated to interested bodies. The art now for us will be to provide appropriate directions for visitors without an unsightly clutter of road signs. The Forum intends to continue to work closely with the Parish Council, the Friends of the Lake District and the Lake District National Park Authority on this project.

March last year saw the long-awaited publication of our Heritage Trail Leaflet, the production costs of which were raised with grants from Copeland Borough Council and the LDNPA. We ordered a first run of 2000 leaflets and to date have sold 1605 copies, generating an income of £481.50.

This sum has easily paid for a reprint run of 3000 copies and left enough in the kitty to allow us to commence the creation of a village website, a desire of the Forum for some time. We have acquired the name **[www.ravenglassvillage.co.uk](http://www.ravenglassvillage.co.uk)** and the I.T. manager at Muncaster Castle is developing the site for us. A grant from Copeland Borough Council, especially for the purpose, will cover the set-up costs and the residue from the leaflet sales will cover the hosting costs for the first two years. After this time we hope to have sold many more leaflets, thus making both the leaflets and the website self-funding. This will allow us to concentrate on fundraising for the proposed new ventures. *Stuart Robb*

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## Are you a member?

The Forum now has 44 members and we have plenty of room for more. You have to be a member to vote at the AGM or to stand for office. There are no other privileges and membership costs nothing, but the number of our members is evidence of the village's support for the work we do. You can be a member if you broadly support our aims, you are aged at least 18 and you live in the village. If you wish to join, ask the Editor for a registration form or fill one in when you arrive at the AGM.