



Ravenglass Village Forum

May 2007

No 8

Andy Lowe

Last September Andy Lowe retired from his post of Buildings Conservation Officer after a career of just over 31 years with the National Park Authority. Before he came to Ravenglass he had worked on projects in Ambleside, Keswick and Hawkshead.

Ravenglass was Andy's last big project before his retirement. His encouragement brought together the group of volunteers that formed the original Forum. Our first achievement in Ravenglass is one that you can't see any more. On our behalf Andy persuaded Norweb and BT to bury their cables underground in Main Street, ridding us of the ugly festoons of overhead wires. His colleague Chris Greenwood, the National Park's Landscape Architect, designed the Millennium Garden. The County and Borough lighting engineers sat with us to design the new lighting scheme for Main Street in 2000. The cobbling outside the Post Office and Pennington Hotel, and later the Market Cross Plaque project, brought us into contact with Karl Melville of the Highway Authority.

Andy made these contacts for us and showed us, by his own example, how to win the confidence and help of these busy professional advisers.

Andy was also a tutor for Liverpool, Lancaster and

Signs and Wonders

Chairman Stuart Robb reports

Although the Forum deliberately restricts its interests to the environment and heritage of the village itself, such matters will always impinge upon the remits of other bodies in these modern times. The past year has seen a growth in the Forum's need to work hand in hand with other bodies and it is essential for the benefit of our whole community that this co-operation continues.

This year's notable co-operative effort has been our work with the Parish Council, the Highways Agency and the National Park Authority to achieve a unified system of direction signs that meets our needs without detracting from the picturesque nature of our village. Visiting motorists are now directed into the village car park, from which new signs help them to find the way on foot to important locations such as the Roman Bath House, the Ratty, the village and, of course, the toilets.

The Heritage Trail leaflet is still selling well and providing an income that will support further reprints. The *Quick Look at Ravenglass* leaflet seems to be available everywhere you look these days and is often mentioned as a good advertisement for the village.

The proposed website is underway, following an unforeseen delay, and various aspects of the site are being undertaken by members of the local computer club.

As indicated at last year's AGM Andy Lowe, our LDNPA adviser, retired during the year. His input and guidance will be missed, but his successor has already made contact with us and we are looking forward to a continuing co-operative relationship.

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Newcastle Universities, giving courses on the industrial archaeology and traditional buildings of the Lake District. On BBC Radio Cumbria he presented his *Village Detective* series, which started in Ravenglass. The highlights are still on the Radio Cumbria website. He is a keen photographer and his other interests include cycle racing, steam locomotives and classical guitar. A man of many parts indeed. He would not like to think that the Forum could not manage without him – that would be no compliment to his work here – but his reassuring presence at our meetings is missed. *MH*

Notice of AGM

The seventh Annual General Meeting of Ravenglass Village Forum will be held on **Thursday, 17 May 2007 at 7.30 p.m.** in Muncaster Parish Hall.

Agenda

Welcome.

To confirm the Minutes of the sixth Annual General Meeting held on 23 May 2006.

Chairman's report.

Treasurer's report.

Examiner's statement on the accounts.

Elections for Chairman,

Treasurer, Secretary and six ordinary members of the Committee.

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.

Are you a member?

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 us when we apply for grants and deal with local authorities and agencies. 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.

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

Conservation Area assessment

David James, Andy Lowe's successor, tells us that the National Park now has the duty of making an Assessment of all its Conservation Areas and then a Management Plan for them. Because of the National Park's involvement with Ravenglass via Andy, David would like to make Ravenglass the pilot study.

Briefly the Assessment appraises the character of the area and the Management Plan then considers ways of enhancing it. It can't be done by remote control. David is seeking an opportunity to meet the Forum and the Parish Council for preliminary discussions, then to do a fair bit of work on the ground, meeting residents.

The Parish Plan, on which the Parish Council is now working, will make an important contribution to the exercise. David expects the work to take about six months before he presents a first draft Management Plan at a public meeting for local reaction.

We look forward to welcoming David to Ravenglass.

Update on Hollókö

The Ravenglass Twinning Association now exists as an independent body and it is looking forward to drawing up a formal twinning agreement between us and our Hungarian partners. Its committee hopes to arrange a visit to Hollókö later this year. It won't be a jolly at taxpayers' expense; those going will meet their own expenses. However, we are looking at the possibility of EU funding to bring a delegation from Hollókö here. The exchange rate is definitely not in our Hungarian friends' favour.

The officers are Brian Kennish (Chairman), Nigel Entwistle (Secretary) and Leo Saldanha (Treasurer). Mike Harrington is the fourth member of the committee. Any of them will be pleased to give more information or you can look for yourself at the Hollókö website at www.holloko.hu

Not the Charter Fair

There will be no Charter Fair this year. The Charter Fair Committee decided to suspend it this year and concentrate on a 'big bash' to celebrate the 800th anniversary of our Charter in 2008. But **there will be an alternative event** on Sunday, 17 June. There will be entertainment in the Parish Hall and attractions on the Green. Leaflets will come through your door, asking for your support.

One of the aims of Not the Charter Fair is to bring new blood onto the Charter Fair Committee. Some older members of the present committee, who have served since the Fair was revived in 1995, feel quite rightly that they have earned a rest. The continuation of the Charter Fair after 2008 will depend on the willingness of younger members of our community to take up the challenge.

Organisers of this year's event are Jane Frémont (717328) and Annette Barker (717437). They will welcome your help.

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