



Ravenglass Village Forum

May 2008

No 9

Chairman's report on the year

The Ravenglass Village Forum has seen its members involved in a variety of projects over the past year.

The problems of **contractors** failing to complete works has been ongoing for some time especially in relation to removal of old signs and replacement of cobbles disturbed outside the Post Office after works on service provisions. We are grateful to Karl Melville from Capita Highways for his assistance in pursuing these matters for us.

Members of the Forum helped with the production of the **Parish Plan**, which was published in September, and are involved in the actions required in many of the sections. The Forum is to drive the areas in relation to litter picking and the development of a Village Web site. Alas, organised litter picking is subject to Insurance and Health and Safety considerations, but Method Statements and Risk Assessments are being developed to allow us to progress in this area.

A **village web site** is now being developed by a local group working with Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd., who have now sponsored a Ravenglass Village site. The Forum will now develop a smaller site of its own to be linked to the main site.

The Heritage Trail Leaflet is selling well again after a downturn last year and the *Quick Look at Ravenglass* leaflet has been replaced by a new glossy free publication *Ravenglass, Where the Fells meet the Sea*. This should be on the shelves in time for the Bank Holiday Weekend at the end of May. I extend my thanks to all members who contributed ideas and to Ann Edwards and Shirley Broadhurst for editing and the production of the finished article.

Another team of members has been looking at ways to improve provision on the **Village Green**, as many residents felt that the northern end was particularly "tatty" and needed to provide a pleasant welcome to those coming under the railway bridge. Proposals have been submitted to the Parish Council and we await their formal deliberations. The Forum will make any necessary grant funding applications to allow works to progress. I thank Kate Hunter, David Tyldsley and Peter van Zeller for all their efforts in producing these proposals.

It would not be right for me not to mention the downside to the year, which was the reduction in harmony between the **Parish Council** and the Forum arising out of misunderstandings of each other's roles. An independently chaired joint meeting has been arranged to iron out these matters. The Forum has already identified from councillors some of the problems and has taken steps to address these.

I look forward to seeing our ongoing projects come to fruition in the next year and a resumption of the best of relations with the Parish Council.

Stuart Robb, Chairman 2007-08

No more mayhem on Main Street?

For a long time residents of Main Street have had to put up with invasions by the vehicles of visitors who ignore the direction signs to the Village Car Park. Offenders have included drivers of large motorhomes, tour buses and even trailer caravans. Some of them have little skill at turning in a confined space when the tide is up. Residents' cars and property have suffered damage and pedestrians have been endangered.

While the road along the beach to Eskmeals was still a highway nothing could be done about this. However, after it was downgraded to a bridleway, the Forum was able to recommend an Access Only restriction. The Parish Council has adopted the recommendation and, after conducting a poll to make sure that a majority of residents supported the policy, it is now taking the matter forward with the Highway Authority.

If it happens, it won't be a panacea. Access Only signs at the Neb will have a deterrent effect but there are always some who won't be told. It won't restrict access for residents, their visitors, trade deliveries to houses and fishermen or sailors who require access to the beach, but we hope it will banish inconsiderate visitors, especially those with large vehicles, and queues of tour buses. It will be possible to report persistent offenders.

What happens next? Nothing quickly. The County's Highway Working Group will have to consider the proposal, then refer it to the Copeland Local Area Committee for a decision on funding. If all goes well, there may be action in 2009-10.

Notice of AGM

The eighth Annual General Meeting of Ravenglass Village Forum will be held on **Thursday, 5 June 2008 at 7.30 p.m.** in Muncaster Parish Hall.

Agenda

To confirm the Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting.
Matters arising.
Chairman's report.
Treasurer's report.
Accounts and Examiner's statement on the accounts.
Elections.
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 contact the Editor or ask for a form when you arrive at the AGM. Time will be allowed for enrolment of new members before the formal meeting opens.

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Ravenglass Village super-website

If you type 'Ravenglass' into the Google search engine you will get about 413,000 results from all kinds of sources: tourism sites, local attractions, local businesses, personal recollections and photo collections, etc. By refining your search you can concentrate on the Ratty, Muncaster Castle or our hotels and pubs and even an entry in Wikipedia, but you will not find a site devoted to the village itself.

In our last Newsletter we mentioned that a village website was being planned. In fact we were making slow progress, due to lack of expertise, but we have now been quite happily overtaken by events. The Hadrian's Wall Heritage Group has decided that it will fund a professionally managed site, which can act as a focus for enquiries about our village. It won't take over the sites that several local businesses already run but it will provide links to them and attempt to provide a more unified presence for Ravenglass on the Web, as befits our position at the western rim of the Wall's coastal shield and the start or end of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site. The managing company has engaged a respected landscape photographer to provide pictures of the village's own attractions and will design the site.

This eases the Forum's task immensely. It will have its own site but it won't have to assume the task of presenting the village all by itself. The Parish Council will have its own site and both will have links from the new site. The Charter Fair is already on the Web. You can find its site at www.ravenglasscharterfair.org.uk.

We trust that there will be an appropriate blaze of publicity when the Ravenglass Village site is launched. When, we don't know, but look out for announcements in the press and local radio and TV news.
Information from Stuart Robb

...and now Ravenglass in full colour

During the past seven years the Ravenglass Village Forum has produced a free leaflet entitled *A Quick Look at Ravenglass*. Over the years there have been several changes and the leaflet is out of date. Stocks are also very low, so the opportunity has been taken to revamp the leaflet almost entirely and produce a full colour version with photographs instead of line drawings.

The old monochrome leaflet has served us well but it now looks tired and does not compare well with most leaflets advertising other tourist attractions or localities. The page listing local businesses and useful telephone numbers, most popular in the old leaflet, has been updated and continued. The name of the new free leaflet is *Ravenglass – Where The Fells Meet The Sea*.

The new leaflet has just been delivered and will be in outlets locally in time for the Spring Bank Holiday. If you own a Holiday Let or similar and you require copies for your visitors, please contact Ann Edwards at The Old Butchers Shop and she will be pleased to supply them. *Ann Edwards*

Elections

The Committee for 2007-08 consists of Stuart Robb (Chairman), Mike Harrington (Secretary), Kate Hunter (Treasurer) and six other members: Shirley Broadhurst, Ann Edwards, Leo Saldanha, Carol Stent, David Tyldsley and Peter van Zeller.

All officers and members of the Committee retire at the AGM and may stand for re-election. If you wish to stand for election, you will need to find a proposer and seconder. You and they must all be members of the Forum. Present Committee members, please inform the Secretary whether you wish to stand for re-election or not. Any new nominations to the Secretary, please, before the start of the meeting.