



# Ravenglass Village Forum

May 2012

[www.ravenglassforum.org.uk](http://www.ravenglassforum.org.uk)

No 13

## GREEN LIGHT FOR THE GREEN



At last we have the go-ahead for the planned improvements to the north end of the Village Green. They will be quite modest improvements, which will not change its appearance much but will improve the facilities for residents and visitors who value the Green as a place to relax and enjoy the views of the estuary.

The two new seats have already arrived. The biggest part of the job will be to lay reinforcement matting, similar to that used at the Roman Bath House. The grass will grow through it but the matting will provide a firmer surface for wheelchairs. There will also be two information boards set on low stone plinths, so that wheelchair users will be able to read them. On the corner of the bund, facing incoming traffic, there will be a welcoming mosaic by Maggy Howarth to complement the one that she did for the Millennium Garden. Minor improvements will be a new barrier and a gull-proof litter bin to replace the old dustbin.

Getting approval and raising funds for this project took a long time. At Parish Council level spurious objections by one person caused considerable delays before approval was given. Then we had to satisfy the Environment Agency that the sea defences would not be compromised and, because of the estuary's status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, we needed consent from Natural England. Finally the Lake District National Park Authority assured us that, as the Forum was doing the work on behalf of the Parish Council, the work would be a 'permitted development'. Peter van Zeller dealt with all these agencies on our behalf and undertook the fund-raising.

Work will start shortly when contracts have been agreed. The Parish Council will place the orders on the Forum's behalf and we look forward to the successful completion of the project.

## NEW TRAFFIC REGULATIONS: ARE THEY WORKING?



Our new Traffic Regulation Order became effective just in time for Easter. Cumbria County Council approved it last September and, after that, there was a long period of negotiation over the details between the Parish Council and Cumbria Highways. Reasonable objections from businesses on Main Street had to be met.

How are the new regulations working in practice? They seem to have achieved the desired result on the Croftlands/Townfield estate but we still hear of problems in Main Street. As far as we know, the sign in the picture means 'NO ENTRY unless you have good reason to visit premises beyond this sign.' We wonder how drivers who 'didn't see it' or 'didn't understand it' ever passed their test. More problematical are those who think it doesn't apply to them, chiefly the tour bus operators. Can Mountain Goat, etc. be barred from Main Street and persuaded to use the Car Park instead, so that their passengers can alight and spend money? Who can lawfully drive onto the beach? And what help with enforcement can we expect?

At its meeting on 8 May the Parish Council recognised that its understanding of the law is not absolutely clear on these points and it agreed to seek legal advice.

# Chairman's Report

The past year has been a 'behind the scenes' time for the Forum. On the face of it very little would appear to have been accomplished. However a series of inter-dependent funding applications and negotiations over the year, led and mainly carried out by Peter van Zeller, will allow the realisation of a long held dream.

That dream was to enhance the northern end of the Village Green by providing an all-weather surface with improved access to new seats, information plaques, a new mosaic to compliment the one in the Millennium Garden and a gull-proof litter bin.

The project, costing about £12,500, was supported by the Muncaster Parish Council, who agreed to be the custodians of the assets.

The monies have been raised and the necessary permissions from the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Lake District National Park Authority have been obtained. The two new seats are already in place and the preliminary work on the mosaic is under way. The rest of the work will progress when contracts are arranged.

I cannot thank Peter enough for the hours spent wading through the 'red tape' to get us to this stage. I would also like to thank the other committee members for their patience and support through what appears to have been a never-ending process and in particular Mike Harrington, our secretary, for keeping us on top of our paperwork. I look forward to what next year brings.

*Stuart Robb*

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## Notice of AGM

The twelfth Annual General Meeting of Ravenglass Village Forum will be held on **Thursday 31 May 2012 at 7.30 p.m.** in Muncaster Parish Hall.

### Agenda

Welcome.

To confirm the Minutes of the eleventh Annual General Meeting held on 23 June 2011.

Chairman's Report.

Treasurer's Report and Statement of 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 registered members of the Forum.

### Elections

The Committee for 2011-12 consists of:

*Chairman:* Stuart Robb

*Secretary:* Mike Harrington

*Treasurer:* Brian Kennish

*Members:* Ian Bell, Gary Blythe, Jane Frémont, and Peter van Zeller.

All members of the committee retire at the AGM and a new committee will be elected for 2012-13. We have two vacancies to fill if all present members are re-elected. Nominations from the floor will be accepted. If you wish to stand for election, you must have a proposer and seconder. You and they must all be registered members of the Forum.

## Are you a member?

The Forum has 45 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. Members who are online can also ask to receive copies of the Committee's Agenda and Minutes by email. There are no other privileges but the number of our members is evidence of the village's support for the work we do. It 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.

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.

## The Forum online

The Ravenglass Village Forum's website is at [www.ravenglassforum.org.uk](http://www.ravenglassforum.org.uk) There you will find a record of our achievements in the village so far, our co-operation with Muncaster Parish Council and other local authorities, our problems and concerns and ongoing projects such as our efforts to improve facilities on the Village Green and the environment of the village in general. You can learn how the Forum works and download pdf copies of our Constitution, Minutes of all AGMs and Committee Minutes since June 2007.