



# Ravenglass Village Forum

May 2013

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

No 14



## Kate unveils the mosaic

We were delighted to be able to invite Kate Hunter to unveil our new mosaic on 18 March while she was paying us a return visit from Canada. With Peter van Zeller and the late David Tyldsley, Kate was a member of the Forum's sub-committee that drew up plans for the improvements to the Village Green.

The mosaic was designed and made by Maggy Howarth, who made the mosaic for the Millennium Garden. Based on a Roman design, it celebrates our village's maritime history.

The improvements to the Village Green are now almost complete. We still have to agree on the design and content of the information panels that will go on the stone plinths, let the reinforcement matting for the all-weather area settle in and finish painting the barrier.

Chris Wagstaff laid the foundation for the mosaic and built the plinths and the new stone rubbish bin. Joe Geer installed the matting that will make the surface at this end of the Green firmer for wheelchair users and parents with baby buggies. The Forum would like to thank the bodies that awarded grants for this project: Cumbria Waste Management Environmental Trust, the Copeland Community Fund, the Hadfield Trust, Cumbria Community Foundation and the Seascale & Bootle Neighbourhood Forum.

## Metal monsters

We failed to stop the march of the wind turbines. At its meeting on 22 May Copeland Planning Panel approved the application of Mr Shepherd of Moorside Farm, Drigg, to erect a 45-metre turbine on his land. Because it was 'only' 45 metres high and would be situated in a slight hollow, the Planning Officers recommended approval on the grounds that it overcame the objections to the application for an 80-metre turbine that was refused last year.

The Lake District National Park Authority let us down. It accepted the Officers' recommendation and entered no objection. Councillors from rural wards spoke strongly in support of the objections from the Forum, Drigg residents (represented by Stuart Robb) and Muncaster, Seascale and Gosforth Parish Councils. Councillors from urban wards, from which the turbine won't be visible, parroted the wind farm lobby's propaganda and dismissed local opinion. This turbine will make an infinitesimal contribution to the energy needs of this area. Is it needed when we have a forest of turbines offshore? It will only generate a fat profit from government subsidies for Mr Shepherd and his backers, Stern Wind Ltd. of Strabane, Northern Ireland. The motion to approve the application was carried by a majority of 6 to 5. How long until the next application for a turbine in this area?

## Is there worse to come?

If and when the new nuclear power station is built near Sellafield, a route will have to be found for power lines to where the power is needed further south. The National Grid has already held a 'consultation' (did they ask you?) and is now considering the alternatives of an undersea cable and an overland cable. The overland power line would be cheaper and easier for the power companies but it would have to come very close to Ravenglass and it would require much bigger pylons than those used for the existing power line. There won't just be one of them.

Read all about it at [www.northwestcoastconnections.com](http://www.northwestcoastconnections.com) About 150,000 visitors a year come to our village, the Ratty and the Castle. If you want to protect the beauty of our environment, be prepared!

## Wot no Chairman?

Last back end we lost our elected Chairman when Stuart and Sue Robb took the opportunity to move out of the village to a lovely old farmhouse at Whicham. By moving out of the village Stuart unfortunately forfeited his membership of the Forum. The Committee has extended the definition of 'the village' but it can't extend it that far. Stuart was a very effective Chairman and he is still with us as one of our Advisers, but he can no longer vote or hold office.

Since then we have managed by appointing an Acting Chairman for each Committee meeting. The Committee cannot appoint a new substantive Chairman because, as the Constitution stands, only a vote of the members at the AGM can do that. The Committee will recommend amendments to our Constitution at our AGM on Wednesday, 12 June and one of them will enable the committee to fill the vacancy if anything similar happens again, like the Secretary falling off his motorbike or losing his wits. These amendments require a 2/3 majority, so all members of the Forum are urged to attend the AGM. There will be an opportunity to vote by proxy for any member who absolutely can't attend.

### Are you a member?

To be eligible for membership of the Forum you must be an adult, broadly in agreement with the Forum's aims and objectives and a resident of 'the village of Ravenglass.' The Constitution does not define the extent of 'the village.' The Committee's old definition was a bit restrictive. It excluded residents of the parish who live at Newtown and in the Castle grounds or Brankenwall. Requests for membership from one or two people who might have made a positive contribution to the Forum had to be turned down. Recently the Committee agreed that parishioners living adjacent to the A595, who use the village's facilities and have an interest in it, should have a voice in the Forum's affairs. We will welcome them into membership if they wish to apply. Please contact the Editor.

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## Notice of Annual General Meeting

The thirteenth Annual General Meeting of Ravenglass Village Forum will be held in Muncaster Parish Hall at 7.30 p.m on Wednesday 12 June 2013.

### Agenda

Appointment of Chairman for the Meeting  
To confirm the Minutes of the 2012 AGM  
Matters arising from the Minutes  
Secretary's Report  
Treasurer's Report and Accounts  
Special Resolutions to amend the Constitution  
Elections  
Any other relevant business

Time will be allowed for registration of new members before the meeting opens. Only registered members have the right to speak, vote, propose or second candidates for office and propose resolutions from the floor.

Resolutions to amend the Constitution can only be made at a General Meeting and, as the Constitution stands, they require a 2/3 majority of all members. Members are urged to attend in person or, if they cannot, to use their proxy votes.

## Wanted: Committee members

The members of the Committee for 2012-13 are Mike Harrington (*Secretary*), Ian Bell (*Treasurer*), Gary Blythe, Jane Frémont and Peter van Zeller. We have four vacancies, which we would like to have filled at the AGM.

If the amendment to Article 7.3 of the Constitution is carried, the Meeting will elect the members of the Committee and, at a Special Meeting immediately after the AGM, the Committee will appoint the new Officers. Other members who wish to stay and observe the Special Meeting will be welcome to do so. Under the proposed new arrangement the Committee will be empowered to appoint a replacement if an Officer is unable to complete his term of office for any reason. It cannot do so at present.

If any member is interested in joining the Committee but would like to know more about the commitments first, please contact the Editor. The Committee meets monthly in the evenings, so having a day job is no bar.

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