



Ravenglass Village Forum

June 2015

www.ravenglassforum.org.uk

No 16

Going walkabout

In our Newsletter last year we invited suggestions for new projects. One plea was for improvement of the path under the bridge on the Clemlands path. Rain had washed soil down under the bridge, blocking the drain and making the path unpleasant for those who use it. At our request Phil Clague, the National Park's Project Ranger, arranged for volunteers to dig the silt out, unclog the drain and lay gravel to provide a better walkway. The Forum contributed the cost of the gravel, £80. We have had favourable comments from locals who use the path regularly, particularly dog-walkers.

Phil Clague asked us for a contribution to the costs of two bridges. One is on the bridleway through Beacon Plantation by the Esk, approximately opposite Hall Waberthwaite. This is on a route that is popular with visiting walkers and cyclists. There is a bridge of sorts there, which needs to be brought up to bridleway standards. The other bridge will be entirely new, over the beck that runs across the marsh below Brighthouse Farm. It is a very awkward crossing. At low tide you can wade through very slippery mud beside the Esk but that is not pleasant. Otherwise you have to clamber with some difficulty over the footings of an old wall where the beck emerges from the field. The National Park will provide a good bridge, which will improve the route vastly for cyclists, families with pushchairs and older people who are not as lish on their feet as they used to be. The Forum will contribute £1500, half the cost of the materials, for the two bridges. The National Park has scheduled the work for June.

We now have three National Park Rangers looking after this area. Phil is the Project Ranger, Rec Cathey is the Area Ranger and a new Ranger, Mike Tattersall, will take on responsibility for Rights of Way. He will oversee the work on the new bridges.

Meanwhile, back in the village ...

Early in 2014 properties on the seaward side of Main Street suffered flooding. Copeland Borough Council's Flood Officer recommended that the height of the sea wall should be increased in the Millennium Garden and other properties. Chris Wagstaff was commissioned to do the work. The wall was raised and rendered with cement. A Government emergency fund provided grants towards the cost for householders and paid for all the work on the Millennium Garden wall. A breakwater was also built to break the force of the waves that were sloshing up the steps from the beach and dumping large quantities of sea in the Garden at spring tides. We are told that it works well.

Leo Saldanha painted the completed wall in a pleasing shade of yellow to match adjoining properties. He and his wife Debbie also replanted the flowerbeds. They did the work and the Forum paid for the plants and paint. Our thanks to them both.

One project that we have not quite finished yet is the work on the Green. Our Information Panels have not yet appeared on the stone plinths. The Parish Council asked the Forum to suspend work on the boards for some months until we and they knew what the design and content of Copeland BC's Coastal Interpretation Board would be and where it would be located. We now know that we can go ahead with our panels and we hope to complete the project this year.

The new power line

The Forum, the Parish Council and others, chiefly the National Park and the Friends of the Lake District, have strongly opposed the proposal to bring a line of giant pylons through Muncaster Parish to carry power southwards from the planned nuclear power station at Moorside. We are not alone in thinking that, in its argument, National Grid has ignored the substantial cost of 'mitigation' that a land route would require. The cable would have to be buried to protect the landscape, which has fairly strong legal protection. National Grid has ignored its own planning rules, the 'Holford Rules', in expressing its preference for an overhead line. When the cost of burying the power line is added to its estimate, an undersea cable may be more economical. National Grid disagrees, claiming that it would be too expensive to find a route round an expanding offshore wind farm and the Eskmeals gun range for the High Voltage DC technology that it would have to use. If so, the only choice is to bury the cable onshore. Gas Insulated Lines underground may be the best answer. Search engines will give a link to the Siemens GIL site for more information. *[Sorry: the URL is too long to print here.]*

We are in contact with the Power Without Pylons group based in Broughton-in-Furness. Its website is at www.powerwithoutpylons.org.uk with a link to a 38 Degrees petition. Please sign it. You can read National Grid's information at www.northwestcoastconnections.com

Pylons are not acceptable. If you agree, please remember that official letters from the Forum and the Parish Council count only as two letters. National Grid will need evidence of opposition from all the communities along the proposed onshore route, so your letters will count. Please don't allow our treasured landscape to be despoiled. Write to National Grid now. ~ MH

Notice of AGM

The 15th Annual General Meeting of the Ravenglass Village Forum will take place in Muncaster Parish Hall on Thursday 25 June 2015 at 7.00 p.m.

Agenda

Welcome.

To confirm the Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting.

Matters arising from the Minutes.

Committee report.

Treasurer's report and Statement of Accounts.

Election of the Committee for 2015-16.

The meeting will be opened for discussion of any other relevant matters after the formal business. Any resolutions from the floor must be proposed and seconded by members. Time will be allowed before the start of the meeting for registration of new members.

The members of the Committee for 2014-15 are Gary Blythe (Chairman), Ian Bell (Treasurer), Mike Harrington (Secretary), Edna Parr, Carol Stent and Peter van Zeller. Carol does not wish to stand for re-election. We have vacancies, which we would like to fill for the coming year. If you are interested, please contact the Editor.

Are you a member of the Forum?

Our membership at present is 37; a good percentage of our small population, but we would welcome more. The proportion of our membership to our population indicates the degree of public support we enjoy when we make applications for grants or we have opinions to express on matters that affect the wellbeing of our village. Your support, active or passive, is important to us.

To be a member you must be a resident over the age of 18 and broadly in support of the Forum's aims and objectives. Membership entitles you to attend, speak, propose or second motions and vote at General Meetings. You may also stand for election to the Committee if you wish, but you don't have to. Membership is free. You will also be entitled to receive the Agenda and Minutes of all meetings, including Committee meetings, by email.

*Edited and published for the Ravenglass Village Forum by **RiverEsk***

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