

Catterall Mill Race Sluice Gate

When the Parish Council realised that a number of the original stones had 'disappeared' we were prompted to take action to preserve this part of our Village heritage. The Parish Council, therefore, resolved to dig out the old sluice and see what was under the ground.



At this time the stones were being used by skateboarders and we were concerned that someone would get hurt. The few stones on the river bank were all that could be seen.



We were successful in gaining a grant from The Green Partnership Awards to excavate and secure the stones



BUT, what the excavation revealed was a surprise. The depth of the perfectly constructed walls, led to a solid stone flagged floor and the tunnel which brought water from the River Calder through the mill race for use by the many mills around Catterall Gates Lane.





To ensure health and safety we erected chestnut piling given the depth of the mill race. The Parish Lengthsman Tim Hoyles and Pilling's Parish Lengthsman, Graham Armer worked together to reconstruct the walls of the mill race and sluice gate with the stones which had been revealed and a few that had been put away for safe keeping.







The sluice gate controlled the flow of water by the raising of a wooden gate. This was raised by a handle turned on a screw, which still remains and has been securely fixed in place.





A further grant from The Big Lottery provided the green railed safety fencing and a gate to allow for maintenance and seasonal strimming. The grant also covers the information board set on the stone plinth.



The information board was drawn up by Dylan Cross at XintoArt and manufactured by Forsythe and Steele. Tim, the Parish Lengthsman has recently created the stone plinth and access path from the playing field footpath.