

Matterdale Community Association Bulletin Number 5

The MCA Trustees had their monthly meeting on 7 April, and this Bulletin is to keep people in Matterdale up to date with progress. We now have over 150 people receiving the Bulletin via email, and membership of MCA is nearing 80. If you have not yet joined and would like to join, please contact Jane Newport on 017864 82367 or janenewport7@gmail.com for a membership application form. Membership requires nothing more than support for what the MCA is trying to do!

Trustees: since the MCA AGM on 10 March, Tyrone Castles has resigned as a Trustee as he felt his role on the MCA conflicted with his role as Chair of the Parish Council, and consequently Chair of the Matterdale School Foundation. At the meeting today, it was agreed that Monika Rurys should be co-opted as a Trustee.

The New Village Hall: The Charity Commission has raised a question about whether the sale of the New School is because it is 'surplus to requirements'. This is not the case. The sale is to provide funds for a new build to replace the New School with a new purpose built, more economical to maintain and run, facility. Clarification is currently being sought by MSF. The other main development has been a further meeting with the Planning Officer which has resulted in helpful advice on making a written case for why we wish to go for a new build village hall, and why we believe the recreation field is the best location. There will then be a meeting with the Planning Committee for a discussion at the pre-application stage.

The Virtual Village Hall: Great progress has been made. The marquee has been bought, and will be put up on Sunday, 10 April at the Royal Hotel. The marquee was bought by the Parish Council, and will remain a resource for the community once the 'virtual village hall' moves to permanent premises. We have also applied for a grant from Cumbria County Council under the small community grant scheme for a contribution towards the cost of the marquee.

There is quite a lot of work that needs to be done to prepare the 'tent' for the first event on 1 May which will be 'an informal acoustic session with a bar' - everyone is invited to come along and bring instruments and voices, all abilities and styles welcome! Fortnightly, from 5 May, there will be singing in the marquee from 6.00-7.00pm on a Friday night - Matterdale Zings - before returning to the pub for a well earned drink! The Grand Launch Party will take place on Saturday, 14 May with music, dancing and everyone is encouraged to bring food to share. A monthly ceilidh with our local Reunion Ceilidh Band will take place on Friday, 20 May, and Bank Holiday fun and games are planned for the afternoon on Sunday, 28 May.

Website: Paul Airey has put together a website for MCA - www.matterdale.org. This will have information on all events that MCA will be putting on over the summer, as well as local information on the Parish Council, bus timetables, events at Watermillock Village Hall etc. Have a look and see what we are planning for May through to September. We would really welcome members of the community putting on their own event in the marquee. If you have an idea of what you would like to do, or if you fancy using the marquee for your own event, contact paulgoodman964@gmail.com or on 017684 82756 to discuss possible dates.

The MCA Trustees have now set up a working group to draft a Business Plan that sets out the strategy for acquiring and then running a new build village hall. Members of the working group will attend a training session with ACT on how to approach the task of drawing up the Business Plan, and we have been offered assistance from key people involved in drawing up the Business Plan for the Newbiggin Village Hall.

The next meeting of the MCA Trustees is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 5 May 2016.