

## Matterdale Community Association    Bulletin No 6

This Bulletin is to update everyone following the MCA Trustee Meeting on 5 May 2016

The Virtual Village Hall (VVH): The marquee was erected at the Royal Hotel in mid April, and the first event took place on 1 May. Over 70 people signed in as having attended the acoustic music afternoon, with probably a further 30 attending who didn't sign in! The weather was kinder than the forecast, and the bar was almost drunk dry. We learnt a great deal about putting on further events. We have a very active VVH group, but anyone wishing to come and help us would be very welcome. The next VVH group meeting is at the Royal Hotel on Monday, 16 May at 6.30pm.

The acoustic event on 1 May raised £43 in donations, and £80 from the bar. We appreciate that more could and should have been done to encourage donations, and this will be pursued more actively at future events. We have decided not to charge for events, but encourage donations on which we can claim Gift Aid (up to a maximum of £5000!). We will also be hosting fund raising events for other charities: on 10 June, for instance, there will be a Quiz Night in aid of hospice at Home.

Further May events involve two meetings of Matterdale Zings, the Matterdale choir which will be meeting fortnightly at 6.00pm on Friday evening in the marquee throughout the summer starting on 6 May; the Grand Launch Party (music, bar and bring food to share) on 14 May; a Ceilidh Night with our local Reunion Ceilidh Band on 20 May; and Bank Holiday Fun and Games (including a ping-pong contest) on 28 May. The programme for June - September will be published on our new website ([www.matterdale.org](http://www.matterdale.org)), but there is an opportunity for further events to be put in the diary. Contact Paul Goodman on [paulgoodman964@gmail.com](mailto:paulgoodman964@gmail.com) if you would like to book the marquee for an event.

The Actual Village Hall: since the last MCA Trustee Meeting, the Trustees of the Matterdale School Foundation (MFS) have decided to instruct PF&K to put the New School on the market subject to final approval from the Charity Commission, and the Lake District Planning Department. The MFS Trustees have also decided that the preferred siting of New Build Community facility should be on the recreation ground which will allow for youth groups to camp and undertake sporting activities. Following a meeting with the Planning Officer, a pre-application submission has been made to the Planning Department making out the case for why the Trustees believe this is the best location in the valley. A response is currently awaited.

Other business dealt with at the May MCA Trustee Meeting:

- \* the MCA bank account has now been opened, and a float from the Parish Council agreed.
- \* Paul Airey is working with Monika Rurys to complete the work on the website which will then be kept up to date by Monika.
- \* At the PCC Annual Meeting, it was agreed in principle that some smaller VVH events could take place in Matterdale Church over the winter once the marquee has been taken down. Each event would need to be approved by the Rector.
- \* MCA needs a Safeguarding Policy for children and vulnerable adults. Lucie Stockdale agreed to be the MCA Safeguarding Officer, and draft a policy for approval by the Trustees. It would then be posted on the website.
- \* Insurance: Mark Nixon, as Treasurer, reported that necessary insurance was now in place.
- \* Issues raised from the floor at the MCA AGM in March were addressed.
- \* Business Planning and Fund Raising Group: four Trustees agreed to work together on drafting both a Business Plan and Fund Raising Strategy. Two Trustees had attended a recent Open Event held in Cumbria on fund raising, and have learnt a great deal that will be useful in taking the MCA fund raising strategy forward. A meeting has been set up with ACT for later in May to help get the Business Planning process started.

The next meeting of the MCA Trustees will take place on Thursday, 2 June 2016.