

This Bulletin is to update the community following the MCA Trustee Meeting that took place on Tuesday, 29 November 2016.

Most of the Trustee Meeting was spent on the plans for the Virtual Village Hall over the winter months. The 5 November Bonfire and Fireworks at the Royal Hotel had been a huge success, and had attracted a large crowd on a beautiful and cold evening. Not only did MCA cover the cost of the fireworks, the mulled wine and hotdogs/burgers, we made a profit of £155 from the generous donations from those who attended. The Hon Treasurer reported that we now have a surplus of £2215 in the MCA bank account accumulated from the summer activities.

Planning ahead, the Trustees agreed to sponsor the mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies at the Matterdale Candle-Lit Carol Service on Sunday, 18 December 2016 at 6.00pm. Peter Croft's Steel Drum Band will be accompanying a number of the carols with a West Indian edge, and Matterdale Zings will be out in force following their successful concert in August. Everyone is strongly encouraged to come to make this an unforgettable Matterdale community event.

The now traditional Matterdale Xmas Eve Bake Off will take place at the Royal Hotel at 6.00pm on Saturday, 24 December. Entrants are encouraged to try their hand at making apple strudel. The MCA Trustees have decided to provide a small trophy to present to the overall winner of the event.

New Year's Eve: members of the community are invited to come down to the Royal Hotel to welcome in the New Year. Dinner can be booked in the restaurant until 10.00pm, and then from 11.00pm onwards there will be music, celebrations and, who knows, some energetic dancing.

A date for your diary: Friday, 27 January 2017. MCA is sponsoring a Polish Evening at the Royal Hotel. It will be a ticket only event with a limit to the numbers that can be catered for. There will be Polish food and drink, and live Polish Music. Already a number of local firms have agreed to sponsor the evening, and it will feature in the national UK Polish news. The MCA Trustees would hope that the evening can raise a significant sum for a nominated Polish Charity in the UK.

'Old Matterdale' Reminiscence Evening: Brian Clark, Emily Norton and Jane Newport are working on a project for later in 2017 to have an evening focusing on 'Old Matterdale'. More information in due course. All contributions welcome.

Other plans under consideration: a community walk on 9 April (details to be agreed), Easter Egg Hunt and egg rolling at the Knotts on Easter Sunday, Duck Race on May Day Bank Holiday.

The decision about whether to erect the marquee next Summer was postponed until the New Year.

New Education and Community Centre: negotiations continue about a potential location for a new centre, and the sale of the New School is on hold until such negotiations are concluded.

Future MCA Trustee Meetings: it was agreed that the Board of Trustees would meet every two months during 2017, rather than the monthly meeting that has taken place in 2016. The Virtual Village Hall Committee will continue to meet monthly to oversee the programme of activities planned.

Next MCA Trustee Meetings: Tuesday, 24 January; Tuesday, 28 March.