

This Bulletin is to update the community following the meeting of the MCA Board of Trustees on Tuesday, 24 January 2017

Update on MCA sponsored events since the last Board Meeting on 29 November 2016:

- * Carol Service at Matterdale Church: this was a fabulously well supported with the Church looking beautiful in candlelight, the Matterdale Zing singers in full throat, and Peter Croft's West Indian Steel Band adding their own special rhythm to this important community gathering.
- * The Christmas Bake-off: on Xmas Eve, the Royal Hotel was full for the Annual Bake-off with 13 entries. Michelle Castles apple strudel was in a class of its own, and won the new MCA trophy!
- * New Year's Eve at the Royal: a packed pub, and a great way to welcome in 2017.

Events coming up:

- * Polish Night on 27 January: tickets for this event have sold out. It should be a great night.
- * Matterdale Zings: this will be a monthly social gathering to sing and enjoy soup! The first meeting will take place on Sunday, 5 February between 4.00pm - 6.00pm at the Church Meeting Room. All welcome. Emma Bray has volunteered to make the soup.
- * Steel Band: after the success of the carols, the steel band will be reconvening weekly at Peter Croft's barn on Monday nights from 7.00pm - 8.00pm starting on 30 January. All welcome.
- * Community Walk (9 April): put the date in your diary. Set off from the Royal at 1.30pm for Glenridding, and the ferry back to Airaforce. Dogs more than welcome.
- * Easter Egg Hunt (16 April): another date for your diary. Details of event to follow.

Marquee: after some discussion, the Trustees have decided not to put up the marquee this summer. It was felt that the events run in the marquee during May-September 2016 had demonstrated that the community was strong enough to justify the building of a village hall, but the work to maintain events in the marquee was considerably more than in a building. We were also exceptionally lucky with the weather last summer. The marquee is owned by the Parish Council, and can be hired out, but our experience last year is that it is a huge amount of work to both erect and dismantle it. The Trustees would be happy to reconsider the decision about not putting up the marquee this summer if there was a strong wish in the community that we should.

Update on potential site for new Community and Educational Centre, and planning permission: negotiations for the purchase of land for the new centre have progressed, and will hopefully reach a successful conclusion soon. The planning officer from the Lake District National Park has indicated that the Authority would be very positive about the siting of the new centre at this location. If the outcome of the negotiations are successful, then planning permission will be applied for both the new centre, and for change of use of the New School to a single residential dwelling at the same time.

Update on Charity Commission: a response from the Charity Commission has now been received, and there is an agreement for Trustees from the Matterdale School Foundation to meet with the Commission lawyers to progress outstanding issues.

Other issues covered in the meeting:

- * Safeguarding Policy: further work to be done on draft policy before it is agreed and published on the website.
- * Website and Facebook: both need updating. Paul Chapman agreed to take on the responsibility for keeping the website up to date.
- * Bank Balance: MCA currently has over £2000 in its account, but will have to pay out for insurance and other anticipated expenses in the months to come. Trustees acknowledged that we would have to raise funds for MCA through some of the events put on over the summer.