

This Bulletin is to update the community following the MCA Trustees Meeting on 6 September, and the MCA AGM on 9 September.

At the AGM, the following were elected (or re-elected as Trustees): Peter Crofts, John O'Neil, Paul Goodman, Monika Rurys, Emma Bray and Paul Chapman. They join Veronica Gore, Mark Nixon, Jane Newport, Brian Clark and Lucie Stockdale. The elected officers of the MCA: Veronica Gore (Chair), Mark Nixon (Treasurer) and Jane Newport (Secretary).

Update on Matterdale School Foundation (MSF) matters:

MSF are in on-going negotiations with the Lake District National Park planners regarding the siting of a new build Educational and Community Centre. The planners have made helpful suggestions in response to a pre-application submission from MSF, requesting that more work be done to look for a site nearer existing clusters of buildings. Significant progress has been made, and we are hopeful that an outline planning application will be made in the near future.

Negotiations with the Charity Commission regarding the most appropriate scheme to enable MSF to lease the new build to MCA is also on-going. The Charity Commission has come back with some helpful suggestions about the scheme, which MSF is taking forward.

Virtual Village Hall: the marquee at the Royal Hotel has now been taken down and packed away. The programme of events that ran from 1 May to 5 September 2016 proved to be an unqualified success, and was very well supported by the community. The experience has undoubtedly demonstrated that the community in Matterdale is strong enough to sustain an Educational and Community Centre. Over the next twelve months, the consensus at the AGM was that the focus should be on fund raising for the new build centre, rather than to continue to run such a full programme of events as we have this summer. However, it was also recognised that we should not lose the momentum achieved over the summer, and thought was given to what could be run during the winter months, leaving the question as to whether we use the marquee again next summer until a later date. Discussion following the AGM focused on 'What Next?', and the following proposals emerged:

MCA will sponsor a Fireworks Night on Saturday, 5 November at the Royal Hotel. MCA will purchase the fireworks, and ask for donations from those attending to cover the cost. We would propose having burgers and sausages under an awning.

West Indian Carols: Peter Crofts is proposing to establish the Matterdale Steel Drum troupe based at his barn at Baldhow End, and teach the troupe to play carols on his steel drums with a view of performing at the Matterdale Carol Service should permission be granted for such a performance!

A Polish Evening at the Royal Hotel: in late November, MCA plans to hold a Polish Evening at the Royal facilitated by our own local Polish Community - Polish food, drink, music and dancing!

'Old Matterdale' Film Night: Emily Norton has an historic film of Matterdale 'as it was', and Brian Clark has offered to host a Film Night to show the film at a venue yet to be decided.

Curry Night at the Royal Hotel: we hope to repeat last year's successful Curry Night when people were encouraged to make their own favourite curries, and bring it to the pub to be judged and enjoyed. We would also hope to repeat the Christmas Bake Off which the Mitchell's seem to win year after year!

The next meeting of the Virtual Village Hall Committee will take place at the Royal Hotel at 6.30pm on Tuesday, 25 October 2016. We would welcome anyone to the meeting who would like to get involved in putting on and organising events in Matterdale. It is an active and sociable committee that would benefit from additional people getting involved.