

# October News & Update

## Cumbria Churches Trust

Gina Dowding, one of two recently appointed workers for Cumbria Churches Trust, outlined the aims and objectives of the organisation and detailed some of the work being undertaken by the trust expressing the hope that their organisation could work with ours and that rather than duplicating work we could complement each other to our mutual benefit.

## Prayer Boards

Malcolm informed members that a meeting with clergy arranged for the New Year would examine the incidence of prayer requests and how faiths could respond to an obvious spiritual need in the population at large.

## Exhibition Stands & Leaflet

The exhibition stands were displayed for members to see. All agreed that they were a real asset to our organisation. Copies of the new publicity leaflet were distributed. A folder is in the process of being produced.. We are grateful to the Mersey Partnership, NWDA and to Malcolm and Peter for the not inconsiderable work involved in producing the stands, leaflets and folder. We thanked Mersey Partnership for donating £400 towards the £800 costs of producing the leaflets.

## Aspire News

Malcolm has spent time revitalising our bid which has to be completed by November. If successful the project will commence in September 2009 and will include a worker who will begin by working on the Liverpool project and then a year later move on to the Manchester project.

## Interpretation Materials

A one-day seminar at Rydal Hall has been arranged for 10<sup>th</sup> November. If it goes well it will be repeated in other tourism areas. We are all agreed that this project is an important one for our organisation as it will give accredited sites a template for quality interpretation materials to aim for. Malcolm and Gina were going on to a meeting in Carlisle where hopefully inspiring and innovative ideas would be probed.

## Marque News

Lord Lloyd Webber has generously waived the £3647 we owed for the plaques to enable us to purchase our next set for use in 2009.

Liverpool Area – Saint Francis Xavier's church is hoping to receive their award during a concert. The Al-Mara Mosque's building extensions etc are behind schedule but Peter will be kept informed when the final inspection for their award can be carried out. Old Christ Church, Waterloo has applied for our award and Peter will check this out as soon as possible.

## Award Dates Organised

United Reformed Church, Kendal 25<sup>th</sup> Oct.

Whalley Abbey – 28<sup>th</sup> Oct.

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St Mary's, the Hidden Gem – 10<sup>th</sup> Dec.

There are several others in process and we hope to aim for 60 awards next year. Malcolm wrote to the 5 Tourism areas asking for some financial support for our work to deliver awards in their areas. To date we have had one positive response from Lancashire and Blackpool.

## **Festival of Food, Music and Dance at YMCA, Lakeside**

South Lakeland Inter Faith Group are planning to host a Festival of Food, Music and Dance at YMCA, Lakeside in summer 2009 providing the funding is forthcoming from the Communities and Local Government Grant.

## **Funding Bid - Regional Worker based in Preston**

We are seeking matching funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the £32, 000 we are anticipating to receive from The English Heritage Fund North West.

## **Financial Report - Summary**

Statement at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008

Brought forward   £1262.12

Income£14654.86

Expenditure       £4465.48

**Balance £11451.50**

## **VisitBritain National Code of Practice**

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 visitor attractions will not be promoted by VisitBritain unless they have either their full VAQUAS or the new National Code of Practice which is a self assessment scheme. The cost of this self assessment scheme is £25.00 but holders of our Visitors Welcome Award will be offered the Code of Practice for £10.00.

A leaflet - '*Our promise To Visitors*' is available explaining the Code

## **Next Meeting – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 12.00 to 2.30**

This will be held in Manchester – exact venue to be arranged.