



## January 2023 Newsletter

### New Committee



#### **Tim Plaice - Chair/Trustee**

Chair and committee member since 2016. A keen climber and hill walker who has always loved the lakes. A passion for bouldering and wild swimming. Loves Ennerdale and the valley



#### **Victoria Pearce - Vice Chair/Trustee**

Vice Chair and committee member since 2012. Been visiting LGFC since the age of 6 (now 48) as her father and stepmother have been heavily involved in the Centre since the 70's. Ennerdale is one of her favourite places, especially the Liza. Keen outdoor person, loves walking the hills, running round the lake, biking, bouldering, climbing and wild swimming

#### **Paddy Muir - Treasurer/ Trustee**

Paddy is son of some of our longest standing Members (Jane and David Muir), Paddy has been coming to the Centre since before he was even born !!!



#### **Rachael Muir - Secretary/Trustee**

Occupation - Teacher/Forest School Owner  
Hobbies - Biking, climbing, kayaking/ canoeing, walking  
First time at LGFC - May 2006  
Favourite thing to do at LGFC – Friday night catch up with friends, climb, walk or swim  
Best memory from LGFC – Climbing Pillar (epic day, down for midnight)



#### **Ian Thompson - Membership Secretary/ Trustee**

Name - Kenneth Ian Thompson  
Occupation - Youth exchange leader  
Hobbies - Youth exchange activities, learning IT, walking, caravanning, football,  
First time at LGFC / 1979 local school trip  
Favourite thing to do at LGFC- chill take in the view chat and relax.  
Best memory from LGFC- Taking my 2018 outward group there for prep weekend



#### **Jennifer Lanham - Trustee/Committee member**

Jennifer is Community Outreach Officer for Cotswold National Landscape and working towards a level 2 Outdoor Education diploma in her spare time. Jennifer loves being outdoors wild camping, swimming, paddling and planting trees. She studied Biological Aspects of conservation at the University of Wisconsin and is a passionate advocate for nature recovery.





**Rob Lanham- Trustee/ Committee Member**

Rob has been coming to Low Gillerthwaite since 2012 when he brought his oldest son, then 6, for his first walking weekend. The family has been coming back ever since. Rob works as a consultant and project manager and lived in Borneo for three years where he ran a dive centre and adventure travel company and met Jennifer



**Dorothy Gradden OBE- Trustee/committee member**

Recently retired after 40 years in the nuclear industry. lives about 20 minutes from Ennerdale. Passionate about protecting the unique nature of the Ennerdale Valley for future generations. Keen to support more young local children experience the wonders of LGFC.



**Paul Stewart -Trustee/Committee member**

Chartered Engineer, Head of Projects for a major nuclear site (now retired)  
Hobbies are mountaineering and playing guitar  
First time at Gillerthwaite was 2022  
Best memory at Gillerthwaite has been watching the sun rise over Ennerdale and seeing a Jack Russell terrier herd chickens



**Joan Taylor - Trustee/Committee member**

Joan born and bred in Cleator Moor lives in Ennerdale Village. Hobbies include walking, biking, cooking and growing wild flowers and veggies. love the ethos of Low Gillerthwaite and want to support Ellen and Walter in the amazing they work they do.

**Simon Robertson - Trustee/Committee member**

Occupation – Commissioned Officer, British Army.  
Hobbies – Watching most sports (live or on TV) when not running around looking after the kids.  
First time at LGFC – September 2022 (loved it)  
Favourite thing to do at LGFC – Taking in the amazing views and not having access to social media plus work laptop!!  
Best memory from LGFC – Playing good old card games in the evenings.....not relying on technology.



The key objective for this year is to secure a lease so that LGFC can deliver on its objectives. A clear mandate was received from the membership at the AGM to keep fighting for the best lease possible for Low Gillerthwaite. The lease will be key to the level of funding that we may be able to secure to help with the charitable objectives.

As well as securing a new lease for the Centre, the Committee are focused on educational objectives and are hoping to be able to provide more opportunities to the local schools with particular focus on Geology and Geography for Key Stage 1 & 2 children. Discussions with local school and business partners are underway.

The committee are also dedicated to continuing the Dark Sky events and are in talks with local astronomers to help decided on the next dates and also the structure of the event.

We will be reintroducing Working Week this year and also have put a cleaning weekend in March. Any help the members can offer for these weeks/weekends will most appreciated. More information about these events can be found further down in the newsletter.

## AGM NEWS

**Bednight Fees :**Although at the AGM we discussed keeping the fees the same this year, after subsequent discussions in committee and the financial challenges the Centre is facing the Committee has come to the decision to increase the bednight fee. The new prices are on the website and bednights can be paid for on the website or clicking this link :- [Pay for a bednight here](#) . Membership Fees remain the same (£15 for yearly) if you need to renew membership you can also do this via the website (Renew Membership), we are asking people to use this way to sign up and renew as its much easier to keep track of.

### Chair and Treasure requests from AGM

**From the Chair :** *"We sometimes get correspondence from Members expressing their views on how the Committee is running LGFC, sometimes expressing their views on how the Centre is running. It would be lovely to receive more correspondence, but we don't receive very much at all. However often these communications are of a negative nature – they criticise The Committee, the Managing Warden and Deputy Warden, very often with unfounded and inaccurate assumptions about what is going on. Very seldom do these communications take any consideration of the Committee's and Warden's feelings into account. Very seldom do these communications give the positives before criticising what we do. Seldom do they acknowledge the time and effort that goes into running LGFC. All of us who sit on the Committee find it demoralising and demotivating – sometimes it can be unkind. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the amazing Committee and Wardens publicly and to make a plea to all members. We love to hear your views, we want to know what you think, but please take a moment to consider what and how you write your opinions when communicating with us. Please don't make assumptions and please consider how you express your opinion and the impact it might have on very hard-working employees and volunteers. When the Committee and especially the Wardens hear these correspondences, I am astounded that they just keep on giving to Gillerthwaite they continue to work so hard despite hearing what can sometimes be very thoughtless unappreciative and unkind comments. And on behalf of myself and The Committee we would just like to reiterate how hard Ellen and Walter work how much they dedicate their time effort and many aspects of their life to Gillerthwaite – have always done and we have no doubts they will continue to do so. We very much appreciate all that they do and it would be lovely if more members showed that appreciation too. As I have said I didn't want to have to say what I have just outlined, but it crucial to us all and I really hope that members listen to it and really take it on board. But may I add, I take this matter very seriously, and will continue to monitor it in the coming year. Thank you. "*

## Fundraising

As always with small charities and also the challenges of cost of living crisis, we really need funds to move forward and this is made even more crucial by the upcoming legal fees we are likely to incur. The



Trustees feel we are in a strong position to progress with the lease, however as we all know, legal fees are expensive and while we are trying to keep this as low as possible, we will need extra money to cover these as well as discharge our charitable aims. The Trustees are disappointed that the Charity has been put into the position where all its funds will be used on legal fees, however they feel strongly that Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre should defend its position.

We have a [Gofundme](#) donations page set up, we are asking members to please help by making a donation to this, even a small donation from each member would make a massive difference. Sharing the GoFundMe page will also help, so if you have social media please share the link on the social media.

Likewise, if you know people who have stayed at the Centre in the past but aren't members, please make them aware of the fundraiser. The funds will be vital to our Save Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre campaign and the decisions we make about the future of the Centre.

If every member made a donation of £20 we would raise nearly £4000 this would be a great boost to the Centre. If anyone would like to make a larger donation or has any suggestions of where a large donation could be found please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Another way of helping with fundraising and raising our profile is encouraging people to become members of Low Gillerthwaite, they can now sign up online on website [Here](#). If every member was able to recruit one other member we would double our membership, have a greater voice and raise approx. £3000. The membership drive would also help to encourage people to book into the Centre and remember that we are here and available.

You can also help by remembering to use easyfundraising every time you shop online! Over 7,000 brands will donate, so you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying. These donations really help us out, so please sign up if you haven't yet. It's easy and FREE! You can get started at [Register for easyfundraising](#). You can also raise big donations of £150 pounds using the easyfundraising when purchasing insurances, broadband and investments, please take a look [here](#). It so easy to register and you can also get a little pop up reminder whilst you are shopping online.

We are open to any other fundraising ideas so if you have any please don't hesitate to get in touch and let us know, and remember anything will help, we have all invested a lot time and energy over the years as well as the opportunities we have and continue to offer to young people all over the country.

## OPEN WEEKEND DATES

Fri 3rd - Sun 5th March 2023 - Open weekend/Spring clean

Fri 7th - Mon 10th April 2023- Open weekend - Easter

Fri 5th - Sun 7th May 2023- Open weekend

Fri 18th - Sun 27th August 2023 - Open week/ working week

Fri 20th - Sun 22nd October 2023 - Open Weekend

Fri 3RD - Sun 5th November 2023 - Open Weekend/AGM 4th Nov



As you can see we have reinstated working week and a spring clean weekend, as well as a full program of Open weekends. We are really looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible. As you can imagine there are quite a few jobs that need doing after such a gap ! We will be supplying a list nearer the time. If you feel you would like to help but can't make the dates please get in touch and we'll see if we can sort something out. It'll be all hands on deck this year as any funds the Charity has are likely to be used on legal expenses. The more jobs we can do ourselves the better. The Committee is dedicated to making LGFC the best it can be and the membership are key to this.

Please remember if you have friends that you think might like Low Gillerthwaite Open weekends are a great time to introduce them. It's a great time to learn about Low Gillerthwaite and find out more about us.

## *Lease update*

You may recall that in February that we issued a so called Section 26 Notice to request Forestry Commission to issue us a new 20 year lease, as they had previously promised. Forestry Commission responded that they wanted the Gillerthwaite buildings back however they were prepared to offer us a 5 year lease with a break clause at 3 years on 12 month's notice, which would clearly not be in the interests of LGFC to accept.

We were advised that if we wanted to challenge this we would have to raise a claim in court. This could lead to agreement being reached through negotiation as the overwhelming majority of lease cases are resolved in this way and never get to court. Our claim for a long lease was registered in court in October.

On 14th December Forestry Commission filed their Defence in court against our Claim, to which we have a right of Reply and on advice from our solicitor we have engaged legal Counsel to prepare this.

Our lease committee regrouped after the AGM and compiled a comprehensive report on the Defence, to go to Counsel, together with an assessment of the losses that LGFC will incur if Forestry Commission do not stick to their promise and provide a 20 year lease. We are currently awaiting the draft Reply to the Defence from Counsel, which will enable us to discuss next steps. This is due for submission to the court on 25th January and we expect a negotiation will follow. We believe we have a strong case that Forestry Commission has breached its lease promises to LGFC and we will be negotiating for a mutually successful outcome.

In parallel to the above noted legal claim we will be issuing a fully detailed complaint direct to the Forestry Commission Chief Executive Officer and further escalating this to the independent Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman via our Member of Parliament.

## *Snail Mail Verses Email*

This is a plea to all members who receive a newsletter by Royal Mail . The cost of snail mail is increasing and the burden of paper copies of newsletters etc. is costing the Centre on average £100 every time something has to be posted. This at a time when every penny matters. The Committee are asking if people

who receive paper copies would be willing to find alternative way of viewing the newsletter; could a friend allow you access to read on their computer, could a friend maybe print a copy off? As a sustainable Centre we also have to be aware of carbon footprint and reducing paper copies would be a great thing to add to our portfolio. if you feel you have no alternative but receive information via Royal Mail maybe you could make a small a donation to the Centre to help cover those costs.

## Contact Us

Please don't hesitate to get in touch to book a stay or to add to new discussion section

### **Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre**

Ennerdale

Cleator, Cumbria, CA23 3AX

01946 861229

[Chairman@lgfc.org.uk](mailto:Chairman@lgfc.org.uk)

[warden@lgfc.org.uk](mailto:warden@lgfc.org.uk)

Visit us on the web at [Low Gillerthwaite](#)

Also catch us on Social Media [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) and follow us on Twitter [@Gillerthwaite](#)