



July 2023 LGFC Newsletter

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A plea to all Members

As you are loyal members and users of LGFC and many have been for a significant number of years, I am writing, as Chair, to request your help please. LGFC has had a number of tough years of late. We achieved wonderful things in the year before the pandemic with a significant amount of vital maintenance of the centre. This was a wonderful achievement, and the results were amazing.

Unfortunately, after this year of extremely hard work and effort, the pandemic arrived and Covid 19 gave us another very difficult year. The Committee worked very hard throughout these difficult times, meeting weekly, ensuring the Centre could continue in the post-Covid world. At roughly the same time, the difficulties with the lease increased and we were thrown into turmoil once again. We also worked with solicitors for a new contract for the Warden after becoming a CIO.

The Committee have worked tirelessly to ensure that LGFC endured no matter what was thrown at us. We were fortunate to have Paul, Dorothy and Joan join the Committee at the last AGM and they have invested their efforts into the new lease, refurbishing the facility, in collaboration with TDA (The Decommissioning Alliance) and relaunching the charity's education offering.

As I have already mentioned in previous newsletters, myself and the Vice Chair, Vic Pearce are standing down in November, having been on committee since 2016 and 2011 respectively, however also in November, Rachael Muir (Secretary) and Jennifer Lanham (Trustee) are also stepping down, having both been on committee since 2013 and 2021 respectively.

Paddy Muir has also recently stepped down as Treasurer and Trustee, after stepping back onto Committee 2 years ago to help us out with the Treasurer role as no one had stepped forward. Paddy was on committee 2014-2017 and 2021-2023. We are looking to fill the Treasurer role as soon as possible, as required in our constitution, however, Paddy is still able to ensure that the day-to-day financial matters continue, until a replacement can be found. Ian Thompson, who has been on committee since 2019 and Joan Taylor (recently joined) also stepped down from Committee a few months ago due to other pressing commitments. Ian will remain as membership secretary as a non-trustee role. I'd like to thank Paddy, Ian and Joan for all their time and efforts on committee, it is very much appreciated.

As you can see these trustees have volunteered for many years, however the Charity now needs other members to volunteer to be a trustee because if the charity is to continue, it is part of our current constitution that there must be a minimum of 5 Trustees on the Committee and that the roles of Honorary Officers (Chairman, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) are filled. If there are not replacements for these honorary roles and a minimum of 5 trustees, the centre and charity may be forced to close. This would be incredibly sad to see the premature end of such a fantastic charity.

We are also reviewing our Constitution to more closely align it with the Charities Commission standard model which requires fewer Trustees and Honorary Officers, without reducing the governance standards and should be more sustainable for the charity going forward. When this review is completed and we consider the response to the call for new recruits, we may call an EGM to gain membership support ahead of the November AGM.

Please seriously consider if you can volunteer, the charity really needs its members to support it, now more than ever. In addition to currently needing to fill the key roles (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer), we are also looking for volunteers who may not wish to take on full Trustee responsibilities but who can fill the following areas either leading or as a support helper:

Deputy Treasurer

Fundraising/Grants

Facility Maintenance
Health and Safety
Media, Publicity & Web
Projects

you are interested in becoming a Trustee or taking on one of the roles identified above, please contact chair@lgfc.org.uk

Thank you for this consideration.

Regards

Tim Plaice

Empowering Young Minds: The Impactful Journey of Low Gillerthwaite's Upgraded Classroom

We are delighted to provide you with an informative update on Low Gillerthwaite's upgraded classroom, a space dedicated to inspiring young minds and fostering a deeper connection with nature. Since its transformation, this haven of learning has positively impacted over 400 local children, with many more eager to explore its wonders once the school year restarts in September.

An Exciting Time to Be Involved: As we reflect on the remarkable progress and positive impact of the upgraded classroom, we can't help but emphasize that it's truly an exciting time to be involved with Low Gillerthwaite. The passion and enthusiasm radiating from the children, educators, and the community at large have infused an energy of hope and optimism for the future.

Opening Doors to Nature's Wonders: One of the most fulfilling aspects of the upgraded classroom is the opportunity it provides to children from deprived backgrounds, who may not have had the chance to experience the wonders of nature before. Low Gillerthwaite serves as a gateway, offering them a unique and enriching experience that ignites a lifelong love for the environment.

A Versatile Space for All Ages: The upgraded classroom offers a flexible environment, catering to children from KS1 right up to university level. Equipped with an array of resources, from compasses to digital microscopes, it provides a dynamic platform for students to review and reflect on their outdoor experiences.

Tailored Learning Experiences: Rather than offering rigid programmes, the classroom provides comprehensive lesson plans that educators can access on-site. Moreover, the team at Low Gillerthwaite, in collaboration with Hills and Skills and the Cumbrian Award (who are supported by Sir Chris Bonington, one of Low Gillerthwaite's Vice Presidents), goes the extra mile to assist teachers in planning the perfect day or residential experience for each group, ensuring a seamless blend of education and exploration.

An Exciting Environmental Project: The future holds even more promise for the classroom as graduates from the TDA and Sellafield LTD have envisioned an inspiring environmental project. This project will encompass a millennium sensory walk, designed to engage and captivate young minds with the wonders of nature. Additionally, efforts to encourage a hedgehog-friendly environment and the installation of a vegetable patch aim to instil a deeper understanding of food sources and ecological balance.

Thriving Enthusiasm from the Children: The classroom has been met with tremendous enthusiasm from the children who have had the privilege to experience it. The joy of learning about the Ennerdale valley and immersing themselves in nature has left an indelible impression, fostering an ever-growing passion for the environment.

Successful Open Day: The recent open day at Low Gillerthwaite was a resounding success, attracting schools, mental health charities, and youth groups alike. The overwhelming response and support from the community reaffirm the importance of such educational initiatives.

As we move forward, the classroom stands as a testament to the power of education and the profound impact it can have on the young minds of our community. Low Gillerthwaite, in collaboration with Hills and Skills and the Cumbrian Award, is committed to nurturing a generation of environmentally conscious individuals. With your continued support, we are confident that Low Gillerthwaite's journey will become even more thrilling and promising.

Donate a bench

We are inviting our valued members to consider donating new benches, including the replacement for the aging Millennium Bench, that overlook the stunning vistas at the Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre.

How to Donate:

1. **Contact the Managing Warden:** If you wish to donate a bench, simply get in touch with our Managing Warden, Ellen, who will be delighted to assist you. You can reach her via email at warden@lgfc.org.uk, or through WhatsApp or phone at 07736803756.
2. **Choose Your Benches:** As part of this initiative, you have the option to donate one or more benches, including the Millennium Bench replacement. Once you express your interest in donating, you can suggest the type of benches you would like to contribute. After committee approval, the benches can be ordered. For ideas and inspiration, you may explore options at [Memorial Benches UK](#) and [Engraved Bench](#).
3. **Make a Contribution:** In addition to donating entire benches, we also welcome smaller donations to contribute towards the cost of the benches. Every contribution, big or small, will make a difference.
4. **Collective Contributions:** Donors have the option to club together with others to make a collective contribution. This is an ideal way to commemorate a loved one or celebrate cherished memories as a group.
5. **Engraving Details:** The engraving details, such as your name or a personal message, can be arranged with the company providing the benches, or alternatively a plaque can be ordered to fit to the bench. This will be a lasting legacy of your support for the Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre
6. Your generous contributions will be acknowledged in our newsletter, recognizing your valuable support and commitment to the Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre community.

There is no deadline for this initiative, as we plan to keep it ongoing to ensure more opportunities for members to participate.

Your donation will not only add to the beauty of our center but also help us maintain high-quality educational programs and facilities for all our visitors and members.

[Join Us for a Fulfilling Working Week - Make a Difference, Create Memories!](#)

Don't forget about our Working Week for a one-of-a-kind experience that combines both purpose and pleasure at the beautiful Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre.

As an member of our community, you are already well-aware of the incredible impact our Centre has on the lives of children and young people. Our primary goal during this Working Week is to ensure the upkeep and maintenance of this haven, preserving its beauty and enhancing its offerings. But that's not all – this event also serves as a fantastic opportunity for both our existing members and newcomers to come together in the spirit of camaraderie and community engagement.

The Working Week will be held from August Fri 18th until Fri 25th August, where we'll be undertaking various tasks, from painting and decorating to gardening and maintenance. Don't worry if you're not a DIY expert; there will be something for everyone to get involved with. Alongside the fulfilling work, you'll have ample time to explore the picturesque surroundings and revel in the breathtaking scenery.

As a gesture of appreciation, each participant will be rewarded with their bed night fee in return for a day's dedicated work. Beyond that, you'll be making a lasting impact by contributing to our charity's mission and ensuring unforgettable experiences for the children and young people we serve, both now and in the future. Here's how you can secure your spot: Simply reach out to the Managing Warden via email warden@lgfc.org.uk, WhatsApp, or phone at 07736803756 to book your space. Hurry, as spaces are limited, and we'd hate for you to miss out on this incredible opportunity.

This Working Week promises more than just a week of hard work; it is a chance to forge new connections, create lasting memories, and be a part of something bigger than ourselves. Come join us as we come together to make a difference, have fun, and contribute to a cause we are passionate about.

We're eagerly looking forward to seeing you there and creating unforgettable moments together.

Fri 18th - Thus 24th 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

Thank you !

Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Charley Webb and the incredible Emmerdale team for their invaluable support. Recently, Charley shared her wonderful experience at our Centre on her social media. If you haven't had a chance to see it yet, you can check out her Instagram reel here:

[.Charleys Instagram Reel](#)

Their endorsement means a lot to us, and we are delighted to welcome new members and friends to join our community. At Low Gillerthwaite, we strive to create an environment where individuals come together to make a difference, enjoy the beauty of the Lake District, and form lasting connections.

If you're eager to be a part of our community and experience the magic of Low Gillerthwaite, we invite you to sign up using this link: [Become a member, scroll to the bottom of this link for subscribe button](#)

Thank you once again to Charley Webb and Emmerdale for being a part of our journey. We look forward to having you with us as we continue to grow and create cherished memories together.

[Establishing links to other groups/ charities](#)

We believe that by sharing resources and knowledge, we can create a stronger network that will benefit everyone involved. Whether it's sharing fundraising strategies, educational materials, or simply offering a helping hand, there are many ways in which we can work together to make a positive impact in our communities.

If anyone in our community is interested in establishing links with other organizations, or knows of any groups that would be interested in connecting with us, we encourage you to reach out and start a conversation.

Together, we can make a difference and support each other.

Please contact our Chair or Managing Warden Chairman@lgfc.org.uk or warden@lgfc.org.uk

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[Contact Us](#)



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

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