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DARK SKY EVENTS



The winter Dark Sky programme of events resumed in October when the centre was filled with a lively group of teenagers from Bridgewater High School, Warrington. This visit was the first of the centre's Educational Hub events and astronomy formed part of the programme. The Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) provided a range of telescopes in addition to their now familiar Starlab, an

inflatable planetarium installed inside the barn. You can see an image of it on the webpage.

The weather gave us some cloud free periods which wasn't bad for October so it was motivating to witness the excitement expressed by our visitors at seeing a star crowded night sky complete with its Milky Way for the first time. Ennerdale and LGFC in particular has been identified as being one

of the best places in England to observe the night sky as measured by our own dark sky meter which has recorded close to photographic dark room quality. It's hoped therefore that these new recruits will be inspired by their experience and that it helps to develop an existing, keen interest in science.

All this leads up to the next two events which are scheduled on the web site. The format will be much

the same as in previous years with presentations in the Wolfson room and some fun activities for the children. We will also be joined by Jeremy Hunt from the Cockermouth Astronomical Society, a local and noted astro photographer who will illustrate his work and discuss equipment and fascinating techniques.

The March event coincides with BBC'S Stargazing Live programme which means that dark sky matters will be a hot topic across the nation. LGFC might even be mentioned in the media.

If you would like visit for Dark Sky events please get in touch with the Warden.

Water



We are well on the way with our improved water supply. New pipes have been laid and the new larger tank has been installed. We are going to carry out exploration for a borehole in spring (thanks to Paddy Muir and Dunelm). Hopefully the borehole will be successful and we will then have a more reliable source of water.

Are you one of our **Facebook Friends**? You can see many more photos of things that have been going on there.

MEMBERS' DATES

THIS YEAR

March 20/22 2015 **Joint Dark Skies**
April 3/6 2015 (Easter)
June 5/7 2015
July 24/26 2015
August 23/31 2015 Members and Mates week
September 18/25 2015 Working Week
November 6/8 2015 AGM on the 7th Nov
Please remember to book with the Warden

JOBS LIST

I HAVE ATTACHED A COPY OF THE CURRENT JOBS LIST BELOW. AS I AM SURE YOU ARE AWARE THERE ARE OFTEN LOTS OF JOBS TO DO HERE AT LGFC. THE JOB LIST WILL GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF THE WORK THAT NEEDS TO BE COM-

PLETED. SO IF YOU FANCY HAVING A BREAK AWAY OR COMING FOR OUR WORKING WEEK (WHICH THIS YEAR HAS MOVED TO SEPTEMBER) CLICK ONTO [BOOK INTO THE CENTRE] AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE.

Warden's Bathroom

The bathroom in the warden's accommodation has been totally updated. The new bathroom now includes a slate floor, walk in shower, new bath, toilet and wash basin. The new bathroom has made a huge difference to the warden's accommodation.

CAN WE BORROW YOUR EXPERTISE?

As you probably know, LGFC has been chosen as an Educational Hub by the Science and Technology Facilities Council (one of the eight UK Research Councils covering world-class research activity in a wide range of sciences, humanities, arts etc.). This has been largely inspired by the work done by Malcolm Morris and others to promote the Centre as a Dark Skies site. Working with the STFC, we are now seeking to extend the scope of the Educational Hub – a first weekend activity covered Astronomy and

Energy for Bridgewater School from Warrington and was judged a major success.

Initially the Educational Hub will focus on the Science and Technology brief – an initial portfolio will include Astronomy, Geology, Self-sufficiency, Energy – but the intention is to move to include other research possibilities in Ennerdale such as Archaeology, Ecology, Social Economy, Botany, Forest Management (yes, add as required – Ennerdale offers a wealth of opportunity!).

We are now seeking to

build a number of modules (from which schools could select elements to make a weekend event). It is intended that each weekend session will also include at least one outdoor experience. The over-riding focus is not to teach – it is to inspire. Can you offer to contribute to a short session to inspire children in your speciality? No major commitment is required – contribute what you can. Contact me 07730 919331 or via the Warden if you feel able to help or need further information.

To give an idea of what we're looking for (and

meet other inspirationally-inclined enthusiasts), you may like to attend a free session on 18th February at the Science and Technology Research Labs in Daresbury, Cheshire where the LGFC volunteers have been offered a training day on operating the SkyLab dome and equipment. Contact as above.

Any help or ideas you can give will be more than welcome.

John Shaddock

WASHROOMS

The work on the Washrooms looks set to start in November, the Centre has already been marked as closed for the weeks of November 9th - November 29th. So far the plans include new heating in the showers, relaying of the floor and drains, new cubicles and a separate teacher/ family/disabled cubicle. The mens' will have a urinal. At the same time as the showers we are hoping to I

prove ventilation and heating in the drying room.



NEW YEAR

It has been decided this year to give members and their friends the opportunity to book the Centre exclusively at New Year. As you know to achieve exclusivity there must be at least 26 people booked in. To help members I will be creating an event on Facebook to which any member will be invited. If we get a response from at least 26 then the Centre will be

reserved for members. If you do not follow us on Facebook but would like to join us for New Year please contact Ellen (01946861229). If we do not have bookings from 26 people by Easter, New Year will be opened up to the general public for an exclusive use booking.