

Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre,
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UPDATE FOR MEMBERS



The Association has moved into the 21st Century and is progressing well:

The Kitchen has been revamped.

The shower block will be modernised this year and heating improved at a cost of £30,000+. For visiting schools this work will help with their Child Protection issues and also provide better facilities for disabled visitors.

The Dark Skies initiative has proved very successful, many thanks to those whose enthusiasm have made it so. From this we are now developing as an Educational Hub under the auspices of the STFC (Science and Technology Facilities Council) and hopefully this will be as

successful as the Dark Skies events have been. For this to happen we need volunteers from non-members, as well as members. (for more information please see the article on the Educational Hub)

The Hydro system has been a good green energy source for the Centre, although it does have its problems at times!

The water supply has been improved by installing a much larger tank, in addition Paddy Muir is co-ordinating the drilling of a bore hole to investigate if we are able to have a well to improve the water supply.

The lease renewal is due in 2017 and a sub-committee is proceeding with this in discussions

with the Forestry Commission.

The agreement with the Royal Logistic Corp is now into its third year and there are bi-annual meetings with LGFC to report on progress. The arrangement has been financially beneficial for LGFC and has given us the capability and confidence to proceed with the upgrade to the shower block as mentioned above.

You will recall that Brian Burscough volunteered as warden for a couple of years, without salary for 1 year. For three and half years now his daughter Ellen and her husband, Walter, have worked very hard making the Centre a welcoming place and we have been able to

pay Ellen a warden salary for the past 2 years thanks to the RLC income. They continue to manage the Centre with enthusiasm.

Health and Safety regulations have to be observed, along with risk assessments, which must be in place as we have to comply with legislation. Asbestos in the classroom had to be dealt with, and procedures introduced to prevent Legionella Disease in the showers.

Plans are also being made to improve the drying room facilities and in the longer term the possibility of providing accommodation in the Haybarn.

We hope you agree that the Committee is very busy on your behalf in keeping the Centre alive and moving forward. Many thanks for your support.

Easter Weekend



Easter weekend was a huge success and the weather was fantastic. The weekend was well attended by members and non-members. All the kids had a great time taking part in the Easter Trail set up by the National Trust in Ennerdale Forest and then had a great game of cricket, which I think some of the adults enjoyed more than the kids.

BE AWARE

PLEASE COULD PEOPLE BE CONSCIENTIOUS WHEN DISPOSING OF WASTE AT LGFC. WE RECENTLY HAD A NEAR MISS IN THE BOILER ROOM. WALTER HAD TAKEN THE RUBBISH MARKED 'BURN' INTO THE BOILER AND THREW IT ON THE BOILER. AS HE WENT TO SHUT THE BOILER THERE WAS A SMALL EXPLOSION AND DEBRIS CAME FLYING OUT OF THE BOILER, NARROWLY MISSING HIM. IT TURNED OUT THAT AN AEROSOL HAD BEEN BURIED IN THE 'BURN' PILE. PLEASE, CAN WE ALL TAKE TIME TO CHECK THAT THE RUBBISH GOES IN THE CORRECT BINS! THANK YOU.



Members Dates 2015 & 2016

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

2016
 January 22/24 – Members weekend & CM
 March 25/28 – Easter weekend – Members weekend
 May 6/8 – Members weekend & CM
 June 3/5 - Members weekend & CM
 July 22/24 - Members weekend & CM
 August 27/28 – Members weekend
 September 16/25 – Working week & CM

November 4/6 – AGM/ Bonfire on the 5th
 30 Dec/ 2 Jan – Members and/or exclusive use.

Please remember to book with the Warden

Borehole update by Paddy Muir

The good news is that there



is loads of water! We encountered water at 2.50m and sunk a borehole to 9.00m bgl. We encountered some problems, generally associated with the ground conditions (cobbles and boulders) which slowed progress some what. Drilling continued into a third day.

After discussions it was decided that a second weekend should be put aside to continue the well in order to produce an even better water supply. This was confirmed



later with further discussions with Dunelm Geotechnical and Environmental Ltd who are very confident that we

can achieve a good water supply, especially if we can advance the hole further.

Lee (the driller) and his family had a great weekend and were made to feel very welcome by all members. He is very keen to agree a weekend to return and complete the well. He also said he would help out with any trenching work for the cables and pipe.

All in all it was a great weekend and everything seems very positive.

The committee would like to thank Paddy Muir, Lee Sel-

kirk, Dunelm Geotechnical and Environmental Ltd and John Archer for their hard work and support in the investigations for a borehole at LGFC.



Education Hub

The Education Hub is going strongly and enhancing Gillerthwaite's reputation and capacity to inspire young people. We have an after-school community science club from Walton, Liverpool visiting in mid-April, with a program including Starlab, Dark Skies, geology and formation of the

valley, hydro power and sustainability. And, of course, some outdoor activities to appreciate our wonderful setting in the valley.

The Gillerthwaite Education Hub has been nominated by the Science and Technology Facilities Council as its hub for the North-West, but we're not limited

to purely science and technology topics. If you can offer to run, or help on, a session on one of these topics or anything else related to the valley (forestry, bird life, fish, pond dipping, archaeology, social history, canoeing/ outdoor activities or whatever you're keen on), please do join us. We've

got a great team. You'll be amazed at the enthusiasm and knowledge of the young people we attract – and you could be providing that stimulation to change a life. For an informal discussion, please contact John Shaddock on 07730 919331.

NEW YEAR
 In the last newsletter, we encouraged members to sign up for New Year. One member has now booked the Centre on behalf of the membership. There are 26 paid places, so if you're a member and want a free bed-night for New Year's Eve, get in quick! There will be a festive meal on New Year's Eve (details to follow) and we're hoping for a good turnout from the membership. If you want to bring along a guest non-member (or more) to join in the celebration that's fine (although the free bednight offer just applies to members), but do book in. To book click the link below or contact Ellen.

Newsletter produced by
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