

Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre,
Ennerdale, Cleator Cumbria, CA23 3AX

Tel: 01946 861229

Email: warden@lgfc.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: BUILDING AN EDUCATION HUB AT LGFC



We have some exciting news: the Association has been recently awarded an STFC Public Engagement Grant for: "Investigating Natural Science in Wild Ennerdale: building an Education Hub at LGFC". It is worth £10,000. The award will allow us to up-scale the Hub concept and build on our successes by contributing to the costs and expenses of organising and delivering events, providing capital for buying telescopes and binoculars, experimental and classroom equipment and for upgrading our Dark Sky Discovery Site facilities. Fantastic! The foundation for a successful application to STFC was two Education Hub events the Association ran in 2014-15 for Bridgewater High School (October 2014) and the Walton Youth project (April 2015). These were regarded as pilot events by the LGFC Committee who supported them by paying volunteer accommodation, subsistence and a contribution to travel expenses. About 30 school children from Bridgewater High School (years 9/10) and

*23 children and parents in family groups from the Walton Youth Project attended the events. Feedback provided by the children, parents and group leaders was very positive. In addition to school and youth groups, in February and March we organised two Dark Sky Discovery events open to the general public. LGFC has been hosting two or three such events each year since our designation as a Dark Sky Discovery Site in 2011 and, indeed, the Hub initiative grew out of our involvement with Dark Skies. We now have a core of about 12 volunteers drawn from Gillerthwaite membership and the local community helping to run the Education Hub. We would like to grow this number of volunteers in the next 12 months. **If you are not already one of our volunteers then please join us.** To be a volunteer for the STFC-LGFC Education Hub requires no experience of teaching or in-depth knowledge of science – just an enthusiasm for the subject and a wish to convey that to school children and their*

*teachers who attend the events. Our current subject themes and co-ordinators are: Astronomy and Astrophotography (Malcolm Morris), Sustainable Energy (John Irwin), Ennerdale in the Ice Age (John Grocott). A Biological Sciences theme inspired by the Wild Ennerdale project is under development (Roger Wensley). If you are interested in volunteering to help in any of these themes or, even better, if you have suggestions of your own, please get in touch with one of the coordinators. We are organising an Education Hub Volunteer day at Low Gillerthwaite on **19th September 2015** with Alan Brown (The centre is available on Friday the 18th if people wish to travel up the night before). Alan is a Public Engagement Officer at the Daresbury Laboratory and our main contact at STFC. The day will be for our existing volunteer team and all members who are thinking about becoming a volunteer and would like to know more. It will be part of the Working Week activities at Low Gillerthwaite (18th-25th September). We hope that the day will be fun and*

informal, while giving volunteers some training and the opportunity to practise presentation skills. There will also be Hub-related outdoor activities that may include a geological walk in the valley and an astronomy observing session – weather permitting! If you would like to come to the Education Hub volunteer day please let one of us know and don't forget to book your bed nights well in advance!

Best regards,

John Grocott
John Shaddock

Links:

Walton Youth project

[http://](http://www.waltonyouthproject.co.uk/)

www.waltonyouthproject.co.uk/

STFC Public Engagement

[http://](http://www.stfc.ac.uk/1780.aspx)

www.stfc.ac.uk/1780.aspx

STFC Daresbury Laboratory

[http://](http://www.stfc.ac.uk/1903.aspx)

www.stfc.ac.uk/1903.aspx

Dark Skies Discovery

[http://](http://www.darkskydiscovery.org.uk/)

www.darkskydiscovery.org.uk/

Address:

John Grocott

johngrocott2000@yahoo.co.uk



Members Dates 2015 & 2016

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

Working Week

Don't forget our working week has been moved to September and will include the Volunteer day. Working week begins on the Friday 18th September and ends on Friday 25th September. Remember you don't need to be skilled to come and help out, any contribution is always gratefully received. Low

Gillerthwaite Field Centre has relied on the help of members to maintain the building as well as the running of Centre. We are always grateful for any help that anyone feels they can provide.

Don't forget to book in for working week with Ellen. If you are interested in the helping with the hub please let Ellen know when you make your booking. Thank you.

NEW YEAR

Don't forget one of the members has now booked the Centre on behalf of the membership. There are currently 22 paid places, so if you're a member and want a free bednight 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 a non-member or more along to join in the celebration, do book in, that's fine (although the free bednight offer just applies to members).

To book please ring Ellen 01946 861229

Mates and Members Week

There is still time to book you and your friends in to enjoy the mates and members week beginning on the Sunday 23rd August ending on Sunday 31st August. It would be a great opportunity to introduce some new people to the beauty of Low Gillerthwaite and Wild Ennerdale.



The book 'Gillerthwaite- A Brief History' researched and compiled by Mike Rollison can be bought by contacting the warden. The book and postage costs £11.75 in total. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like a copy.

LGFC would very much like to thank Arthur Guise for his generous donation of £300 towards the cost of the new oven in the Centre. It is a brilliant asset and clients are making the most of using it.