

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

Tel: 01946 861229

Email: warden@lgfc.org.uk



Easter Weekend



After the never ending rain of the winter it has been nice to see some blue sky

and sunshine over the last few days. This is getting us in the mood for Easter. The Centre is very busy of the Easter Weekend and we are looking forward to seeing everyone who has booked in, lets hope the weather stays this good.

We would also like to thank 14 Squadron RLC, Support Battalion, HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps who came and stayed at the centre at the beginning of February and helped complete some tasks around the Centre. They repaired the dry-stone wall near the kitchen, helped with generator and fuel supply as well as some other useful tasks.

The committee would like to send their congratulations to Committee Members Rachael and Paddy Muir for the arrival of Rory on the 06/02/16 , grandson for members Jane and Dave Muir.

This year New Years Eve event booking will be for 3 nights for exclusive use on a first come first served basis. For further information please contact Ellen.

NEW MEMBERS' DATES 2016-17

2016 Dates

- 25th - 28th March** -Members weekend (Easter)
- 6th - 8th May**- Members Weekend
- 3rd - 5th June**- Members Weekend Picnic and Paddle
- 12th - 21st August** -Working week
- 21st - 29th**- August Members and Mates
- 23rd-25th** -September Members Weekend
- 28th -30th October** - AGM

2017 Dates

- ?? Feb 2017** - Members' weekend in conjunction with Dark Sky when DS date finalised
- 4 Mar 2017 CM** (to take place off site)
- 14-17 April** - Members' weekend (Easter)
- 2-4 June** Members' weekend + CM
- 21 Aug - 3 Sep** Working week + Members and Mates week + CM

(Please make sure you book your bed with Ellen)



The shower blocks are now complete and have made a massive difference to the centre. It has been great to welcome visitors to the centre and show them round the washrooms. They are lovely and warm and the hot water flows quickly. We are still waiting for someone to test out the baby change station and are looking forward to give it a good test at Easter.

LGFC-STFC Education Hub update from John Grocott and Malcolm Morris

Dark Sky Discovery Events on 10th January and 6th February were a great success with many newcomers visiting Low Gillerthwaite for the first time to enjoy our programme of talks, children's activities and dark sky observing sessions. To be fair, we had some "mixed" weather (it's been that sort of winter) although we did see the stars at some point over both weekends and were able to put the Centre's brand new telescopes and binoculars to use. Chris Darwin and Jeremy Hunt (Cockermouth Astronomy Society) gave, as ever, fascinating talks, Alan Brown (STFC) entertained us hugely with speculations on the origin of the universe (see photo), Roger Vine – one of our new members from the local Cumbria area – gave super-informative demonstrations on how to get started in astronomy and astro-

photography and our very own John Irwin gave a beautifully prepared and delivered talk about "The Life and Death of Stars". Dave Hutchinson, Nicola



Burns, Pat Grocott and Sue Morris helped at the observing sessions, ran activities for younger children and most importantly kept us going with "soup and parkin"! Thanks to you all. In all, 66 people attended the events in total with the February event proving most popular. These mid-

winter events benefit from spectacular views of the Milky Way at a high elevation in the Low Gillerthwaite sky in the early evening and next years' events will also be

in these months – please keep an eye on the newsletter for dates. If you've never see the Milky Way at Low Gillerthwaite – then pencil the dates in your diary as soon as they come out!

John Grocott has picked up the reins from John Shaddock co-ordinating our Educational Hub events for Schools and Youth Groups and we have our first event this year on Monday 14th

March for the "Skills Plus" group at Whitehaven Academy. John, Dave Hutchinson and Alan Brown are the LGFC volunteers for the event which will include a Valley Walk themed on the Ice Age Geology of Ennerdale and in the evening an observing session of the Moon. For next year, we are aiming to add a "Wild Ennerdale" theme to our Hub activities and Roger Wensley is organising a workshop at the Centre by one of our local national Trust officers – Rachel Oakley (please see Wild Ennerdale Article below.)

John Grocott
Malcolm Morris

Educational Hub - Wild Ennerdale

The topics for presentation to visiting groups at the Hub weekends use our local strengths and assets, such as the Dark Sky. We want to develop a new topic of 'Wild Ennerdale', to make use of another asset - our ideal location in the middle of the one of the very few re-wilding places in England. To help us set this up, Rachel Oakley (the Project Officer for Wild Ennerdale) will give a guided walk and briefing on the specific points we could cover during a Hub workshop. This walk will take place on Sat 4th, Sun 5th or Mon 6th June - the exact date is to be confirmed.

If anyone would like to join us, please let me know. It would be great if some of the people who come on the day decide to help out with the Hub afterwards, but there is absolutely no obligation!

Roger roger.wensley@roseneath1.eclipse.co.uk 07964 321 627

Obituary

We are very sad to report the passing of Honorary Life Member Rosemary Rich, peacefully at home aged 85 in Teddington on 31st January 2016, with family present.

Our sincere condolences go to her family and children, one of whom is Life Mem-

ber Anthony Rich.

Rosemary was the widow of John Rich CMG MA (past Vice President), who was the son of Dr Roy Rich, our first President, and Principal of the City of Leeds College of Education (Beckett's Park) where LGFC was founded.

We are pleased to announce that Mike Appleyard has been co-opted on to the committee.