



TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUG 2022

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre
Charity Reg. No. 1188956
Principal address Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre,
Ennerdale, Cleator, Cumbria, CA23 3AX

Board of Trustees

Tim Plaice	Chair
Victoria Pearce	Vice Chair
Patrick Muir	Treasurer
Rachael Muir	Secretary
Jennifer Lanham	
Ian Thompson	
Sian Fox-Collins	
Robert Lanham	
Louise Stewart (co-opted RLC Trustee)	

Independent Examiner

John Irwin

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

'CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION' CONSTITUTION ADOPTED 7 APRIL 2020.

How the charity is constituted

CIO

Trustee selection methods

Trustees are elected or re-elected at the Annual General Meeting in November by a vote of the members. A trustee must be a member of the Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre (LGFC) CIO.

Organisational structure

According to our Constitution there must be at least five charity trustees. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees, or appoint a new charity trustee. The maximum number of charity trustees is 13 appointed as follows: (i) not more than 10 individuals elected by members of the CIO (ii) and not more than three additional individuals co-opted at any time by the trustees

The LGFC Managing Warden also sits on the committee as a non-voting member. All trustees provide their services on a voluntary basis and receive no remuneration.



The LGFC committee meets every 6-8 weeks and makes all decisions on the operational management of the charity, managing the finances and maintaining the property.

Members

There is a membership of approximately 200. Some of these members provide assistance and voluntary work, especially in maintenance, in running LGFC. The Managing Warden, and those members who have contact with children during Educational Hub events, have the appropriate DBS certificates.

The members are consulted on decisions that are deemed by the Trustees to require a vote of all members (such as changes to the Constitution etc). This is done according to the rules in the Constitution of the Charity.

Relationships with Third Parties

LGFC has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Royal Logistics Corps Trust to make available a specified number of days for non-military adventure training. The Field Centre premises are leased from Forestry England, with whom we have contact.

Objectives

LGFC is a residential Field Centre in the Ennerdale Valley in West Cumbria. It is in the middle of 'Wild Ennerdale', one of the UK's largest wildland partnerships, which is pioneering innovative ways of natural upland management.

The Field Centre is available for booking by up to 40 people, and all income from overnight stays goes towards maintaining and running the Field Centre.

The aims of the LGFC Association are set out in the constitution as:

- To promote outdoor educational activities for the training of children and young people in nature conservation and other such studies and activities.

In addition to this the LGFC Association aims to.

- To encourage personal development and social education of individuals and groups by providing a setting that facilitates working and living together and to generate an awareness of others.
- To be open to all and with a particular commitment to young people without restricting those of modest means.
- To preserve and protect the setting, history and character of the Centre within Ennerdale valley so as to offer this unique experience to future generations.

Activities

The LGFC Association provides a public benefit in several ways:

- Provides low-cost hostel accommodation for groups including primary and secondary schools, university students, family groups, religious and youth groups.
- A large field provides a safe playing space for children.
- A large classroom with screen provides educational facilities for visitors.
- Has Dark Sky accreditation and runs free Dark Sky events with the support of a local astronomical society.
- Runs 'Educational Hub events for local primary school groups.



- Supports sustainability. It is not connected to any mains services; electricity is provided by a micro-hydro-electric scheme and a set of solar panels. Heating is provided by a biomass boiler fed by wood from the local forest, and water from a borehole and spring.

In pursuing these aims, the charity trustees have given due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit requirements.

Achievements

- Continued work on renewing our lease in negotiation with Forestry England.
- Renegotiated and renewed our MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the RLC (Royal Logistics Corp), for another 5 years on a rolling program. RLC are a significant user of the centre and guarantee an agreed number of bed-nights.
- Installed a new water tank, water purification system and pressure pump to give better more reliable pressure and water quality.
- Installed a mobile phone signal booster system (Starlink) to give better internet on-site.
- Members completed maintenance work and many improvements during the annual Working Week, including extending the car park, repairing fences etc.
- LGFC is now on the Airbnb and Group Accommodation forums.
- After repairs to our water and hydro system, re-established our income from feed-in-tariff circa 5k.
- A Special Needs School booked a Residential, and we allowed exclusive use for this group even though they were not bringing the full 26.
- Survived the end of the pandemic where we were unable to allow visitors to attend the centre. A considerable amount of much needed maintenance was completed during this time: a new roof in a number of areas of the centre, improvements to the walls (internally), heating improvements in the kitchen area etc – we are pleased to see that usage of the centre is beginning to return as normal operations are being resumed – this means that bookings etc are moving in the right direction towards pre-Covid levels.
- Undertook chainsaw safety training (certified course) allowing employees to use a chainsaw safely on the premises to manage our wood stocks.
- Maintenance was also carried out on the Managing Wardens accommodation to improve living conditions (new and increased boiler (hot water)).
- Drainage was improved in the yard area to prevent previous years flooding and alleviate any new flooding.
- Walls were repointed on both Wardens Accommodation and Hostel.

Reserves

The biggest financial risk is probably a prolonged period of closure. We currently maintain a reserve of £40k in unrestricted funds, which would cover the costs of running the Field Centre for one year, with no bed-night income. This sum would also cover any unforeseen expenditure that may occur – including taking care of employees in an appropriate manner and any costs incurred if the charity had to vacate the premises and return the property to the landlord.



This year we have incurred legal costs related to HR requirements (requiring solicitors fees) – updating employee contracts and Service Occupancy agreements etc.

Funding

- Almost all of the income comes from bed-night fees from people staying overnight at the Field Centre. We also receive feed-in tariff payments for the electricity generated by our hydro-electric scheme, and membership fees.
- We received support grant from the government (as many hospitality groups did) which significantly helped us to survive the pandemic. Our employee was furloughed and supported continuing to pay her wages whilst we were closed.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Tim Plaice
Chair
26th June 2023

LOW GILLERTHWAITE FIELD CENTRE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE YEAR TO 31st AUGUST 2022

	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-9	2017-8	2016-7
INCOME						
BEDNIGHTS - GENERAL CUSTOMERS	22,905	9,317	12,506	21,959	20,759	23,213
BEDNIGHTS - RLC	12,617	4,778	8,540	13,962	16,170	16,870
PRE-PAID FEES - RLC	25,500	25,500	25,500	25,500	25,500	25,500
SUB-TOTAL BEDNIGHT INCOME	61,022	39,595	46,546	61,421	62,429	65,583
GOVERNMENT GRANTS FOR COVID-19	2,667	19,136	10,000			
CJRS (CORONAVIRUS JOB RETENTION SCHEME)	0	11,494	5,488			
DONATIONS FROM RLC TRUST PROJECT FUND	0	32,644	15,699			
DONATIONS FOR COVID-19	0		2,334			
OTHER GRANTS & DONATIONS	25			2,823	3,333	15,438
SUBSCRIPTIONS	840	585	1,320	1,035	855	870
TRIDOS BANK INTEREST	15	43	144	148	93	92
INCOME FROM EVENTS	0		627			
OTHER INCOME	0			77	130	85
TEMPORARY TRANSFER FROM TREASURER	24,000					
HYDRO FIT PAYMENTS	5,378			5,823	5,191	1,354
INSURANCE CLAIM FOR FLOOD DAMAGE				0	4,050	
SUB-TOTAL OTHER INCOME	32,925	63,902	35,612	9,906	13,652	17,839
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	93,947	103,496	82,158	71,327	76,081	83,422
EXPENDITURE - RUNNING COSTS						
DIESEL FOR GENERATOR	3,920	4,848	5,838	1,476	1,845	3,176
GAS	6,852	6,186	5,849	4,113	5,031	4,339
LOGS	1,740		1,500	2,358		1,243
TELEPHONE - MANAGING WARDEN	1,124	1,164	802	894	874	818
TELEPHONE - BROADBAND & PUBLIC PHONE	814	1,289	1,233	1,250	1,358	1,330
EMPLOYMENT COSTS	25,259	26,641	22,684	20,325	18,632	15,629
RENT	200	200	200	200	200	200
RATES, WASTE, COUNCIL TAX	1,922	1,361	1,868	2,437	2,149	2,539
INSURANCE	6,967	6,641	9,542	4,821	4,349	1,913
ADMIN EXPENSES	1,829	560	1,372	3,631	1,517	750
FIELD STUDIES, EVENTS	0		620	956	1,362	8,202
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE - GENERAL	13,374	27,618	13,213	8,871	12,502	16,820
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE - HYDRO	4,320	2,241	8,781			
GENERATOR - HIRE AND ASSOCIATED COSTS	2,445		5,822			942
PROPERTY AND CONTENTS IMPROVEMENTS	0	6,453	2,057	4,977	3,099	4,195
STATUTORY PROTECTION - FIRE / ELECTRICAL	507	491	554	1,033	2,658	1,287
CONSUMABLES	6,341	5,927	5,292	4,281	4,136	5,369
WEBSITE & SOFTWARE LICENCE	341	194				
MARKETING	190	410	1,050	1,223	265	1,955
LEGAL EXPENSES - Lease	4,176	2,490	1,140	540	714	1,983
LEGAL EXPENSES - H/R	17,426					
MISPLACED CHEQUES	150					
TOTAL RUNNING COSTS	99,897	94,713	89,417	63,386	60,691	72,690
SURPLUS FROM OPERATIONS	-5,950	8,783	-7,259	7,941	15,390	10,731
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE						
NEW GENERATOR (STEPHILL SSD10000S)			5,245			
SCAFFOLDING TOWER			1,499			
NEW GENERATOR (STEPHILL SSD10000S)						3,600
NEW GENERATOR SHELTER (MATERIALS)						2,500
NEW GENERATOR SHELTER (LABOUR)					2,500	
SHOWER BLOCK INCL 2 LOCHINVAR HEATERS						
SHOWER BLOCK (FINAL PAYMENT)						1,534
BOREHOLE						
OIL TANK						
HYDRO CONTROL SYSTEM & BATTERIES				13,350		
SOLAR PV PANELS				5,907		
TOTAL CAPITAL	0	0	6,744	19,257	2,500	7,634
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	-5,950	8,783	-14,003	-11,316	12,890	3,097

Signed



PADDY T MUIR
Treasurer

LOW GILLERTHWAITE FIELD CENTRE

ASSETS ON 31st AUGUST 2022

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
ASSETS															
Current accounts	54,588	42,191	23,746	38,792	52,195	39,497	18,401	14,162	10,203	9,164	11,504	39,891	2,196	6,856	2,971
Deposit account	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	214	212
Subscriptions accounts	6,225	5,385	4,800	3,480	2,445	1,590	720	2,295	1,026	1,409	456	1,683	728	93	973
Building society	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	7
Triodos account:															
- Opening balance	25,564	35,521	35,377	35,229	35,136	55,044	48,825	44,604	40,377	33,169	17,329	45,073	58,991	75,755	100,152
- Interest minus bank charges	15	43	144	148	93	92	219	221	228	208	40	56	82	1,235	3,603
- Transfer from / (to) trading account	-20,000	-10,000	0	0	0	-20,000	6,000	4,000	4,000	7,000	15,800	(27,800)	(14,000)	(18,000)	(28,000)
- Closing balance	5,579	25,564	35,521	35,377	35,229	35,136	55,044	48,825	44,604	40,377	33,169	17,329	45,073	58,991	75,755
Balance on Pockit card	568	320	612	820	15	251	17	2	6	13	200	0	0	0	0
Cash / cheques in hand	767	217	215	428	329	849	44	56	694	42	25	0	0	0	567
TOTAL ASSETS AT YEAR-END	67,737	73,687	64,904	78,907	90,223	77,333	74,236	65,350	56,544	51,016	45,365	58,913	48,007	66,164	80,486
INCREASE/ (DECREASE) IN THE YEAR	-5,950	8,783	-14,003	-11,316	12,890	3,097	8,886	8,806	5,529	5,651	-13,549	10,906	-18,157	-14,322	-23,270
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY															
Restricted Funds - Cumbria Community Foundation grant for Hub events	667	667													
Repay temporary transfer from Treasurer	24,000														
Designated Funds - backdated rent increase from the new rent commencement date of 1st January 2019	0	6,210													
Reserve Fund	40,000	55,000													
Unrestricted Funds - for general use	3,070	11,810													
TOTAL	67,737	73,687													

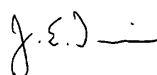
Signed



PADDY T MUIR
Treasurer

I have examined the books and vouchers of the Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre and confirm that the annexed income and expenditure account together with the statement of assets are consistent with the transactions in the financial records.

Signed



JOHN E IRWIN
Independent Examiner