

# Llangattock Green Valleys newsletter

Issue 40 – August 2013



**WELCOME TO THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER!** Work is progressing fast on our exciting **micro-hydro share offer**, and we're delighted to announce that the **Phase 1 scheme** will be launched officially at a public meeting at the Old Rectory Hotel on **Monday 30 September, 7-9pm**, with a follow-up meeting on **Thursday 3 October from 4-6pm** for anyone who can't attend the launch.

The Phase 1 share offer aims to raise **£245,475** for the construction of the Cwm Gu and Llwmsus micro-hydros. It's being put together with the help of our partners Sharenergy ([www.sharenergy.coop](http://www.sharenergy.coop)), a company with a lot of experience in developing community energy share schemes, and we're confident the final offer will be a very attractive proposition – both as a chance for people to invest in a local renewable energy initiative and in terms of the returns and tax relief that will be available to investors.

We're also in the process of finalising the option agreement on another four schemes that will make up Phase 2. We'll tell you more in the next newsletter – but in the meantime get those dates in your diaries!

## WANTED! VOLUNTEER NOTETAKER

c.4 hours per month

Would you like to help LGV? Our Company Secretary, Jackie Charlton, has hearing loss and this is making it increasingly difficult for her to fulfil the role of notetaker at LGV meetings. So she's looking to team up with someone who can come along to meetings to record the action points. The board meets during the day on the third Monday of each month, and we anticipate that the job will take around 4 volunteer hours per month.

To find out more, please email [info@llangattockgreenvalleys.com](mailto:info@llangattockgreenvalleys.com)  
or call 07985 564188

**ENERGY AUDIT** – Work on the Energy Audit questionnaire continues, with the aim of circulating it during September. In the meantime, a **big thank you** to everyone who has joined the Online Energy Audit and for continuing to record your figures. The fine sunny weather in July produced **record results for solar PV**, with even the small 1kW systems producing over 5kW a day.

Finally, please remember to check your figures when you enter them each month. If your usage or generation graphs show massive negative figures or weird jumps, chances are there's an error in your entries. To correct this, simply go into **Edit Meter Readings**, skip to the **Last page** and check your figures. You will need to work out the maths yourself as the system is not quite clever enough to redo the calculations for you. If you need help, or have any questions about the online tool, check out the FAQs or email [admin@llangattockgreenvalleys.co.uk](mailto:admin@llangattockgreenvalleys.co.uk).

**ALLOTMENTS (LACAS)** – The theatre evening staged at the allotments late last month was a big success, thanks partly to the amazing weather, but also to the skills of the storytellers, who held the audience spellbound. Don't forget the **LACAS Annual Summer Show** is coming up on **Saturday 14 September**, with loads of stalls, the all-important fruit and veg competition and, new this year, a dog show. Tickets for the afternoon are £2.50 adults, £1 children (kids under 5 go free). For advance tickets call Phil on 01873 811537 or Jed on 07581 555150.

**COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT** – Good news this month as the group has secured funding of **£1,100** through the Welsh Government's **Local Environment Quality Improvement Fund**. The funding, along with £300 from the Beaufort Estate and £100 from Llangattock Litter Pickers' own coffers will be used for rock placement along the Hafod Road in a bid to prevent persistent flytipping.

Meanwhile, despite volunteer numbers being down due to holidays and other commitments, the Litter Pickers have had another busy month, with three volunteers clocking up 22.5 hours and a whopping 179.7 miles to help keep our community looking great. Together they collected **13.75 bags of litter**, with 83% of that being sent for recycling.

In other news, the group's 'Recently Litter Picked Area' signs seem to be having a positive impact on the amount of litter being dropped in key blackspots. And, gratifyingly, the idea has won plaudits from **Tidy Towns**, which is thinking of introducing the concept to other community litter picking groups in Wales. The Litter Pickers also have a presence now on the **Keep Wales Tidy blog** – see <http://www.keepwalestidy.org/news/95-with-a-little-help-from-our-friends>

**Next litter picks:** Thursday **22 August** and Saturday **7 September**, meeting at 9:30am by the playing fields entrance on Park Drive.

**WOODLANDS** – Llangattock Community Woodland Group has been invited to ‘adopt’ a 4-mile stretch of canal under the Canal & River Trust’s new **Adoption Scheme**. The section, which runs from bridge 113 at the end of the Canalside wood, to bridge 125 Dyfnant takes in most of Llangattock, and the Group, which now has the use of a barge, will be responsible for removing dangerous or overhanging branches and, where appropriate, improving vistas. The Adoption Scheme opens up a host of **fun new volunteering opportunities**, including environmental projects, and the Group hopes to see more local people getting involved.

Meanwhile the volunteers have **won praise** for the work they’re doing at the **Dan-y-Graig woodland**, following an independent assessment carried out for the landowner. James Pinder of Treecare Consulting said in his report: *‘I noted carbon-neutral woodfuel production and charcoal burning was being carried out in a safe and clear site. The attention to detail in the fuel production means that little or no waste occurs and a high-quality product is being produced.’* So if you want to buy sustainable, local wood for your log burner you need look no further than Llangattock Community Woodland Group!

In other news, members of the Group helped out at the Llais y Goedwig stand at the **Royal Welsh Show**. Woody, the log deer, proved very popular and is now top of the list for the Group’s green wood craft activities.

To find out more about the group’s work or to get involved, go to <http://lcwg.btck.co.uk/> or email [woodlands@llangattockgreenvalleys.org](mailto:woodlands@llangattockgreenvalleys.org).



*L-R: The Woodland Group’s contractor Huw Lloyd puts Woody the log deer on display at the Royal Welsh Show; one of the more creative woodstacks at the Dan-y-Graig Woodland, which has received glowing praise for good management following an independent assessment; and the Woodland group’s barge, which will be in regular use now the Canal & River Trust has asked the Group to adopt a 4-mile stretch of canal between bridges 113 and 125.*

### **MICRO-ENERGY GENERATION**

With flow gauging now completed on the **Phase 1 Cwm Gu and Llwmus streams**, we’re starting monitoring on the **Phase 2 streams**. The extended period of hot, dry weather during July has meant less water in these streams than usual at this time of year, but we’re comparing our recorded flows with those of a benchmark stream that is being monitored daily, and this allows us to compare flows even during dry spells.

Discussions with landowners concerning other potential micro-hydro schemes have continued during July, although understandably some farmers have had other things to occupy them at this busy time of year.



*Flow gauging at Nant yr Hafod, one of the Phase 2 streams. Water from the stream is captured in the tapered plastic sheet with the aid of strategically placed sandbags, then directed into the blue 30L barrel.*

*The flow gauging team times precisely how long it takes for the barrel to fill (which can range from seconds to minutes, depending on recent rainfall), then repeats the process up to 10 times per visit to ensure an accurate average.*

**For more information on all our activities and to become a member of LGV visit [www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org](http://www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org).**