

Llangattock Green Valleys newsletter

Issue 44 – December 2013



WELCOME TO OUR FINAL NEWSLETTER FOR 2013!

This month brings the **fantastic news** that our micro hydro co-operative share offer is now **fully subscribed**. The final two weeks of the share offer saw a flood of applications, with the result that the offer closed 3 days early, on 27 November, having reached the full £270,000 target. A big **THANK YOU**



L-R: George Smith, one of two landowners involved in the Llwmws scheme, celebrates the success of the share offer with the Llangattock Green Valleys Micro Hydro (1) Co-operative directors.

to all our subscribers – 100 in total – and to everyone who supported us along the way and helped us spread the word.

The success of the share offer means that once the schemes have planning and permitting approval, construction can begin, and if everything goes to plan, our two micro-hydro (1) co-operative schemes should be up and running by autumn 2014.

And if you missed out on this first share offer, there's more good news, because we are already hard at work on our **second micro-hydro co-operative share offer**. This share offer will run along very similar lines to our first share offer, but this time round we'll be seeking the added incentive of Seed EIS, a relatively new Government tax incentive that offers investors **50% tax relief** on the value of their investment, plus other tax benefits in terms of capital gains. Seed EIS is only available on the first £150,000 of investment into the co-operative, so we'll be giving priority for these shares to members of our first co-operative, and to LGV members, with shares available for two weeks only from 17 February 2014, ahead of the official launch on 4 March.

To pre-register your interest now simply email your details to shareoffer@llangattockgreenvalleys.org, or call us FREE on **0800 206 1915**. And if you are not already a member of Llangattock Green Valleys, you can sign up online at www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org, or call us on 07985 564188.

Finally, if you'd like to know more about our first share offer, check out the BBC's coverage here: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-25175785

ENERGY AUDIT – Back in September we trialled our **Llangattock Energy Audit Survey**, compiled by Maddy Stow, who is undertaking a PhD in community energy initiatives at Bath University. We subsequently received some valuable feedback and now, after some fine-tuning, the slimmed-down survey is available online at <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Llangattockenergy>.

The survey is intended solely for **people who live in Llangattock**, as the aim is to develop a clear picture of energy use in the local community. It takes just a few minutes to complete and, as with all surveys, the more people who respond, the better. So, we would be very grateful if as many Llangattock residents as possible could click on the link above and fill in the form. We'll be publishing the results in the New Year.

MEMBERSHIP – Our membership currently stands at **266** – so a big welcome to three new members this month. To find out more about joining visit www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org

ALLOTMENTS (LACAS) – It's been a quiet month at the allotments, with mild weather helping people get on top of those late autumn tasks. But with the New Year just around the corner it's time to think about...**WASSAILING!** So, make a date now to join the LACAS team down at the allotments on **Saturday 18 January**, from 6pm, for a fun family evening to bless the village orchards in the old traditional way.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT – Llangattock Litter Pickers have completed their **fourth full year of litter picking** in the community, so congratulations to all their volunteers for a job well done. Full results for the year will be published in our **January roundup** next month. Meanwhile, the November community pick yielded 6 bags of rubbish, with individual litter picks yielding a further 14.6 bags across the month. In all, seven volunteers contributed 35 volunteer hours, covering a grand total of 167.9 miles of roadside verge, and 62% of the litter collected went for recycling.

Next litter picks: Thursday **19 December** and Saturday **4 January**, meeting at 9:30am by the playing fields entrance on Park Drive.

WOODLANDS – members of the Woodland Group are celebrating two excellent pieces of news. First up, **the group has achieved charitable status**, and will now be known as Llangattock Community Woodlands Ltd (Registered Charity No. 1154649). Becoming a registered charity is no mean feat, as the group had to satisfy the Charity Commission that it fulfils their public interest test. Thanks to the support and encouragement of the group's partners, especially the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, the group was able to do this, ensuring a more sustainable future, along with assured governance of its objectives.

The second piece of very welcome news is that the **Brecon Beacons Trust** has again shown their confidence in the group and its business plan by providing funding until May 2015 for the Woodland/Volunteer contractor-manager role. The group has also received match funding from the **Brecon Beacons National Park Sustainable Development Fund** through to March 2014. From that point on, the group aims to fund the shortfall from money raised through the sale of firewood, green timber crafts, equipment hire and donations – all part of the group's long-term plan to become financially sustainable.

Meanwhile, the group is taking orders for their high-quality seasoned firewood (hardwood, £70 per load) and for their delightful **'Woody' deer**. Each handmade Woody is unique, and perfect as a centrepiece for Christmas garden displays. To place your order, email woodlands@llangattockgreenvalleys.org.

To find out more about the group and its various activities, go to their website <http://lcwg.btck.co.uk/>.



Llangattock Community Woodland volunteers take a well-earned break at the end of a busy day. The organisation is now a recognised charity, (Registered No. 1154649)

MICRO-ENERGY GENERATION

Thanks to the success of our first micro-hydro co-operative share offer, LGV's directors are looking forward to construction starting on our first two schemes in **late spring**, as soon as the necessary permissions come through. In the meantime, we're continuing our flow-gauging programme on the Cwm Gu and Llwmws streams, and on the four streams that will make up our **Llangattock Green Valleys Micro Hydro (2) Co-operative**. We're also pushing forward with **six potentially feasible Phase 3 schemes** on former Forestry Commission (now NRW) lands in North Powys. These schemes will be moving forward to the pre-application stage with NRW later this month, with legal agreements with the landowners to follow.

For more information on all our activities and to become a member, visit www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org.

You can also follow us on Twitter @LGVcic.