

Llangattock Green Valleys newsletter

Issue 35 – January 2013



WE'RE STILL WORKING on the full results for the 2012 **Llangattock Online Energy Audit**, but the great news is that in 2012, we generated **more than 2.5 times as much renewable energy** as we did in 2011 – despite all the rain! Thanks to all the people who've installed solar PV, we generated a total of 25,475kWh in 2012, versus 9,561kWh in 2011. In carbon terms, that means we saved 13,757kg CO₂ a year, versus 5,163kg in 2011. So – great results – and there'll be more to come next month. But in the meantime we still need more of you to take part to make this a truly representative exercise. To get started, simply go to www.llangattockgreenvalleys.co.uk and click on the **Register** button.

As an extra incentive, anyone signing up to the Energy Audit this month will automatically be entered into a draw to win this beautiful hand-turned bowl, made from oak sourced from the Canalside wood in Llangattock.



This month's Energy Audit prize: a beautiful oak bowl, hand-turned by the Woodland Group's talented Colin Gardiner

Photo: Jackie Charlton

MEMBERSHIP – LGV's current membership tally is **255**. To find out more about joining visit www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org.

ALLOTMENTS (LACAS) – Quick reminder that the whole community is invited to come along to the allotments on **Friday 18 January from 6:30pm** for the annual **Wassail**. Based on the traditional blessing of the orchards, the event is always a fun evening for people of all ages and refreshments will be available. Wrap up warmly!

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT – Despite vile weather on 20 December, the first midweek litter pick went ahead as planned, with two stalwarts collecting 4 bags of litter in torrential rain – a new extreme sport perhaps? The first litter pick of the New Year, on 5 January, had slightly better conditions, with 3 volunteers putting in a total of 7 volunteer hours to collect 5.5 bags and 2 tyres. In the meantime, the Litter Pickers are putting the finishing touches to their **Annual Report**, but a sneak preview reveals that in 2012 the group put in **377 volunteer hours**, covered **824 miles of roadside verge** and collected **1.5 tonnes of litter – 76% of which was recycled**. They've also seen a gratifying reduction in the amount of litter they're collecting month on month – but now they need your help to keep up the good work. So why not join them for a couple of hours a month? The group meets on the first Saturday and the second-last Thursday of each month, and provides hi-vis vests and litter picking equipment (please bring your own gloves).

Next litter picks: Thursday **24 January** and Saturday **2 February**, meeting at 9.30am by the playing fields entrance on Park Drive.

RESIDENTIAL – The thermal imaging camera has arrived and we still have some dates available if you'd like a **FREE thermal imaging survey** for your home. **To register your interest**, email cem@llangattockgreenvalleys.org or call 07985 564 188. (Please note, to take advantage of this offer you must live in Llangattock, be a member of LGV and be prepared to join the online Energy Audit. **If you have already requested a survey, we'll be in touch shortly to arrange a visit.**) The thermal imaging camera helps identify areas of heat loss – and can reveal some surprises, as LGV director Simon Walter discovered when he imaged the front of his home. Can anyone guess what the bright yellow dots are in the image over the page?



This image shows the front of Simon's house, with obvious heat loss through the window and the air vent on the roof (top of the image). But can you guess what the bright yellow dots above the window are? Answers to admin@llangattockgreenvalleys.org

Photo: Simon Walter

Meanwhile, if you're thinking about **solar PV**, there's never been a better time to take the plunge. Based on the current 15.44p Feed-In Tariff and the latest panel prices available through Reach For The Renewables, our group-buying club, you can expect **excellent returns of up to 13.9%** for 20 years (based on our standard 4kWp/16-panel domestic scheme).

Renewable Heat is also looking more attractive with every energy price hike, and Reach For The Renewables now offers **air and ground source heat pumps, and biomass boilers** – giving you a real chance to move away from costly oil or LPG heating AND take advantage of a range of financial incentives currently available on renewable heat technologies. PLUS we now offer **IntellyPower** – a nifty piece of kit designed to maximise the benefits of solar PV by automatically directing any surplus electricity to heat your hot water. For all our latest information and prices visit www.rftr.co.uk, email info@rftr.co.uk, or call us free on 0800 206 1915 (Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm).

WOODLANDS – The woodland group's **2012 Annual Report** is now available to view on their new website – <http://lcwg.btck.co.uk/>. The website itself is still a work in progress, but the annual report makes great reading, and it's clear that the woodland group has made astonishing progress this year – largely thanks to the appointment of Huw Lloyd, their contractor-manager. Huw's appointment was made possible thanks to funding from the Brecon Beacons Trust and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund. His role in organising activities and volunteers, building links with other woodland groups, sharing skills and generally providing a strategic focus has had a big impact on the group and created a **strong and really cohesive band of volunteers**. If you'd like to find out more or get involved with any of the woodland group's activities, email woodlands@llangattockgreenvalleys.org

MICRO-ENERGY GENERATION – TGV Hydro submitted viability overview reports at the end of last year for various areas on the Glanusk and Beaufort Estates, and by the end of January we're hoping to be in a position to order feasibility studies for **several potential new schemes**.

COMMUNITY-SCALE ENERGY GENERATION – LGV and The Glanusk Estate have now received the agronomist's report on feedstock capabilities for the **Anaerobic Digestion facility** and are reviewing the findings with a view to making a final decision on whether to proceed to the working up stage for this potentially very exciting project.

AND FINALLY... A big congratulations to **Grenville Ham**, co-founder and director of The Green Valleys and who played a big part in the early days of LGV. Gren was awarded a **British Empire Medal** in the Queen's New Year Honours list for services to renewable energy in Wales. Well deserved recognition for all his hard work!

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