

Llangattock Green Valleys newsletter

Issue 39 – July 2013



WELCOME TO THE JULY NEWSLETTER! Over the past month LGV has been working with post-graduate student Maddy Stow, who is doing her PhD in community energy initiatives at Bath University. Maddy is helping LGV put together a questionnaire to find out about behaviour change as a result of our Energy Audit and support for our ambitious target of becoming Carbon Negative by the end of 2015. The Energy Audit team will be sending out the questionnaire online, as well as going door to door, and they'll be at the LACAS Show in September, too. Everyone who takes part in the survey will be entered into a prize draw to win an **OWL micro+ energy monitor**. To get involved ahead of the survey, make sure you sign up to our monthly Energy Audit at llangattockgreenvalleys.co.uk.

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

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

ALLOTMENTS (LACAS) – The Allotments are going cultural this month with a special open-air performance on **26 July, from 6:30pm**. *Run Jack Run* is a storytelling show with live music and projected visuals by The Magical Illuminarium. Perfect for families, the show tells two intertwining stories from the Welsh woods and the Lancashire hills and is part of the Arts Council of Wales' excellent *Night Out* scheme, which helps bring theatre and music to rural communities. Tickets are £4 adults/ £3 children/ £12 family (2 adults and 2 children). You can buy tickets at the gate on the night or book in advance by calling Jed Needs on 07581 555 150. Plus, don't forget – the annual **LACAS Summer Show** is all set for **Saturday 14 September**.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT – The wooden troughs bought and planted up for the community by Llangattock Litter Pickers are looking lovely as they head towards glorious full bloom, with a total of five



planters now bringing a welcome splash of colour. Meanwhile, the group has had a busy June, with seven volunteers contributing a total of 31.8 hours to help keep our community looking great. Together they covered 159.4 miles of road and canal side verges to

collect 15.25 bags of litter, over 84% of which was sent for recycling. **Next litter picks:** Thursday **18 July** and Saturday **3 August**, meeting at 9:30am by the playing fields entrance on Park Drive.

RESIDENTIAL – If you're thinking about **solar PV**, there's never been a better time to invest. Based on the new 14.9p Feed-In Tariff (introduced on 1 July) and the latest panel prices available through our group-buying club, you can expect **excellent returns of up to 13.4%** for 20 years, based on our standard 4kWp/16-panel domestic scheme. PLUS we now offer **IntellyPower** – a nifty piece of kit designed to maximise the benefits of solar PV by automatically using any surplus free electricity to heat your hot water. For all our latest information and prices visit rfr.co.uk, email info@rfr.co.uk, or call us free on 0800 206 1915 (Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm).

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS – Llangattock Primary School's solar PV panels continue to perform above expectation, netting a welcome **£874.08** for the school (plus free electricity), for the six months to 1 July. British Gas reckons the panels are producing **9% more electricity** than predicted – a great result.

WOODLANDS – The woodland group has teamed up with Rachel Palmer of Keep Wales Tidy for a pioneering project looking at the importance of hedgerows in our native landscape. Volunteers from the group helped Rachel carry out the very first **‘Long Forest’** survey on 18 June and, as a result, Rachel was able to make some simple but important changes to the questionnaire to ensure it records all the information needed for this vital research project.



Hedging their bets: Woodland Group volunteers Jonathan Steadman and Jackie Charlton help pilot the Long Forest project questionnaire. Photo: Rachel Palmer, Keep Wales Tidy.

The group is also working closely with The Green Valleys and Dr Jane Sedgely of the Vincent Wildlife Trust on the **‘Our Beacon for Bats’** project. Anabat detectors will be going into the Ty Mawr woodland to help identify the species present and the level of activity in the woodland, and there are plans for a bat recording evening at Canalside later this month.

And finally, creatures of a different kind have been making an appearance in the group’s woodlands. This cute little wooden deer (*right*) is the first to emerge from the group’s new **craft enterprise**, and as you can see, he’s perfectly at home in a woodland or garden setting. The group is currently busy making more, with plans to sell them locally and at the Royal Welsh Show later this month to raise money for tools and equipment. So, how much do you think he’s worth? Help the group out by emailing them at woodlands@llangattockgreenvalleys.org. To find out more about the group’s activities, or to get involved, go to <http://lcwg.btck.co.uk/> or email woodlands@llangattockgreenvalleys.org.



MICRO-ENERGY GENERATION

LGV Ventures has instructed our partners TGV Hydro to **progress three of our Phase 2 micro-hydro schemes to the pre-application stage**, which sees dialogue beginning with Natural Resources Wales (formally the Environment Agency). Landowner discussions are underway concerning a number of other Phase 2 schemes and we are hoping to be able to progress some of these as well. In addition, we have begun regular monitoring to record the water flow on two of our Phase 1 schemes and six other streams over the summer months. This will enable us to compare the actual flows with the forecast flows.



PLUS we’ve started preparing a **share offer scheme** through our partners Sharenergy, aimed at raising funds to cover the construction of our three Phase 1 micro-hydro schemes. The share offer will be open to all and more details will be announced over the coming weeks.

Wet work: setting up the flow-gauging equipment on one of the Phase 1 streams during an especially rainy day last month.

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