

Llangattock Green Valleys newsletter

Issue 38 – June 2013



WELCOME TO THE JUNE NEWSLETTER! Thanks to all of you who are contributing monthly readings to the **Energy Audit**. The data is really useful – but we need still more people to join to give us a truly representative picture of the whole community. As an extra incentive this month, we're giving away another **OWL micro+ energy monitors**. Compact and wireless, these nifty little monitors normally retail for around £35 and Western Power Distribution has donated three for us to give away. To be in with a chance of winning this month's, just sign up to the Energy Audit at llangattockgreenvalleys.co.uk.

Meanwhile, congratulations to the winner of last month's Energy Audit prize: Clive Mason has won the first of our OWL micro+ monitors.



This month's Energy Audit prize is an OWL micro+ wireless energy monitor, provided by Western Power Distribution. Energy monitors are a great way to get to grips with how much energy your household appliances use and can help you make real savings on your bills.

WANTED! MINUTES SECRETARY c.10 volunteer hours per month

LGV is currently seeking a volunteer to support the board in the role of Minutes Secretary. The job entails taking notes at the monthly board meeting (third Monday of each month), and helping the Company Secretary with recording and distributing minutes for both LGV CIC and LGV Ventures CIC. We anticipate the job will require around 10 volunteer hours per month. To find out more, please email info@llangattockgreenvalleys.com or call 07985 564188

ALLOTMENTS (LACAS) – It's been a slow old start to the growing season, and while the past few weeks of sunny weather have seen things come on in leaps and bounds down at the allotments, LACAS chairman Jed Needs reckons the crops are still about 6 weeks behind. So it's good to know that all is on schedule for the annual LACAS Summer Show, set to take place on **Saturday 14 September**. This year's extravaganza will include an open dog show for the first time. Watch this space for details of how to enter your pooch!

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT – Llangattock Litter Pickers have been busy over the past month, with 6 volunteers contributing their time and energy to keeping the local verges tidy and looking their very best. In total, the volunteers put in 33 hours and collected 17 bags of litter – just under 123kg – of which 76% went for recycling. The group cleared an impressive 196 miles of road- and canalside verge and expanded their reach, adding a new area to their monthly schedule.

Next litter picks: Thursday **20 June** and Saturday **6 July**, 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 current 15.44p Feed-In Tariff (due for Government review at the end of June) and the latest panel prices available through 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.

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).

WOODLANDS – The woodland group's firewood processor has been earning its keep over the past month, as the group makes steady progress splitting and stacking timber felled over the winter for seasoning. The photos below shows the results of last Tuesday's efforts at the Dan-y-Graig woodland – with two tidy stacks of firewood, plus smaller offcuts that will be used for making charcoal. The group is currently taking firewood orders for autumn delivery, at £60 per load. To place your order, email woodlands@llangattockgreenvalleys.org.

In other news, the group is working with the Canal & River Trust and local boat hire operators on the Vista project, which aims to encourage boaters, walkers and locals to take a closer look at the woodland habitats that line the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, and, through selective felling, open up views along this wonderful canal. Environment Wales is supporting the project.

The group has also been invited to participate in the Trust's new Community Adoptions Scheme, which aims to get communities along the canal actively involved in environmental projects and other improvements. The woodland group already manages the Canalside wood for the Trust, and has recently taken on a small woodland on the Dardy for the Glanus Estate, so the Scheme is an excellent fit. As the Canal & River Trust's volunteer coordinator Alan Sumnall says: 'Community Adoptions are essentially when a local group gets together and plays an active role to improve their local area. This is exactly what LCWG already do, and both wildlife and the local community are benefiting from their work along the M&B canal.'

If you'd like to find out more about the group's activities, or get involved, go to <http://lcwg.btck.co.uk/> or email woodlands@llangattockgreenvalleys.org



The woodland group hard at work at Dan-y-Graig earlier this month. Using the firewood processor to cut and split logs, they created a square stack and a traditional round log stack – and then enjoyed a well-earned lunch of sausages cooked over the campfire. Photos: Eric Gower and Huw Lloyd

MICRO-ENERGY GENERATION

It's been another busy month with our micro-hydro schemes. In conjunction with our partner company TGV Hydro, we've been assessing the second batch of the phase 2 feasibility study reports and talking to those landowners involved, prior to deciding which schemes to take forward into the design and permissions phase. Some of the phase 1 schemes need to have flow gauge monitoring, to compare the actual stream flow with the forecasted flow, so some of the LGV Ventures team will be undergoing training and starting the flow monitoring later this month. We're also in discussions with TGV Hydro about a possible joint venture, to mature some potential hydro schemes on Forestry Commission lands.

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