

Llangattock Green Valleys newsletter

Issue 37 – May 2013



WELCOME TO THE MAY NEWSLETTER! It's been a slow start to the spring, but this month we've got a bumper crop of news. First up, 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. So as an extra incentive, this month we're giving away a **£35 OWL micro+ wireless energy monitor**, courtesy of Western Power Distribution. To be in with a chance of winning, just sign up to the Energy Audit at llangattockgreenvalleys.co.uk.

Meanwhile, congratulations to the winner of our February Energy Audit prize: Richard Ward won a basket of gorgeous **handmade beeswax goodies** donated to us by tirrion.co.uk – that's Llangattock's very own Kerry Needs.



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

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

ALLOTMENTS (LACAS) – Make sure you keep **Saturday 14 September** free for the annual LACAS Summer Show. Plans are still being finalised, but our sources tell us this year's extravaganza will include a dog show, with entry open to all local canines.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT – Bank holidays always bring out the litter louts, so the Llangattock Litter Pickers have been busy over the past couple of months. But the good news is that the village received a score of **75% ('Very good')** and a glowing write-up following a LEAMS (Local Environmental Audit and Management System) survey conducted by Keep Wales Tidy project officer Rachel Palmer. Here's what she had to say in her report:

Overall it was a very positive picture of a very clean village, suggesting to me that a number of householders, dog-walkers and businesses in Llangattock are doing their bit to help minimise litter and waste and to care for their local environment... Four of the eight transects we surveyed got a 'B+' rating, which means that there were no more than three items of litter or refuse – and in many cases these were just two or three cigarette ends in the gutter... But there was hardly any dog fouling, which, frankly, was quite a surprise as this is such an issue in many towns and villages.

In other news, look out for the lovely new **larch planters**, which are due to be installed by the Llangattock village signs at either end of the village. Once planted up, the containers will bring a welcome splash of colour.

Meanwhile, the group continues to work productively with Blaenau Gwent County Council on fly-tip clearance and prevention measures on the Hafod Road – a notorious trouble spot – and is pressing

ahead with plans to become a formally constituted group. **Next litter picks:** Thursday **23 May** and Saturday **1 June**, 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 rftr.co.uk, email info@rftr.co.uk, or call us free on 0800 206 1915 (Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm).

WOODLANDS –The **2012-13 felling season** has been a big success, with a record 60cu m felled, stacked and awaiting processing – and the group's woodlands looking much tidier and well managed as a result. The group has taken on the management of two additional small private woodlands in Llangattock, and has continued with various wildlife and biodiversity initiatives, including tree and hedge planting and installing bird boxes. The group has also teamed up with the **Vincent Wildlife Trust** and is currently working with the Trust's bat expert, Dr Jane Sedgeley, to monitor bat activity in the Dan-y-Graig woodland. And finally, the Beechwood's cute wooden **bank vole sculpture** has made a welcome return, thanks in part to a donation from the woodland group. 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



Installing a bat detector and bird boxes at Dan-y-Graig woodland, and 'releasing' the new bank vole sculpture into the Beechwood – just some of the things the woodland group has been up to this month.

MICRO-ENERGY GENERATION

Our partner company TGV Hydro delivered another batch of feasibility studies for our phase 2 hydro schemes this month – thanks to those involved for pulling out the stops to complete the work on time. The result is that, in addition to the three phase 1 schemes that are progressing through the design and permissions phase, we now have another **10 potentially viable schemes**, nine of which are on Glanusk Estate or Beaufort Estate lands, with the remaining scheme having a private land owner. LGV Ventures CIC is now assessing these phase 2 schemes and talking to the landowners, to decide which ones to take forward to the next stage. We are also looking into options for funding the construction of these schemes and there should be some exciting news in the next newsletter on this front.

COMMUNITY-SCALE ENERGY GENERATION – Unfortunately, the Glanusk Estate has decided not to proceed with the **Anaerobic Digestion Facility**. It's a blow for us, as the AD facility was one of the cornerstones of our plans to become carbon negative and it has taken many months of hard work to get to this stage. However, we understand the Estate's reasons for pulling out, which include the considerable investment required to take the project forward. The Estate remains committed to reducing its carbon footprint and we will continue to work with them on various energy-saving and renewable-energy schemes that will benefit the local community.

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