



Llangattock Green Valleys newsletter

Issue 78
January 2017

<http://www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org/>

ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS:

By Steve Sharp

Hydro – MH-1 and MH-2 updates:

Happy New Year to all our readers, subscribers and volunteers – and thanks for your support.

The winter continues to be very dry, which has negatively affected the generation of our operating hydro schemes, and the forecast for January is for more of the same. In the two months since the beginning of November, Cwm Gu (MH-1) has generated only about 6,500 kWh, compared with over 30,000 kWh in the same period last year. The total generation figure for Cwm Gu at the end of December was about 74,750 kWh.

Our construction company, TGVH has said they aim to complete the flow gauging at the Cwm Gu intake this month, before progressing discussions with NRW about raising the HoF notch.

We expect the construction of the Blaen Dyar hydro scheme to begin this month and the first materials should be delivered to site in the next few weeks.

In MH-2, Nant yr Hafod has also been hit by the lack of a prolonged rainy period but there was again some small and consistent generation at this scheme. The total generation figure at the month end was just over 53,000 kWh.

On a positive note, in addition to Blaen Dyar, we are also expecting to build two more hydro schemes this year in MH-2. We received confirmation from OFGEM this month of preliminary FIT registration for Cwm Saerbren and the lease is almost finalised. We expect to start this build of Cwm Saerbren in the spring and our other scheme, Abernant near Builth Wells, in the summer.



LGV VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE! CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for a number of people who would like to get involved at Director and non-Director level. Please get in touch with Andrew Fryer if you would like to explore the ways in which you can help:

andrew@wernwatkin.fsnet.co.uk



LLANGATTOCK COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

By Jackie Charlton and Bob Needs

Working with Canal & River Trust

Last month I told you about our project with Canal & River Trust that's happening whilst the new lining and upgrading of the canal is taking place in Llangattock. CRT planned as part of



their commitment to the environment, a work programme for coppicing hazel from Llangynidr to Gilwern. Well we are now a third of the way through the coppicing and Llangynidr stretch is almost done. On a dull Tuesday in January, Country File Magazine sent a reporter to find out about volunteering as an activity to go alongside cycling, walking and other outdoor pursuits. We were happy to tell her about the feel good factor of contributing to environmental benefits whilst

keeping fit too. Some of our volunteers come along to help improve the environment, some to share their skills, but all take away a sense of wellbeing. It is an important priority during 2017 to increase our volunteer pool with people who might see this as a great opportunity to improve their physical and mental health whilst enjoying the great outdoors in this beautiful part of Wales.

LCW Alder Lottery Launch

All charities and volunteer groups battle with raising money to continue doing good deeds and community work. Much of the work LCW does is project led which means always having to think of the next great idea to get funding. To help us focus a bit more on our day to day activity without having to dream up a new idea we have decided to launch a small lottery. The minimum payment per month is £4 which will contribute to volunteer expenses including refreshments, safety equipment and clothing and small tools replacement. LCW will commit at least 75% of the funds raised to volunteers and 25% to prize money and administration. The more money we can attract from contributions the bigger the annual prize. By giving an annual prize rather than monthly we are limiting administration expenses and resources of the much stretched small team running LCW. If you would like to contribute please contact jackiecharltonlqv@gmail.com for a direct debit form, standing order form or bank details. An annual report will be available outlining how the funds have been spent as well as the annual prize winners.



Well the Blog should be out there now but haven't seen it as yet. It will be shared across the UK when the Woodland Trust launch their Blog site and will help to put our group on the map. If you have a tree story you can send it to me at jackiecharltonlqv@gmail.com



Bee notes for January

January is usually a cold damp month so little activity is seen outside the hive. We continue to monitor the natural varroa mite fall by inspecting the monitoring



board under the mesh floor of the hive. If the number of mites dying from old age is too great the colony will need to be treated in some way to reduce the mite numbers before the Queen bee starts to lay later this month. The dead mites are inspected for damage because some colonies are fighting back, attacking the mites leaving the carapace of the mite dented or split. Here is Bob undertaking the delicate task of picking out the varroa mites from the white board. We found 73 on one board but less on the other two. Where

colonies are showing damage to mites we will focus on producing Queens and Drones from those colonies so the defensive traits are passed on to other colonies during mating. Other things to do in these winter months is plan visits to shows such as the Welsh honey bee convention held in Builth Wells at the end of March, read your books in the warm and check equipment on warmer sunny days. Spare equipment should be checked for usability during the coming spring and summer and plans to keep your colonies happy and productive.

Bee Bob



LCW Trustees are justly proud of the commitment and enthusiasm of all our volunteers. We meet regularly every Tuesday and you can find information on where and when we meet on our website www.lcwg.btck.co.uk. If you are interested in environmental management, green wood crafts or bee keeping then please do get in touch. Visit our website lcwg.btck.co.uk or email Eric Gower eric.gower@gmail.com for a membership form.

Llangattock Area Community Allotment Society

By Odette Wills

PLOTS AVAILABLE NOW

Fancy growing your own fruit and vegetables in beautiful surroundings?

Call Phil on 01873 811537 or 07977 731309 or email gibsons@uwclub.net for more information or to come and view.



Bethesda Local Energy Scheme

On 7th January, Moneybox on Radio 4 aired a piece on the Bethesda local energy scheme which LGV is following with great interest. If you would like to listen to it, please follow this link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qjnv>

LLANGATTOCK LITTER PICKERS

By Pete Bates, Rollo Lewis and Michael Butterfield

Please follow these links for our most recent news:

- Newsletter January 2017
- Llangattock Litter Pickers Supporters Club

PLEASE ASK US!

If anybody would like to look at LGV's finances or discuss our schemes, please contact us and we will be very happy to help. We are proud to be operating a transparent and successful Community Interest Company.

To find out more about us and to become a member,

please visit www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org

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