



# Llangattock Green Valleys newsletter

Issue 89  
January 2018

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

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## ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS:

By Steve Sharp

We've had several good rainy spells this month and all our hydro schemes have been generating some decent amounts of electricity.

Total generation at Cwm Gu (MH-1) at the end of December was about 113,000 kWhs. We experienced a couple of minor technical problems with this scheme but were able to resolve these. We have received NRW's consent for the changes to the HoF notch and this work will be carried out by TGVHydro when the weather is more suitable.

The generation total at Blaen Dyar (MH-2) at the end of December was 11,000 kWhs. This scheme developed a fault with the spear valve/actuator unit before Christmas and so the turbine manufacturer visited the site and fitted a new actuator under the warranty.

The total electricity generated by Nant yr Hafod (MH-2) at the end of last year was around 80,000 kWhs. We have taken delivery of the pigs for cleaning inside the penstock pipe but will delay carrying out this process until later in the year.

Our newest scheme at Abernant (MH-2) had generated almost 17,000 kWhs by the end of 2017, which was encouraging news despite some technical problems and a large tree which was brought down by the recent gales and slightly damaged the turbine house roof.

Our final scheme Cwm Saerbren is nearing completion. The turbine house is almost complete, much of the electrics have been done and the meter has been fitted. The next task is to finish inside the turbine house and to commission the scheme, with the hand-over to LGV MH-2 and our partner group Welcome to Our Woods scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> February.

Now that we have 4 schemes up and running, we'd like to get a few more volunteers involved in monitoring the schemes, especially now that there is plenty of rain falling. It'll take around an hour or so once every 6-9 weeks. If you are interested in helping, please contact Simon Walter [admin@llangattockgreenvalleys.org](mailto:admin@llangattockgreenvalleys.org)

## Blaen Dyar Artists in Residence

By [Leona Jones](#) and [Penny Hallas](#)

We hope you all had a restful festive break and have had batteries re-charged for the coming year. We're really pleased to hear that Blaen Dyar is now generating reliably – a great beginning to 2018 after all the hard work of construction.



*Image: Volunteer, Rod, recording at Blaen Dyar*

Plans are well underway for the audio/visual exhibition in CRiC Studio, Beaufort Street, Crickhowell in April. Exhibition dates and times have been finalised, a launch event is being planned and the day of extra attractions is taking shape. If you'd like to put details in your diaries, here they are:

**The exhibition will be open from Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April until Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 10am – 5pm daily except Sundays 10am – 1.30pm.**

More information about the launch and the day of events will be given once details are confirmed.

We're delighted to report that Penny and Jackie's [walk at the Blaen Dyar](#) site, part of the [Crickhowell Walking Festival](#) in February, is almost fully booked.

Our final piece of news this month is that, in conjunction with LGV, the project has been submitted for consideration to [A&B Cymru Awards 2018](#) under three categories: Arts, Business and the Community; Arts and Small Business; Arts, Business and the Environment.

It's only a few weeks old but 2018 has already got off to a running start!

[Leona Jones](#) and [Penny Hallas](#)

**Arts  
& Business**  
Cymru

*LGV and the artists have received an investment from [A&B Cymru's CultureStep](#) to strengthen and develop their creative partnership.*



## We have a nice cup of tea

By Jackie Charlton

This kettle has been with us now for about 7 years. It's a faithful kettle and has been providing our volunteers with the best cup of tea every Tuesday during that time. We always heat it up on a wood stove that we made at about the same time from an old oil drum. That has also given us faithful service and we always cook our weekly sausages on that too. What has this to do with woodlands? Nothing, but it has so much to do with our volunteers who are also giving time and energy to keep our woodlands and meadow healthy and supporting the environment.



In 2018 we want to focus more on the environment and have a lot planned with six events celebrating woodlands, meadows and bees. During 2017, the woodland work area was developed, the meadow grazed and cut and a soil sample analysed to support the long term plan of developing this into a wild flower meadow. LCW want to raise awareness of all that we do so in the summer we will have an Open Day to showcase the work done so far and also what the future looks like. The other big event planned is the annual Apple Day, which has been held in someone's garden and at the Old Rectory Hotel in the past but this year it's the turn of our woodland. Other events include invitations to the local school Eco club for picnic and play, Pod Painting with PEAK, which is a weekend event for our volunteers and anyone else who wants to participate, the annual LACAS show (allotments) and finally the Christmas Fair in Crickhowell, selling things we have made during the year.

[Llangattock Community Woodlands](#) still has a strong emphasis on encouraging and supporting our volunteers, ensuring that the woodlands and meadow are environmentally improved for biodiversity and welcoming more people to the site as volunteers and members of the public. We hope you continue to enjoy reading our monthly news and updates during 2018.

Now, let's have that cup of tea.



## Alder Carr Lottery

[Llangattock Community Woodlands](#) has been advertising the Alder Carr Lottery for several months and would really like to see more members. Please contact [jackiecharltonlgv@gmail.com](mailto:jackiecharltonlgv@gmail.com) or [andrewgpeach@gmail.com](mailto:andrewgpeach@gmail.com) for information.

The **Alder Carr Lottery** is registered under the Gambling Act 2005 and has a Small Society Lotteries Registration Certificate Registration No: LN/201600367.



## Bob's bee notes - January

2018 has started with a month of confusing weather for the bees; mild, warm temperatures then plunging to near freezing and below in the same week is not good for bees. We could see the bees flying some days. The hibernating cluster of bees would have broken, letting the heat out which is generated by the bees consuming stores and vibrating their wing muscles. When the hive temperature drops, they cluster again to maintain the warmth around the Queen. The Queen should come into lay once the daylight lengthens, pollen starts to come into the hive and temperatures rise. Any new brood produced if the Queen comes into lay earlier than expected is at risk in cold snaps. We can check if the Queen is laying by regularly inspecting the monitoring board under the mesh floor of the hive. If immature Varroa mites are on the board, it is an indication the Queen started laying eggs three weeks previously. Once the cell has been opened and cleaned by the bees ready for the Queen to lay the next egg, the dead immature Varroa mites inside the cell fall to the floor. During the winter, we place a bag of fondant on each hive immediately above the bee cluster.



When it is mild enough for the bees to move about inside the hive there is a ready food supply available for them to eat.

Winter is also the time for the beekeeper to repair any damaged equipment that may be about the apiary or in store. I have just repaired and modified three supers ready for the coming summer when we are hoping for a honey crop after last year's non-event.

The woodland group now has its specially built "bee palace" that was funded by the sale of the previous bee equipment store at Jarrett's wood. We are intending to use it as an educational aid where young and old can get close up to the bees without having to don protective bee suits. The side facing the hives has been designed so that people can see what is happening from behind a mesh screen when the hives are being inspected without the risk of being stung. The area around the hives has been planted with holly saplings, the intention being to form a hedge that will be a wind break for the hives and divert the flying bees up over the heads of anyone in that area. Now we are able to start fitting up the palace by attaching the protective viewing mesh, kitting it out with storage shelves and a work bench ready for making up hive frames, etc. We are all looking forward to using this exciting new project this coming season and inviting any interested local groups to see the bees.



Good beekeeping!

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](#).

If you are interested in environmental management, green wood crafts or bee keeping then please do get in touch. Please email Eric Gower [eric.gower@gmail.com](mailto:eric.gower@gmail.com) for a membership form.



## **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: [andrewfryer70@gmail.com](mailto:andrewfryer70@gmail.com). You can meet our Board of Directors [here](#).

## **PLEASE ASK US!**

If anybody would like to look at LGV's finances or discuss our schemes and projects, please contact us and we will be happy to help. We are proud to be operating a transparent and successful Community Interest Company. You may also find useful answers to our [frequently asked questions](#) on the LGV website.

**To find out more about us or to become a member, please visit:**

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