



# Llangattock Green Valleys newsletter

Issue 90  
February 2018

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

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## ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS:

By Steve Sharp

There were several rainy periods and some snow in January and so it was generally a poor month for tourists but a good one for hydro schemes in South Wales.

We are very pleased to confirm that our final MH-2 hydro scheme, Cwm Saerbren in Treherbert in the Welsh Valleys, was commissioned and is generating electricity. This was our largest and most costly scheme which was developed in partnership with a local community group Welcome to Our Woods.



*LGV Directors celebrating commissioning of Cwm Saerbren. From left to right: Peter Blood, (Admin: Tricia Dorée), Richard Lewis, Andrew Fryer, Miriam Griffiths, Simon Walter, Jackie Charlton, Sue Cartledge and Steve Sharp.*

A community celebration day has been planned for later this month and members of both community organisations will attend. The scheme has already attracted a visit from Wales Assembly Member for Environment Hannah Blythyn, who made a business rates announcement this week from near the Cwm Saerbren turbine house and this was featured on BBC Wales News.

Total generation at Cwm Gu (MH-1) at the end of January was about 125,500 kWhs. The manufacturer of a faulty spear valve at Cwm Gu serviced and replaced it this month and it is now generating at full power again.

The generation total at Blaen Dyar (MH-2) at the end of January was 20,700 kWhs whereas at Nant yr Hafod it was around 87,000 kWhs. Our other MH-2 scheme Abernant, near Builth Wells, has had a problem with the RCD regularly tripping and so our construction partners TGVHydro arranged for their electrician to replace this. The total generation at end of January at Abernant was 24,700 kWhs.

Two of our new schemes have not reached the predicted peak power since they were commissioned at the end of last year, despite plenty of flow through the schemes. Therefore we have been in discussions with TGVHydro about the reasons for this and possible solutions and they are considering whether boring new nozzles in the spear valves will solve the problem.

Now that we have 5 schemes up and running, we'd like to get a few more volunteers involved in monitoring the schemes and taking readings. This would only 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)

**SHAREHOLDER NEWS:** We would not have been able to build our hydro schemes without the generous financial support and encouragement of our shareholders. We are aware that you invested your money with our Co-operatives several years ago and have not yet seen a return (apart from the EIS/SEIS relief for those who are tax-payers). Please note that, because of EIS scheme rules, we are unable to consider payments to shareholders until three years after the start of trading (the commissioning date of the first scheme in each Co-op), which for both Co-ops will be in the second half of this year. We will make further announcements to shareholders on this subject before the AGMs in June.

## LLANGATTOCK LITTER PICKERS

By Michael Butterfield

Please follow the links below for our most recent news:

[January Newsletter](#) [February Newsletter](#) [LLP presentation](#)

**March Litter Picks:** We are out litter picking as usual on the **1st Saturday (3rd March)** of the month, meeting at **9.15am**. We are also out litter picking on the following weekdays during March, meeting at **9.15am: Wednesday 7th, Monday 12th, Friday 16th and Thursday 22nd**.

All our litter picks meet at Park Drive (Llangattock) with equipment, bags and hi-vis provided. Please send us an email in advance ([llangattocklitterpickers@hotmail.com](mailto:llangattocklitterpickers@hotmail.com)) to confirm if you intend to come along so that we can plan the routes to litter pick and put out enough road safety signs beforehand.

Please note that it is essential that you bring a fully charged mobile phone with you, in case of emergencies – unfortunately if you don't, we won't be able to use your help that day.

## Blaen Dyar Artists in Residence

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



Green buds and lambs are starting to appear, and along with these signs of Spring the momentum towards April's exhibition is gathering pace.

**re:Source** – the newly chosen title for the audio/visual work – is now beginning to take shape, developing from the raw material gathered during construction. [Click here](#) to see a portfolio of documentary photos taken over the past several months.

Jackie and Penny's walk around the Blaen Dyar site, which was included in the Crickhowell Walking Festival on 24 February, was fully booked, which bodes well for the further walk planned for April.

And the final good news is that a joint bid between LGV and the artists (ably co-ordinated by Sue) to the Sustainable Development Fund of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority was successful, so the installation's hoped-for Launch Evening can now be confirmed.

**Saturday 14 April** is the date to remember as that's the first day the doors of the exhibition are open to the public (from 10am until 5pm), and then the Launch Evening will take place from 6.30 until 8.30pm. Refreshments will be available in Cafe Latte Da and everyone is welcome, so please do come along and find out what all the hard work of so many people has achieved.

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



Supported by the [Sustainable Development Fund – Brecon Beacons National Park Authority](#).



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



## Three new volunteers since Christmas

By Jackie Charlton



I mentioned last month that Llangattock Community Woodlands has a strong emphasis on encouraging and supporting our volunteers, so it is really pleasing to see the group grow. Not everyone can come along each week but there is a small core group who give their time regularly and who contribute to this beautiful woodland. Our volunteers are so committed they go out in all weathers, including the snow! If you would like to volunteer, please do get in touch.

Everyone loves a hedgehog. We make hedgehog huts at LCW and placed one of these in the meadow a couple of weeks ago. It has a resident now but we don't think it's a hedgehog, sadly. Does anyone have any ideas of what might take up residence, small as a hedgehog and liking to nest on the ground?

We are now well into the felling season and this year we have chosen to fell some very straight ash trees for green woodcraft, rather than for wood fuel. Several of our volunteers are keen wood carvers and two of them make fine furniture. Green ash is about the best wood for this skill; the trees have to be straight and tall, to ensure there isn't too much waste. There will be some interesting products emerging throughout the summer. Finally, the Alder Sprite is coming to the woodland in March – we will give you more information in next month's newsletter.



## Alder Carr Lottery

[Llangattock Community Woodlands](http://LlangattockCommunityWoodlands) 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 – February

Well the weather has played its part in our bee support again this January and February. So far this year we have had to leave the bees alone because of the cold weather. They are not eating much of the fondant but with a few warm days this might change. We know that the honeybee Queens will have started to lay eggs by now and evidence of this can be seen on the monitoring board we have under the wire mesh floors of our colonies, which we check regularly. There is some activity but not all the hives are showing the same amount of evidence of feeding, so the cold weather may be delaying the Queen from laying just now.

Monitoring of the Varroa mite continues and we will start noting the results from this month, so we will know which colonies will need special attention when they are opened late March or April, depending on the weather and temperatures. We are hoping for a bumper crop of honey this year. Last year was not great and we had no honey to bottle up at all but did have some heavy heather honey which will be used to make mead this year.

With our new Bee Palace we will start to plan in some exhibition days this year. The woodland has got several open days planned and now we have the viewing platform and the viewing box, we can share the delights of bee keeping with all generations.

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.

## LACAS

By Sue Cartlidge

LACAS has become a member of the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG – or the Fed as it is sometimes called!). The Fed provides a strong voice for the community growing sector by representing our interests to government, funders and other key decision makers. Additional benefits of membership will be in advice, training and networking opportunities as well as membership discounts and offers, for example discounts on seeds, garden tools and even insurance schemes!

Meanwhile, allotmenters are poised for action ready to swing into the planting season – potatoes are chitting, and many windowsills are crammed with seed trays full of the promise of chillies, tomatoes and all manner of vegetables for later planting on the plots. We look forward to a pruning and grafting day in the community orchard, while the committee is planning a programme of social and work days for the coming year. Watch this space!

## Carbon Trust Tracer App



This new app reveals real-time electricity generation mix and carbon emissions at a local level.

Households across the Western Power Distribution (WPD) region can now find out exactly what mixture of energy technologies are supplying electricity from the grid into their homes, thanks to the launch of the new Carbon Tracer app, which has been developed by WPD in collaboration with the Carbon Trust. Find out more [here](#).



### 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:

[www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org](http://www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org)

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