



## LLANGATTOCK GREEN VALLEYS NEWSLETTER

### Issue 69 - March 2016

#### **ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS:**

*By Steve Sharp*

#### **Hydro Update:**

Our volunteers continue to monitor the Cwm Gu and Nant yr Hafod schemes each week, to record the electricity generation figures and ensure that there are no blockages at the intake or problems elsewhere and I'm pleased to report that both schemes are operating well. However, the couple of dry weeks we experienced recently caused the turbines of both schemes to stop turning for a while. The generation figures for the schemes in mid-March were:

**Cwm Gu (MH-1):** 61,122 kWh

**Nant yr Hafod (MH-2):** 35,262 kWh

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, we have started negotiations with Railway Paths Ltd. (RPL), which owns the viaduct under which the planned Blaen Dyar (MH-1) scheme is due to pass, to see if we can agree acceptable terms so that we can build the scheme. These discussions are ongoing but the early signs are that the additional costs will be manageable and are unlikely to affect the finances of the scheme significantly. Based on this, the MH-1 board has decided to proceed with the construction of Blaen Dyar as planned provided that we can finalise the negotiations with RPL without any further significant increase in costs. We still intend to seek the views of MH-1 subscribers and will send out an email in the next month or so to get your views.

A Partnership Agreement has been drawn up and signed to concrete our relationship with Welcome To Our Woods, our partners for the proposed Cwm Saerbren (MH-2) hydro scheme. This has enabled us to progress this scheme and we have now accepted a quotation from the DNO Western Power as provider for the electric works. Once the deposit is paid, we will be able to start the FITs pre-application for the scheme with OFGEM.

Disappointingly, there is nothing new to report re Abernant and no other schemes in the pipeline at present.

### **PV Update:**

If anyone has some ideas on how to move this forward, please do make contact. We would be delighted to have some help! Many thanks, Andrew - [andrew@wernwatkin.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:andrew@wernwatkin.fsnet.co.uk).



## **LLANGATTOCK COMMUNITY WOODLANDS:** By Jackie Charlton

### **Felling and planning**

March is the month for completing felling and clearing, ready to plant new trees and plan for summer activities. LCW have lots of things in readiness to provide more opportunities to come and volunteer either regularly on a Tuesday or over special weekend events during the summer. There will also be some Bee Sundays coming up soon.

We have felled lots of wood, ready to be sold as sustainable fuel during the summer months. If you are one of our valued customers, think about putting in your orders for next winter – it's much better to have the wood stored in your garden than in our woods.



Bob's Bees keeps everyone up to date on what is happening with our hives at Jarretts' woodland and the bee course has been very successful, with training in mead fermenting, setting up and learning about the history and development of bees over thousands of years.

LCW will be planning presentations for the Woodland Charter in partnership with the Woodland Trust, so if your group would like information, please get in touch using the contact details below. Have a look back at February's newsletter for all the information on the Woodland Charter or follow this link to the [Tree Charter](#).

Contacts for Wood Fuel:

[www.lcwg.btck.co.uk](http://www.lcwg.btck.co.uk)

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## Recruitment of Volunteers and Trustees

We are actively looking for volunteers and one more Trustee for LCW. Would you be interested?

We have been extremely successful over the last five years in gaining support and funds to take a small group of enthusiastic volunteers to the point we are at today, which is an organisation with a turnover exceeding all expectations but needing a strategic approach for the future. If you think you can fill that role, we would be really delighted to hear from you. Please contact [jackiecharlton@msn.com](mailto:jackiecharlton@msn.com) for further details.

LCW Trustees are justly proud of the commitment and enthusiasm of all our volunteers. If you are interested in environmental management, green wood crafts or bee keeping, please do get in touch. Visit our website [lcwg.btck.co.uk](http://lcwg.btck.co.uk) or email [eric.gower@gmail.com](mailto:eric.gower@gmail.com) for a membership form.



## Buzz Notes from Bobs' Bees

This is the month when you should see if your bees have survived the worst of the winter. We will be checking our bees at Jarretts' woodland now and doing these spring jobs.

Many of the bees have never been outside the hive, as they would have been born sometime between September and March. On fine days young bees perform their orientation flights, facing towards the hive entrance, flying backwards in a circular pattern and gradually moving further away to get their bearings from nearby features such as trees or other distinctive objects.

The confined winter bees need to empty their bowels of waste that has accumulated as stores were consumed and sometimes a bee can be seen dragging its bottom along a leaf or some other surface, leaving a trail of excrement behind. If a waste sample is collected from plants or surfaces near to the hives, we can see what flowers the bees have been foraging on by using the pollen as a means of identification. The excrement can be examined using an x400 compound microscope so that the pollen grains can be clearly seen. Pollen identification can also be used when identifying honey types later in the season.

Uncapped honey can ferment inside the hive when it absorbs moisture and the bees will get dysentery from it. This appears as a circular, wet patch quite different from the normal firm excrement.

These next two months will determine if your bees will survive into the summer as the stores collected last year are being consumed rapidly, with more mouths needing to be fed and the older foraging bees from late last season dying from old age. Check the fondant on your hives.

If anyone is interested in coming along to our organised sessions, please do get in touch via [llangattockbees@gmail.com](mailto:llangattockbees@gmail.com). Thanks from Bob's Bees.

## **LLANGATTOCK ALLOTMENTS (LACAS):** **By Phil Gibson.**

The Allotments AGM takes place at the Old Rectory Hotel, 7.30pm on Wednesday, 20th April. We also hope to hold a seed and plant sale/swap and a tool auction to follow the formal part of the evening. If you have any unwanted tools in good condition or any other items you would like to donate to the auction, please let us know.

Here's some advance notice about our Spring/Summer event this year which will be an outdoor presentation of Romeo and Juliet by the Taking Flight Theatre, to take place in the allotment field on Thursday, 7th July commencing 6.30pm. Ticket details to follow.

## **LLANGATTOCK LITTER PICKERS:** **By Pete Bates, Rollo Lewis and Michael Butterfield.**

Please follow these links for our most recent news:

- [Newsletter February 2016](#)
- [Newsletter March 2016](#)
- [Llangattock Litter Pickers Supporters Club](#)

## **PLEASE ASK US!**

If anybody would like to look at our 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.

## **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](mailto:andrew@wernwatkin.fsnet.co.uk)

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

To find out more about joining please visit [Llangattock Green Valleys](http://www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org)

**For more information on all our activities  
visit [www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org](http://www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org)**

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