



Llangattock Green Valleys newsletter

Issue 81
April 2017

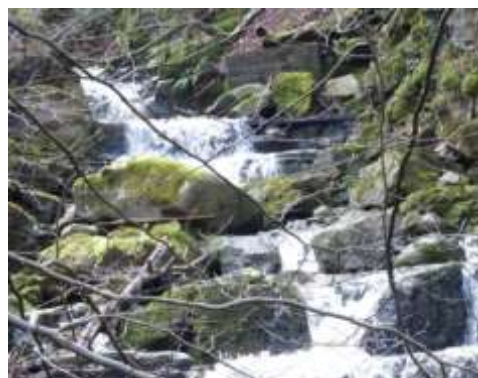
<http://www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org/>

ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS:

By Steve Sharp

Hydro – MH-1 and MH-2 updates:

We're back to dry weather and the forecast is for little rain in the Brecon Beacons, but at least last month registered some generation at Cwm Gu, with the total at the end of March being 82,352 kWh. TGVH has received the hydrology report for this scheme and they are running some in-house models to support the findings of the report, prior to submitting an application to NRW for a revised Hands-off Flow level.



Construction is continuing at Blaen Dyar and we are expecting the delivery of penstock pipe and other materials this week. The fallen tree has been removed and the dry weather should enable the construction team to make good progress this month.



Nant yr Hafod had a reasonable month in March, with total generation at the month end of 62,300 kWh.

A note for your diaries is **5th June**, which has been confirmed as the date for both the LGV MH-1 and LGV MH2 AGMs, and we are looking for shareholders to stand as new directors for both the MH-1 and MH-2 co-ops. If you are interested in standing please contact Jackie Charlton: jackiecharltonlgv@gmail.com

Image (above): Blaen Dyar intake point

Image (left): Volunteer, Anthony, cleaning the intake at Nant yr Hafod

Hydro Artists in Residence:

By Penny Hallas and Leona Jones

Leona Jones and Penny Hallas explore themes of energy, industry and the environment in their artworks: they find the mini hydro sites, processes and ethos hugely exciting and are intrigued by the challenge of how to represent this in their artwork given that hydro electric systems are by their very nature largely hidden from view.

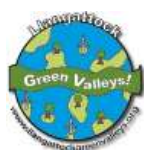
The initial research phase of their work will be to follow installation at the Blaen Dyar site and gather material related to hydro technology and the landscape in which it is situated. This will include sound recordings, film, photography, mapping and drawing, which they hope to develop into finished artworks at a later stage. Please see below for a fresh perspective on the construction work at Blaen Dyar.

Blaen Dyar

By Penny Hallas and Leona Jones



We have been on site at Blaen Dyar as construction there commences, observing the water pipes being delivered and joined before being winched into locations on the hillsides. Positioning the pipes is a task that requires both brains and brawn, an understanding of the landscape, how the long pipes may move through scrub and trees, and where to position brakes in order to prevent them hurtling down the steeper inclines. It's been a fascinating time, watching them slither and snake through the landscape to their final positions.



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@wernwattkin.fsnet.co.uk
You can meet our current Board of Directors [here](#).



Planning and Planting

By Jackie Charlton and Bob Needs

LCW continue to plan and plant at the Alder Carr woodland and meadow whilst waiting for the bluebells to come into full bloom and managing the bees so they don't swarm. It's been a very busy month for planning our wood sales for next winter. We have been in touch with most of our customers to find out what wood supplies they might need for next winter's fires so deliveries can be planned and to make sure we have enough wood processed to keep everyone going. This is our main source of income as we start to become self funding to keep our environmental activities on target to include tree planting, woodland management and environmental surveys. Two of our volunteers have been planting up more trees along the bank inside the woodland. This will help to keep the bracken down and support more wild flowers including the bluebells. We hope to have some fabulous photos of these next month.



Sad Good Bye



It was with sadness that this month we said good bye and thank you to Huw Lloyd, our woodland/volunteer manager. LCW had two years of funding from the Welsh Government to pay for woodland management and weekly support for our volunteers. The Welsh Government didn't repeat this funding, so we weren't able to apply for another grant. LCW Trustees have taken on most of the tasks previously undertaken by Huw, so we are on a steep learning curve.

LCW Annual General Meeting

We all have to have them and ours will be held on 9th May. If you are a member or just interested, please do come along. Here are the details:

The third Annual General Meeting of Llangattock Community Woodlands Ltd. will be held on
Tuesday 9th May 2017 at 1.00pm
at CRT Alder Carr Woodland and Meadow, Llangattock.

A barbecue lunch will be provided. Please contact eric.gower@gmail.com



ALDER CARR LOTTERY

Llangattock Community Woodlands now runs a small lottery which has the potential to raise over £1000 for environmental measures and equipment each year for Llangattock Community Woodlands. For more information, please contact jackiecharltonlgv@gmail.com or andrewgpeach@gmail.com.

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



Woodland Charter new project ideas are on the way from the Woodland Trust.



Bob Bee notes for April

April – the time for swarms

The urge to swarm can be genetic with some species of bee where their summers are relatively short compared to winters, so in order for the bees to reproduce, they must swarm as soon as possible. Queen pheromones are another significant reason for inducing swarming. If they are not strong enough to reach all the bees of the colony, the colony will not be happy and content.



This can happen with the age of the Queen or the size of the colony, if it is too large. April is the time for swarm preparations both for the bees and beekeeper, note the word “keeper”. A swarm is when the original Queen bee follows the worker bees out of the hive to establish a new home that “scout bees” have selected as being suitable. The swarm usually consists of about half the worker bees and a fertilized laying Queen. The workers will have gorged themselves on honey so they can produce beeswax from their wax glands when a new site has been chosen and the Queen would have been starved for a few days, to enable her to be light enough to fly.

Beekeepers that want to get large honey crops need young Queens to head their honey production colonies. They usually re-queen (introduce a young Queen) at the end of the second year of a honey production colony, to ensure the Queen pheromones are strong and



will produce lots of worker bees to collect nectar and pollen. Once a swarm has gone, eight days later one or more of the virgin Queens will emerge from a Queen cell; she could attempt to kill her sister Queens while they are still in their cells or, if the colony is still strong enough (as more worker bees would have emerged from their cells in that time), go off in another swarm known as a “cast”. A cast usually consists of a Virgin Queen, worker bees and some drones bees.

Most beekeepers want to keep their bees and don’t want to lose a swarm, as there will not be honey or pollination that season, so several things can be done to trick the bees into thinking they have swarmed or don’t need to. Regular inspections during the swarming time of year (end of April until the end of June) will give the beekeeper time to weaken a strong colony that is producing Queen Cells in preparation for swarming. This is done by weakening the hive by making up small nuclei that will eventually become new colonies or clipping the Queen’s wings so she can’t fly. A swarm will return to the hive if no Queen is present, in which case the beekeeper will find the Queen cells during the inspection following the attempt to swarm. This is a good time to make up a new colony with a new young Queen.

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 www.lcwg.btck.co.uk. If you are interested in environmental management, green wood crafts or bee keeping, please do get in touch. Please email Eric Gower eric.gower@gmail.com for a membership form.

LLANGATTOCK AREA COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

By Odette Wills

The first buds of spring on the fruit trees could only mean one thing; a fruit tree grafting share and learn session lead by expert Colin. Colin's simple five step method proved to be a success, with many new apple trees grafted, ready to be planted straight into the orchard. Thanks to the team on the day for clearing and maintaining this valued community space.

If you'd like to join us in 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.



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.

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

Follow us on Twitter! [@LGVcic](#) and

Like and share our [LGV Facebook Page](#)