



LLANGATTOCK GREEN VALLEYS NEWSLETTER

Issue 71 - May 2016

ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS: By Steve Sharp

Hydro - MH-1 and MH-2 updates

Generation on both the Cwm Gu and Nant yr Hafod schemes stopped at times during a relatively dry month (I never thought we'd be asking for April showers) but a few wet periods got the turbines turning again. Generation at the month end for the two schemes was:

Cwm Gu (MH-1): 65,412 kWh

Nant yr Hafod (MH-2): 38,400 kWh

OFGEM has finally signed off our Cwm Gu FITs application and the scheme has been granted full accreditation. Unfortunately, there's a minor difference in the OS grid references for the turbine house and so we're still waiting to receive our first payment from Ecotricity, but this shouldn't take long to sort out (a familiar statement which is usually untrue).

Thank you for the many comments from MH-1 subscribers following the recent mailing, which were mostly very positive and encouraging and backed the board's decision to proceed with the construction of Blaen Dyar. We're still waiting for the lease for Blaen Dyar from Railway Paths Ltd. and discussions are ongoing re a separate licence for storage and access with Sustrans.

We had a productive meeting with partners WTOW and landowners NRW re a lease and access arrangements for the proposed MH-2 scheme at Cwm Saerbren. Discussions are ongoing with Network Rail, as access needs to be across some railway lines at the end of the line at Treherbert and the lease can't be issued until we can show proof of access to the site.

Finance Director role:

As mentioned in the last newsletter, our Finance Director Mike Procter is standing down with effect from the MH-1 and MH-2 hydro AGMs, which will take place at The Old Rectory in Llangattock in the evening of Monday 27th June. Therefore we are keen to hear from anyone who has a finance/accountancy background and who might be willing to provide such services and advice to

LGV. Details of the work can be accessed by clicking the following [this link](#) and please contact Steve Sharp on stevesharp.lgv@btinternet.com for more information.



Llangattock Green Valleys (LGV)

COFFEE MORNING

Crickhowell Resource and Information Centre
4 June 2016, 10:00 to midday.

Your opportunity to find out how the micro hydro schemes are developing and how LGV might invest in future community and renewable energy developments.

All welcome.



LLANGATTOCK COMMUNITY WOODLANDS:

By Jackie Charlton

LCW work with private landowners who have small woodland sites that need management but are not big enough to support contracted woodland management. One such site is in Gilwern, adjacent to the canal, where we have been working since 2009. This is one of our primary sites and over the years we have managed the woodland area by felling and clearing damaged trees; most of our wood fuel for 2015 and this year came from here. This month we have cleared an area for processing some of the remaining felled wood and this gave us an opportunity to do an informal wildlife survey of the woodland and see how management has benefitted the woodland floor; it was amazing to find at least 20 different flower species.



May is when we hold our AGM and LCW gave notice last month, inviting people to attend. We held the event in Jarretts' Woodland in the pouring rain on 10 May 2016 and look forward to having another successful year, felling trees for wood fuel, planting new trees and carrying out environmental surveys. If you would like to find out more about LCW, our annual accounts and report will shortly be uploaded to our famous little website.



If you read this section of the newsletter regularly you will know that LCW is planning presentations for the Tree Charter <https://treecharter.uk/> in partnership with the Woodland Trust; if your group would like further information, please get in touch using the contact details below.

Contacts for Wood Fuel and other information:

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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 then please do get in touch. Visit our website www.lcwq.btck.co.uk or email Eric Gower eric.gower@gmail.com for a membership form.



Buzz Notes from Bob's Bees

A swarm in May is worth a rick of hay.

A swarm in June is worth a silver spoon.

A swarm in July isn't worth a fly.



This little saying is all about the timing of swarms and the consequence of late swarms. The May swarm will have time to build new beeswax comb, stock it with honey and produce brood to get the colony through the following winter and spring. The old Queen will lay eggs as soon as cells are available. Initially she will only have a small number of cells in the new comb in which to lay;

as more cells are formed by the young worker bees her laying rate will increase. The later in the year the swarm leaves the parent colony, the less chance there will be to achieve laying, stocking up with honey or making beeswax before cooler weather halts foraging.

The colony that remains will have its own challenges as about half the adult bees will leave in the swarm, mainly young bees will be left with virgin Queens who will emerge about a week later. The first Queen may kill her sister Queens while they are still in their cells or go off on a nuptial mating flight with any remaining adult bees; this smaller swarm is known as a cast and there can be many from each hive.

A cast has smaller numbers of workers than the original swarm and a virgin Queen has to mate for the hive to survive. She will start to lay eggs after about two weeks and those eggs will take a further three weeks to emerge as adults. All the time the worker bees are ageing and dying off, so it becomes a numbers game - and then there is the British weather.



The dreaded Varroa mite is a constant challenge. It reproduces inside the honeybee cell and acts as a virus vector, sucking the bees' blood. The Prime swarm goes off with some Varroa mites attached to the bees but most of the mites are inside the cells left on the original site and this concentration of mites will seriously damage the remaining bees in the colony. Keeping bees alive today is difficult but if you are aware of the bees' activities, you will know what to expect and can control events more effectively.

Llangattock Green Valleys at Ty'r Ash - Now everyone benefits.

Well, we are nearly there! As some of you may remember, Llangattock Green Valleys have taken over the management of Ty'r Ash through a lease agreement with Glanusk Estate.

The aim is to provide an environmental site which can be used by the High School for 'open' classrooms and developing a woodland group. The High School has to consider open access for every school activity, which is why they've been unable to use Ty'r Ash, but the building of this additional bridge will overcome this issue and open up this lovely area as a fine outdoor classroom.

Sam Ridge (National Park Warden) and National Park apprentices will be building the concrete plinths to take the new wooden bridge. Crickhowell High School has a week of activities later in July and they will be using this time to get out into Ty'r Ash to work with Sam and other

volunteers. Students from Year 10 will be given support by Sam but it's up to them to work as a team with fellow students and volunteers to complete the bridge.

LGV provided mentor support to students from the ECO Club to look at projects on this site, so are delighted to see this work coming to fruition. LGV Directors will be volunteering too and will be host to volunteers from Llangattock Community Woodlands and Glanusk Estate.

Town Councillors have also been invited, as they were extremely supportive of this project. LGV owes a lot of thanks to people and organisations who have helped in this development, including:- Glanusk Estate, Brecon Beacons National Park Warden and Education Officers, Crickhowell High School, The Green Valleys, Crickhowell Town Council and Percy Davies Trust.

LGV VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE! CAN YOU HELP?



In addition to the new Finance Director role mentioned in the hydro section, 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 LITTER PICKERS: By Pete Bates, Rollo Lewis and Michael Butterfield.

Please follow these links for our most recent news:

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

LLANGATTOCK ALLOTMENTS (LACAS) By Phil Gibson

We have a couple of plots available right now – please mention around.

On Friday 1st July Taking Flight Theatre Company will be presenting Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet

in the allotment field at 6.30pm. This is a prestigious event for Llangattock to stage and we hope you will all support it by coming along yourselves and bringing friends / family. It promises to be an exciting and fun event as the action moves around the allotments. Advertising will commence shortly but tickets are available now at a fraction of the normal price for this theatre company's productions: Adults £6, Children / Concessions £4, Family of 2 + 2 £15, available from Phil 01873 811537 or 07977 731309.

WOOD PELLET BUYING GROUP

By Nick Willson

At home we have recently installed a wood pellet boiler and I am interested to know if others with wood pellet boilers would like to form/join a local bulk buying group, to use our collective buying power to negotiate a cheaper bulk buy agreement.

I am happy to co-ordinate such a group to see what kind of discounts we can achieve. If you would like to join forces, please send me an email nick.aber@gmail.com or give me a call on 07415 700264.

To find out more about us and to become a member, please visit
www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org



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to: admin@llangattockgreenvalleys.org

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