



Llangattock Green Valleys newsletter

Issue 83
June 2017

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

ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS:

By Steve Sharp

Hydro – MH-1 and MH-2 updates:

Thank you to all those shareholders who came along to the AGMs this month. There was unanimous agreement amongst those who voted from both hydro Co-operatives for the part purchase of Blaen Dyar by MH-2 from MH-1, so a transfer process has started and Blaen Dyar will now be moved to MH-2. In return, a sum will be paid from MH-2 to MH-1 in respect of the money MH-1 has spent on Blaen Dyar up until the point of transfer.

We have had some short periods of rain but there was little new generation at Cwm Gu in May and the forecast is for more dry weather in June. TGVH has submitted the HoF notch adjustment application to NRW but they have asked for further flow gauging to be carried out on the stream to support the submission. This will be done by TGVH and will be completed by the end of July. The generation total for Nant yr Hafod at the end of May was about 64,000 kWh.

Construction continues to go well at Blaen Dyar; the penstock has been fully joined and dragged into position, the impoundment and intake area is mostly complete and the main turbine house structure has also been built. The main electrical work was carried out on 22nd June.



Image: Intake point at Abernant

Steve Sharp and Simon Walter visited Abernant recently to discuss the construction of this site with the client, property manager and TGVH. The build is due to start during the next few weeks. Steve also visited the Cwm Saerbren site with Andrew Fryer and they met with representatives of our partner organisation WToW, NRW and WPD to finalise the planning for this scheme, which will also be completed before the end of 2017.



Orchids in the woodland

By Jackie Charlton

At the end of May one of the volunteers located a flower she was curious about whilst planting new trees. We all got very excited because what she found was a lovely orchid and there were more too. It isn't a rare occurrence in this part of the National Park but it is a lovely reminder that our Alder Carr woodland has so much more to offer than just woodland management.

This is an indicator that the woodland floor is diverse too. LCW has a volunteer moth expert who is keeping regular records. By the end of October this year we should have a full annual cycle of moth records. An update with some photos is planned.

New Website Launch

LCW has been working on upgrading our website which sadly has been much neglected over the last 12 months. Every organisation needs a website which is properly maintained and updated regularly and we have been seeking an easy option so that volunteers can do this.

Two of our volunteers have come together, each bringing different skills to plan the outline and consider how to make it easy to use and informative. If ready, it will be launched in time for the next newsletter in July and will be linked to the much improved Llangattock Green Valleys website www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org.



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



Charter
for Trees, Woods
and People

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



Bobs Bee Notes

What a start to flaming June. Wet cool weather that will confine the bees to their hives and at a time when the Queens should be laying flat out. This is a recipe for swarming, or if the colony was new and small, starvation.

At the end of May a "cast", (a small swarm headed by a virgin Queen) arrived in my garden and occupied a bait hive I had set up to try and attract any swarms that might be about in the village. The picture is a nice illustration of a wicker Bait Hive. As it turned out this cast had bees that were quite yellow indicating they were mongrel bees so of unpredictable nature, as the virgin Queen also had some yellow stripes she was of similar parentage. I was fortunate at that time to have had a newly emerged virgin Queen from one of my colonies that were mainly local native bees. She was in a Queen Introduction cage ready for re-Queening any colony I came across that were non native bees. The cage was placed on top of the frames with a small amount of candy blocking the exit so that once the candy had been eaten by the hive bees, having absorbed the hive odour she could walk out without having to fight her way through worker bees that may have tried to kill her.



The cast was taken to The Dardy where I had set up an apiary ready for such an event. A week later the same Queen I had introduced was walking about on the face of frames that had newly drawn out wax cells ready for her to lay her eggs. The cast had consumed 5 litres of sugar syrup I had put in a feeder, they had converted it into beeswax ready for the Queen to lay her eggs. I refilled the feeder again so they would have no problem facing starvation if we had poor flying weather. A week following the first cast, another cast arrived, this time it was smaller and had a dark virgin with it, so no re-Queening was necessary; that is also now at the Dardy apiary site. Two swarms on one Bait Hive.

We have had success with the woodland bees expanding from two colonies to four following a supersedure in one hive that I reported last month. At the last inspection the new Queens were found and eggs were present showing they have come into lay. The other colony is showing signs of swarm preparation, so we are keeping a close eye on it during the 10 day inspections.

The allotment bees have also attempted a supersedure in one hive so the Queen was removed with a Queen cell into a new hive. The next inspection is imminent, so we are hoping to see new Queens in lay in both boxes. This rain is so important before the bees' main nectar flow starting at the end of this month. The village lime trees may provide us with some light coloured honey as long as it warms up.

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 then please do get in touch. Please email Eric Gower eric.gower@gmail.com for a membership form.

LACAS – Llangattock Area Community Allotment Society

With the growing season in full swing it's also a time of avid weeding and any grower will know the temptation to see red with the strimmer to fight back against the onslaught. Finding a balance to support biodiversity can be tricky. However, leaving patches of grasses, nettles and buttercups on margins can help to provide refuge for invertebrates, without encroaching on your plot. Companion planting is also a wonderful way to ensure pollinators are well fed and attracted to your allotment. Bee pollination is known to improve fruit quality and quantity in comparison with wind and self-pollination¹, making them an essential element of any good plot.

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.



Images: Companion planting of marigolds with courgettes & peas, bee on a chive in bloom, poached egg plants with raspberry canes.

Reference 1: Klatt et al, 2013. Bee pollination improves crop quality, shelf life and commercial value. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 281.

<http://rspsb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/281/1775/20132440>



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

You can meet our Board of Directors [here](#).



Image: Hydro volunteers litter picking at Nant yr Hafod

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

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