



Llangattock Green Valleys newsletter

Issue 95
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<http://www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org/>

ENERGY LOCAL CRICKHOWELL:

By Peter Blood



Support local renewable generation and cut your electricity bill!

We have almost enough expressions of interest to form the Crickhowell Energy Local Club but there is time for a few more, so if you are interested, register now on the Crickhowell page at www.energylocal.org.uk

Full details are at www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org/energy-local-crickhowell/. A meeting for those registered to discuss formation of the Club will be held in September.

Some questions and answers....

Sounds too good to be true: local green energy and lower bills. How is it done?

Club members who use renewable energy from generators connected to the Crickhowell electricity substation are charged for this at a lower rate and the same rate is paid to owners of the generators. In this way you will be supporting local renewable generators.

How do I use local renewable energy?

When local renewable energy is available it is shared equally between all Club members using energy at that time. The members' website will show you visually when this energy is available, so you know when you can use it. If there is not enough to go around the balance of your supply comes from the grid in the normal way.

How does the supplier know when and how much to bill me for local renewable energy?

You will be provided with a new smart meter, installed free of charge, which will tell you and the supplier how much energy you have used in each half-hour time interval.

Can I save money when there is no renewable energy available?

Yes, electricity from the grid is supplied on a 'time of use' tariff, so if you shift some of your use to low cost times you'll also save money.

Is the club open only to members of Llangattock Green Valleys?

No. Anyone who is supplied from the Crickhowell electricity substation can join the Crickhowell Energy Local Club, so tell your friends. Llangattock Green Valleys is the local community organisation working to establish the Club. The Club will be a Cooperative within the Energy Local family.

So how do I join?

Go to www.energylocal.org.uk and click on the Crickhowell Club.

Then what happens?

As soon as we have sufficient people to form the Club, you will be invited to a meeting to answer any questions and to outline the next steps.

For further information see:

[YouTube](#)

[Llangattock Green Valleys](#)

ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS:

By Steve Sharp

We have been seeing the benefits of having a mixed-renewable energy policy, as our hydro schemes have not generated a single kWh in two months but owners of solar PV schemes have been sitting back in their deckchairs and busily counting their income.

The amended licences for Cwm Gu with the rocky fish ramp arrangement have been granted by NRW and we have given the required 4 weeks' notice that we plan to carry out the work week commencing 6th August.

LACAS

By Phil Gibson

If you would like to take on an allotment, please contact Phil Gibson on 01873-811537 or gibsons@uwclub.net.



HOT, HOT SUMMER AND AGM

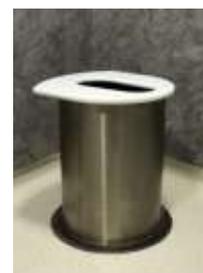
By Jackie Charlton

We have all noticed how the weather this year is breaking records across the globe and cannot ignore the fact that climate change is impacting on our daily lives. LCW started out as a group which wanted to make a difference and contribute to an environmentally sustainable planet. This aim is ever more important, making sure we do all we can in a small way to support a diverse landscape and manage woodland to improve carbon capture. At our AGM in July we reinforced that view with members and volunteers. If you would like a copy of our Annual Report and accounts then please do contact me jackiecharltonlqv@gmail.com and I will be delighted to send them to you. There was a good turnout but this might have had something to do with the Curry and Cakes!!

LCW want to encourage more volunteers in 2018/19 and we plan to increase our work programme by adding one Saturday a month from September 2018, which will focus on our environmental objectives. We also plan to increase the number of younger volunteers this way, encouraging a new group of people who will not only contribute to a sustainable environment but also help to ensure that Llangattock Community Woodlands thrives and moves forward into the future.

COMPOSTING AND TOILETS

To support increasing our volunteer network, LCW has submitted an application to Awards for All Wales to purchase a Compost Toilet! Yes, a clean, environmentally-friendly, water-free toilet which will be fully accessible and provide compost to keep our apple trees fed during the dormant months and hopefully encourage more people to join us too. And yes, it will look like the picture on the right and not a bale of hay with a hole in it!



WILDLIFE NOTES

We find all kinds of things on our site and the photo (right) is a fabulous example of a wasp nest found tucked in a wood pile. Alas, it was empty.



Not easy to see on this picture on the left but we identified these beetles as the common red soldier beetle (*Rhagonycha fulva*), also misleadingly known as the bloodsucker beetle and popularly known as the hogweed bonking beetle, relative of a species of soldier beetle (*Cantharidae*). Here is a better image.





ALDER CARR LOTTERY

The Alder Carr Lottery is something we now want to promote to support small projects in **Llangattock Community Woodlands**. We raised nearly £300 last year and three people won prizes at the end of the year (1st prize £50 and two prizes of £25 each). We are looking to raise more money this year and so if you would like to support us and perhaps be a happy winner, please get in touch.

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



BOB'S BEE NOTES ~ JULY



What a change in the weather from last year, we have a honey crop this year. The Llangattock allotment bees have honey on one hive and the other two smaller colonies are well stocked with bees and stores as if they are about to go into the winter but no surplus.

My own bees have done well so there will be honey in my cupboard this year and some surplus to sell in order to cover the equipment costs. Our woodland bees have done best with the number of colonies increased from 3 to 5 with at least 70 lbs of honey ready to extract.

The bee palace has come into its own over the last few weeks with Llangattock Church in Wales primary school visiting the Alder Carr field for a picnic; they used the observation balcony area for the first time to view a hive being manipulated. We were able to use the story telling area to show the children small bee-related items that they would not usually see such as a Leaf-cutter Bee nest, Queen cells, worker and drone beeswax and pollen stored in wax honeycomb.



The last week of July is a good time to extract surplus honey from the comb because there is sufficient time before winter for the bees to gather the stores. Each colony will need stores to see them through to next spring. In this location in Wales we may also have a crop of thixotropic honey known as Ling Heather honey. The "ling flow" is a flow of nectar from flowers of the Ling Heather, which produces a honey that has a very strong taste and aroma. It isn't to everyone's liking but is a honey connoisseur's dream. At the time of writing, rain is falling and the next three weeks will see if that crop of honey is good enough, having separated it from the main hive box.

Following the ling flow we will get a mix of balsam and ivy honey that can be a good way to get the winter stores in and new beeswax cells drawn out at the same time. Next month I will report on the honey crops obtained from apiaries in the village.

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



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](#).

Now that we have 5 hydro 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.

To find out more about us or to become a member, please visit:

www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org

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