



Llangattock Green Valleys newsletter

Issue 86
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<http://www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org/>

ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS:

By Steve Sharp

Hydro – MH-1 and MH-2 updates:

It has been a mixed hydro month, with little sustained rain to get the turbines turning but some excellent progress at our schemes under construction.

Flow gauging to support the NRW application to reduce the size of the HoF notch was completed at Cwm Gu (MH-1) this month and we're awaiting the comparison data from a local donor gauging station before the hydrologists can complete their report. Frustratingly, there was no generation at Cwm Gu this month, with the water level consistently rising to near the top of the intake weir but not triggering the scheme to start generating.

There has been a small amount of generation at Nant yr Hafod and also at our new MH-2 scheme Blaen Dyar. We have completed the snagging and other issues at this site and the official hand-over took place with some instruction from TGV Hydro.

Construction of the MH-2 scheme Abernant, which is near Builth Wells, is ahead of schedule and we are hopeful that this will be commissioned in the next week or so. As usual, there have been some challenging issues to overcome but the various contractors and authorities have worked well together and this scheme should be handed over to LGV MH-2 in October, in time for the hoped-for wet mid-Wales autumn and winter months.

Progress has also been good at Cwm Saerbren (MH-2), our final scheme, near Treherbert. The penstock has been delivered and its location marked out, the concrete intake structure has been built and a contract has been signed to construct the reinforced concrete turbine house. We are hopeful that this scheme will also be commissioned in 2017, which has proved to be a busy year for our hydro schemes.

Blaen Dyar Artists in Residence

By Penny Hallas

Things are moving for our artists-in-residence, Penny Hallas and Leona Jones, now the construction and commissioning of the Blaen Dyar micro-hydro scheme is complete. The research phase of their Hydro project is nearly finished and we need some consistent wet weather to enable them to visit the working turbine house and finish gathering material from the entire building and generating process.

The LGV–MH2 Board has agreed to help fund the next phase of this arts project, so Leona and Penny can now develop an audio–visual installation which will be displayed in a local arts venue in April 2018. In partnership with LGV, the artists are also pursuing opportunities for match funding from a grant–funding body in order to support the public presentation of their audio–visual installation and they are planning to hold a day of celebration in a location as close as possible to the Blaen Dyar site. Penny and Leona hope to hear the outcome of their application very soon.

LACAS OPEN DAY AND PRODUCE SHOW 2017

By Sue Cartlidge

Considering the rough weather, our annual show survived remarkably well again this year, with the ever–popular dog show taking much more centre stage.

Alan Jenkins, the new landlord of the recently opened Horseshoe Inn, came along to welcome visitors and open the show, having helped out with the final judging for the Plot of the Year – this award of the Brian Wintle Memorial cup was mainly a Committee decision based not just on the quality of the plot but on community efforts and contributions. The winners, Faith and Terry Kerman, were also awarded a rent–free year on their plot. Second and third prize winners in this class, Jennine Morgan and Kath and Ric Crocco, won no cups but were awarded a 50% reduction in next year’s rent, so well worth the effort – congratulations!



Our newly acquired trophy, the Pearl Powell Memorial Award, was won by Bob Needs for Best in Show (highest points awarded) – a mammoth task considering he was having to be in many places at once as host for the day, as well as getting his entries organised for the show. He was still digging things up as the Judges approached our gates! Many thanks are due to Alan Jenkins and Jed Needs for judging the Produce Show.

The Cole Hamilton Bowl, awarded for Best in Cakes Section, went outright to Fran Phillips while Kath and Ric Crocco won the Major W.C. Lister Challenge Cup for their beautiful Basket of Five Vegetables.

Our Best Newcomer (Llangattock Challenge Cup) was a joint award this year, going to Nigel Snell and Eddie Timmins. They too received a 50% reduction in next year’s plot fees. In the children’s section there were two awards: the Knox–Johnston Shield and the Children’s Cup – both of these were jointly won by Alice and Zachary Waggett with fearsome veggie animals and miniature wild gardens.

Last but not least, many of our visitors tried the People’s Produce – jams and chutneys – and voted for their favourite, the best of which was Mark Rose’s Marrow and Ginger Marmalade, for which he won the Joseph Williams Challenge Trophy.

Presenting awards and raffle prizes was our last minute surprise guest, Kirsty Williams, AM, Assembly Member for Brecon and Radnorshire. She was apparently very impressed with our little show and the allotments as a whole and enjoyed meeting the chickens and feeding them cabbage leaves!



AUTUMN APPROACHES

By Jackie Charlton and Bob Needs

As autumn approaches, we start to plan and consider what needs to be done over the winter months in our Alder Carr and meadow. Sheep are grazing the meadow for a couple of months, which will encourage more wildflower growth next year and keep the grass low, which aids growth as a hay meadow. This year a farmer made good use of the grass for hay and we hope he will do the same next year. No chemical nutrients will be added to the meadow to improve the biodiversity, encouraging both fauna and flora by sticking to the best environmental measures.



Felling in the Alder Carr will take place for the first time in decades during the winter months and we anticipate some good wood for fuel next year but we'll also use smaller branches for different things such as raised bed squares and plant labels. Alder is a great wood for wet areas and will absorb moisture without rotting, so these ideas seem a good way of making use of all the wood. We will continue to burn for charcoal as well.



We have been very busy during the last month; the barge is back, so we are making some real progress in the Laurel area. We will be applying to National Grid for funding for a pathway through the wood to the giant redwood, which has been shortlisted for Welsh Tree of the Year in the Woodland Trust competition. We need loads of votes, so please go to: <https://tinyurl.com/ybmxst9c>



The 'Bee Palace' foundation is almost completed. The area is ready to take the new shed and observation platform and this will be fully accessible to all to observe the bees at close hand whilst still being protected. Thanks go to Bob the Bee volunteers who have been using age old methods for melting wax, ready to make some candles for the Christmas market too. It has taken three weeks of boiling and separating but final boil took place last week.



Finally, the Alder Carr Sprite will be painted onto our 'storage pods' in the spring. The artist Pete Fowler has designed the Alder Carr Sprite as part of the Arts Alive 'Horsebox and the Black Mountains' project. The filmmaker Siôn Marshall Waters has been with us, recording our activities for the Arts Alive project, and this will be available in the near future. We had great fun filming and will open up the woodland in the spring to share this wonderful project.

New Website Launch

You can now visit our new website – go to <http://llangattockwoods.org.uk>. There is still more to do as it is work in progress but we think it is looking really good – any comments would be gratefully received.



ALDER CARR LOTTERY

Llangattock Community Woodlands have been advertising the Alder Carr Lottery for several months and would really like to see more members. Please contact jackiecharltonlgv@gmail.com or andrewgpeach@gmail.com for information.

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's bee notes - September

So far this September has been cooler and wetter than usual and so the bees need to be fed a lot more winter feed than we would normally expect, even though there has been a nectar flow from the Ivy flowers. The large, bright yellow pollen loads are a giveaway when Ivy is being worked by the bees and I have also seen smaller pollen loads from another source of flowers in the area but this has yet to be identified. The dry weather we experienced in the summer followed by the wet, cooler conditions has meant little or no surplus honey this year. I don't know of anyone in this area that has had a full super of honey from a hive, only a few frames of sealed honey and that has been from a mix of Ling Heather and Himalayan Balsam; both late honey sources.

All the colonies are looking good and we are experimenting with some late Queen mating in the hills above Llanbedr to see if it is possible at this time of year and in that place. We managed to raise four Queen Cells; all four were put into nucleus hives on the mating site along with two other full colonies that had retained their Drones. There was an inspection last week to see if the Queens had started to lay eggs, but only one had and they were in a hive that had been knocked onto its back by sheep and had been laid in drone cells, so didn't tell us if the eggs were fertilised. There will be another final inspection next week that will show if it has been successful. If we don't find the Queens are in lay then it means we will have to unite the nucleus hives together to make a colony that is viable, then introduce a Queen that is heading a small colony that would not otherwise make it through the winter. We have managed to keep the numbers of Varroa Mites low in the hives by dusting the bees with icing sugar after each inspection. We Beekeepers are an optimistic group of people always hoping for better next year. Good beekeeping.



Bee Bob



LCW Trustees are justly proud of the commitment and enthusiasm of all our volunteers. We meet every Tuesday. If you are interested in environmental management, green wood crafts or bee keeping then please do get in touch by emailing Eric Gower eric.gower@gmail.com for a membership form.

❖ Llangattock Community Woodland Group ❖
invite you to celebrate
Apple Day



❖ At the Old Rectory Hotel, Llangattock ❖
2pm-6pm, Saturday 21st October 2017

Bring your apples to be pressed and bottles to take home your own apple juice ❖ There'll be a local apple expert to give advice. Also music and children's games

FREE ENTRY

Come and see the bees in our observation hive ❖ Try our apple cakes, jellies & chutneys, or bring your own to share! ❖



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](#).

PLEASE ASK US!

If anybody would like to look at LGV's finances or discuss our schemes and projects, please contact us and we will be 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:

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