



Llangattock Green Valleys newsletter

Issue 96
September 2018

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

ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS:

By Steve Sharp



Image: The new fish easement at Cwm Gu

Most of our hydro schemes have generated no electricity since mid-May, so income in the third quarter is likely to be very low. All the hydro schemes are modelled with the assumption that they will not generate electricity for some periods each year but this dry summer period has been unusually long.

A good news story to balance the energy generation report: In February, when most of our hydro streams were in spate and the schemes were generating at full capacity, I went to the intake at Cwm Gu to clear any sticks or leaves away from the screen and Hands-off Flow notch. Whilst leaning over and trying not to get a welly full of water, my car keys fell out of my coat pocket and into the stream. It was a long walk back home to get the spare set of keys and I assumed the lost keys would have made it down to the River Usk before I did, as the flow of water was so strong. When we did the work at Cwm Gu last month, I told the story of the lost keys to our contractor and, jokingly, he said that he would keep an eye out for them. To my great surprise, under a large rock quite near the intake, there were my keys – and miraculously, after drying them out, even the remote worked perfectly!

ENERGY LOCAL CRICKHOWELL CLUB GETS UNDERWAY!

By Peter Blood

All persons who have registered interest in the Crickhowell Energy Local Club and are in the supply area have been invited to a start-up meeting in The Bear in Crickhowell on Tuesday 25 September at 7.30pm.

If you have not registered your interest but would like to do so, please visit the Crickhowell segment of the portal www.energylocal.org.uk and enter your details by 22 September so that we can check that you are in the supply area and send you particulars of the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there!

LACAS - SHOWTIME!

By Sue Cartlidge



This year is the 10th anniversary of LACAS's show – a little later than usual this year on Saturday 22nd September from 2.00–6.00pm. There will be the usual offerings from allotmenters in the produce tent as well as the People's Produce, where you taste and vote for the yummiest jams and pickles as well as a fine array of cakes and drinks made from allotment produce.

The dog show is always fun – either to take part in or watch; there are some amazing pooches out there with some great owners. Registration is at 1.30pm, so come along betimes if you are entering the dog show.

A first this year will be a fabulous archery display with the Welsh and World Champion Teresa Langford.....and you can even have a go yourself.

Local Energy Crickhowell will be attending – come and find out about cheaper, greener electricity and support your local economy. We'll also have all our usual stalls with produce, bottles, plants and raffle prizes – and not forgetting the Tea Tent! Hope to see you there. For any LACAS queries, do contact Phil Gibson on 01873-811537 or gibsons@uwclub.net.



AUTUMN PLANS

By Jackie Charlton

Llangattock Community Woodlands (LCW) want to encourage more volunteers in 2018/19 and plan to increase our work programme by adding one Saturday a month which will focus on our environmental objectives. We are expecting the number of younger volunteers to increase as there has been a lot of interest from families who want to share time with their children. The aim is to encourage a new group of people who will not only contribute to a sustainable environment but also help to ensure that LCW thrives and moves forward into the future.

COMPOSTING AND TOILETS

To support increasing our volunteer network, LCW 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! Sadly, at the first attempt we were unable to comply with all the requisite application needs and have to do some community surveys. We will be doing some survey work at the LACAS show and would be really pleased to get some 'pooey' feedback!



APPLE DAY - 20 OCTOBER - Llangattock Allotments



LCW have joined up with LACAS this year to hold the Apple Day in the Allotments. This is an international celebration which is held on 21 October every year and we have supported this event for the last two years. Last year was the same day as one of those pesky hurricanes which we had the backlash from but it didn't dampen

our spirits and it was a great day. This year, we hope to put on other events alongside the apple pressing and show case what we do at LCW. So, bring along your apples and press them for juice, a great way of using up all the windfalls as well as other apples you just can't freeze, eat, make apple pies with or more chutneys.

Apple day celebrates everything to do with orchards, from fruit variety identification to apple and cider tasting and bring-your-own juicing services. Come along on Saturday 20 October to Llangattock Allotments.



ALDER CARR LOTTERY

The Alder Carr Lottery is something we 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, 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 ~ SEPTEMBER



August was the month we extracted the summer honey from the hives in Llangattock and in my case, also from the “Holy mountain” (Skirrid). So we are now seeing the hives going full circle from the beginning of the year, watching how the queens survived and new ones hatched to actually extracting honey.



Considering the poor start to the year and last season, we



have been very fortunate with our honey crops. There is also the chance that after the wet weather we have had recently and now the warm spell, the heather may yield a little more to give us some honeycomb that we can eat with fresh baked bread and butter. I have mentioned before about the taste of heather being described as ‘bitter sweet’ along with its strong aroma. The honeycomb is rich in strong flavour and looks amazing.

Honey samples will be available at the **Llangattock Allotments produce and Dog**

Show on 22 September for people to see and taste for themselves

what our local honeys are like. An observation hive will be available, so you can see a Queen Honey bee doing what Queens do, laying eggs and being pampered by her offspring. All the



colonies appear to be filling the brood areas with winter stores and I see lots of Ivy flowers starting to form in the hedgerows, so there should be pollen available when the winter bees are developing to give them enough fat in their bodies to see them through the winter. If you are not about for the show on 22 September, the annual “National Apple Day” will be held at Llangattock Allotments on **Saturday 20 October**, when the honey tasting and observation hive will be available again. Hope to see you there!

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 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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