



Llangattock Green Valleys newsletter

Issue 97
October 2018

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

ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS:

By Steve Sharp

As I write this report, we finally have some decent Welsh rain. Some say it's the heaviest rains for 30 years locally and this is backed up by these photographs of Crickhowell bridge, which was closed soon afterwards for damage assessment.



The rain is of course welcome news for our hydro schemes, after the most prolonged period of dry weather since we formed our hydro Co-operatives. We are still assessing the resulting change in generation but most of our schemes are currently operating at their maximum potential.

Total generation in kWhs at the end of September was approximately:

Cwm Gu:	166,780
Nant yr Hafod:	103,570
Blaen Dyar:	45,900
Abernant:	52,010
Cwm Saerbren:	46,470



FIRST MEETING

By Peter Blood

It was great to see so many people at the information evening held at The Bear in Crickhowell on Tuesday 25 September. Those present had already registered their interest in the Energy Local Crickhowell Club and were there to hear more from the different parties involved, including Mary Gillie of Energy Local, Richard Chavasse of Cooperative Energy and Gareth Ellis

of The Green Valleys and the local club facilitator. Here is a [link to the presentation](#) along with notes from the question and answer session.

The Crickhowell scheme will initially use electricity from the LGV hydro generator at Cwm Gu and Mary Gillie said that arrangements are now being made to enable consumers to switch to Cooperative Energy to share this energy; we expect more news on this at the end of October. An email will be sent to those registered.

There is therefore opportunity for a few more consumers to be founder members of the Crickhowell Club, so if you have not registered your interest but would like to do so, please visit the Crickhowell segment of the portal at energylocal.org.uk and enter your details. You can learn more about the Club from the link to the presentation given above and [the LGV website](#). If you have any questions, please contact Peter at crickhowell@energylocal.co.uk.



CHRISTMAS PLANNING and SATURDAY SUCCESS

By Jackie Charlton

Sorry!! Christmas is close so we have to start planning now. We thought you might like to see a new product for our Christmas Fair in December.

Following on from last month's newsletter we have now had our first Saturday Session, which was a great success if not a little wet! We had 12 new volunteers including lots of children. The rain didn't dampen the spirits, so a special half-term Story Telling session is to be arranged later in October and plans for the November session are coming together now.



COMPOSTING AND TOILETS



The Survey is out. Look on [Survey Monkey](#) to complete the survey and support our Lottery Bid, which will be going out sometime in December. The Big Lottery feedback from our last application asked us to do a community survey, so here it is.



APPLE DAY - 20 OCTOBER - Llangattock Allotments

We have joined up with LACAS this year to hold the Apple Day in the Allotments. It is an international celebration which is held in October every year and we have supported the event for two years now. This year we will be joining with LACAS and Llangattock Community Council and invite everyone to come along, press some apples, have some lunch and share in the work we do all year long.

Start Time: 12:00 Midday.

Finish: When all the apples have been pressed!

Sausages and rolls available from the BBQ £1.00 a time.





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 ~ OCTOBER



The honey harvest is well over now, our bees are collecting their stores ready to keep them alive through the next five or six months when foraging may well be restricted to an occasional flight outside of the hive when the weather permits.

Only a few years ago we were being told by scientists that bees would die out if not chemically treated against the Varroa mite in some way. I was at a bee conference in



September where speakers were asking the audience "How many of you are treating your bees to get rid of the Varroa mite?" and about half the audience said they were. However, it appears bees are finding some way to survive the mite without chemical treatments but no one had a precise reason why.

We are being told that virus is the main reason for bees dying out and that there are several types. One theory is that the type of virus most common in British colonies is not so damaging that it will kill off the colony and some of our bees are able to resist it.

I have not used chemicals to remove the Varroa mites for many years now after finding a problem with one of my hives a few weeks after bringing them back from the heather moor. One of the hives still had the metal straps in place that I used to clamp the hive components together when moving hives. This meant I had not inserted the chemical impregnated plastic strips between the brood frames. My immediate reaction was to panic because the chemical strips were meant to be in the hive for six weeks before removing them and, as it was then the beginning of October, that meant I would be opening my colony up in November.

I found a simple method to remove Varroa in a Central Science Laboratory brochure known as "the inert powder method". I immediately tried it on that one colony and, after seeing how effective it was in such a short time, I also used it on the others with the same result.

The method is just dusting an inert powder such as flour, icing sugar or French chalk over the bees so they preen themselves and in doing so knock off the mites that are clinging to the adult bees. This is most effective when there is no sealed brood in a colony where the mites life cycle takes place, so for instance when a swarm first arrives in the hive or at a time of year when the Queen is not laying.

This month I will be checking all the colonies to see if they are ready to strap down for the winter.

Hope to see some of you at the Apple Day at Llangattock Allotments on 20th October.

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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