



Llangattock Green Valleys newsletter

Issue 87
November 2017

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

ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS:

By Steve Sharp

Hydro – MH-1 and MH-2 updates:

We've had some rain! At least a few decent-sized bucket loads of the lovely, wet stuff, so although half-term visitors to the Brecon Beacons haven't found it easy to enjoy the autumn leaves in their wonderful colours, our hydro schemes have at least been generating close to capacity for some days this month.

Water has been running off the basin that feeds the Cwm Gu scheme (MH-1) and its turbines have been busy. We have received the comparative flow data from NRW to support the HoF notch application for Cwm Gu and the hydrologists are producing their report, which we expect to receive sometime soon.

When we visited Nant yr Hafod (MH-2) in mid October, the scheme was in flood to such an extent that the intake screen could hardly be seen, so there were no leaves to clean away. Similarly, Blaen Dyar (MH-2) had a lot of flow and was generating well. We have been submitting the final data and files for Blaen Dyar to OFGEM for the conversion of our initial FITs application to full permission and we hope to have this granted soon, so that we can start receiving FITs payments.



Nant yr Hafod in spate



Abernant intake

We are very pleased to announce that our third MH-2 scheme, Abernant, was commissioned this month. This is a relatively small scheme in a beautiful wood on land belonging to Abernant House, south of Builth Wells, and the scheme is already generating well.

The construction of Cwm Saerbren, our final MH-2 scheme, is progressing well. The intake is almost complete and we've signed a wayleave agreement with NRW for the DNO electric works to export electricity to the Grid. We have been informed that there's likely to be a delay in

Western Power being able to arrange the S37 consent for the Grid works but we're hopeful this will only be a couple of weeks.



Now that we have 4 schemes up and running, we'd like to get a few more volunteers involved in monitoring the schemes, especially now that we're heading into the (hopefully) rainy season. It'll take around an hour or so once every 6-9 weeks. If you are interested in helping, please contact Simon Walter admin@llangatockgreenvalleys.org

Volunteers at Abernant: Jed, Alistair and Simon

Blaen Dyar Artists in Residence

By Leona Jones and Penny Hallas



As you may have read over recent months, we have been following the development of the Blaen Dyar site from the heaving out of the first spadefuls of earth to the first rush of water to generate power.

It's with great pleasure that we can announce that we, together with LGV, have received investment from [A&B Cymru's CultureStep Investment Programme](#) to strengthen and develop our creative partnership.

In the funding application our partnership successfully demonstrated commitment to encouraging awareness of environmental issues through the arts – addressing CultureStep's Arts & the Environment priority, and micro-hydro in particular.

The successful bid means the exciting plans for an audio/visual installation, events and increased public interactions scheduled to place locally in the first half of LGV's celebratory 10th year can be put into action. More news to follow!



Leona and Penny

LACAS: No-Fireworks Bonfire Party

By Sue Cartlidge

Our popular and free (maybe that's why it's popular) Bonfire Do will be held on Friday 3rd November starting at 5.00pm. As usual, there will be a BBQ, hot soup and other goodies. No fireworks though – sparklers only.



We will begin building our bonfire earlier in the day. Although we've been collecting waste wood throughout the year, it is important to move this to another patch of ground in order not to incinerate any wildlife that has made its home there, especially any hedgehogs.

We'll also be putting up a marquee, so any helping hands with that or building the bonfire will be most welcome. Even if you can't make it in the day, we look forward to seeing you for a warm gathering around the bonfire in the evening.



APPLE DAY & ALZHEIMER'S

By Jackie Charlton and Bob Needs

The weather decided to do its best to make the Apple Day a wet and windy challenge – but we were up for it. Many thanks to The Old Rectory for allowing us to use the big marquee, which gave us shelter from the rain but more importantly from the down-graded hurricane Brian. We had over 30 people on the day and apple pressing went on till after 5pm. There was apple identification – one visitor had been trying to identify apples in his garden for over 30 years and he went away delighted, finding out the origin of his split espalier tree.



We sold candles and beeswax polish which was processed using ancient methods in the Alder Carr woodlands. The candles were extremely popular, as was the polish, wooden plant labels and charcoal pencils. Hedgehog Huts were on sale, made again in the woodland from old pallets. All these items and more will be on sale at the **Crickhowell Christmas Craft Fair on 7 December, in Clarence Hall.**



In October we had the local co-ordinator of the Alzheimer's Society, Ian Thomas, come along on a sunny day to give the group an awareness-raising session, breaking down some of the barriers and misconceptions about dementia. It was very useful and volunteers shared experiences too. LCW is very keen to be supportive of individuals or families who would like to interact and enjoy our activities where fresh air and friendship could help manage tensions and stresses of illnesses such as dementia. We are now officially a 'Dementia Friendly Group'.





Alder Carr Lottery

Llangattock Community Woodlands has been advertising the Alder Carr Lottery for several months and would really like to see more members. Please contact jackiecharltonlqv@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.



Bob's bee notes - November

Autumn is the time for the bees to consolidate their stores ready for the first frosts of this coming winter, when most activity comes to an end. The yellow ivy pollen is still coming into the hives, the Queens are still in lay so the bees are looking good for next season. We have managed to breed enough new Queens this year so that all the local colonies are headed by those young Queens that should be at their best next season. We regularly dust the bees with icing sugar for Varroa, which aids checks. Evidence was found in colonies of Deformed Wing Virus, so we dusted three weeks after the eggs were seen and again as they started to emerge as adults; a final icing sugar dust will clear most of the Varroa mites from the hives. All the colonies have been arranged, ready to go into the winter, so the next inspection may only require the fondant to be replaced if necessary and a sprinkling of icing sugar given over the bees between the frames.



We had a pleasant surprise to find one of the four experimental late mating Queens had managed to mate; that new Queen had started to lay in mid-October and is laying normal fertilized worker eggs. Her brood pattern looks fine, so the failed nucleus hive was united to her brood. There will be a good chance of that colony coming through the winter with enough bees and stores. She is marked and has been clipped which means the colony will not swarm in the spring. We will be able to see if she has mated with the drones we took to the mating site next year, when we do the wing morphometry of her own worker bees.

I suppose it's mead making time again, so this brew will be ready for Christmas 2018. Hey Ho, I had better start tasting last year's to see if anyone will want some for Christmas.

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 <http://llangattockwoods.org.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.



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](#).



Anyone intending to come out litter picking with us in November, please do let us know by emailing llangattocklitterpickers@hotmail.com so that we can plan the litter picking routes and place enough road safety signs out prior to the litter pick.

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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