



Llangattock Green Valleys newsletter

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

Issue 109
November 2019



TREE PLANTING EVENT



Join us to

Plant 100 trees

**Saturday 30th November at 11.00am
at Llangattock Community Woodlands
Refreshments provided**

*(Leave village South on Hillside Road, keeping the Chapel on your right.
Continue over Bridge 114 past Beacon Park Boats .
Round left bend, our entrance is at next junction.)*

Please walk if possible--parking is extremely limited.



#EveryTreeCounts

woodlandtrust.org.uk/bigclimatefightback



The Woodland Trust, Heronpton Way, Gwentham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.
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BIG TREE PLANTING EVENT!!

By Jackie Charlton

As a member of the Woodland Trust Tree Charter, Llangattock Community Woodlands has been invited to plant trees on the 30 November as part of the Big Climate Fightback. This is a national event and our aim is to plant 100 trees in one hour!! The Llangattock Community Woodlanders (our children's team) will be there as will people from around Llangattock who just want to be involved, as well as our regular adult volunteers.

We are all becoming much more aware of the Climate Emergency descending on us. Our organisation has worked on the basis of supporting management to improve carbon capture in our woodlands by replanting, coppicing and supporting biodiversity. These are our charitable objectives. Since 2009, so much has been done including planting around 1000 trees, 500 hedge plants, coppicing of 100 hazels, possibly more, selling wood fuel which has been felled sustainably and delivered within a 5 mile radius, educated adults and children about woodlands and so much more.

We have supported biodiversity by encouraging bees in woodlands, helping and training individuals in bee keeping, supported measurement of butterfly and moth activities and supporting bat and bird boxes across many different sites. There is so much we have done in our own small way but small things add up to big outcomes if everyone understands their part in the global fight to prevent climate disaster.

Water Logged!!

We have all seen the floods across the country and Llangattock didn't miss the rain at the end of October with the Usk flooding again and causing chaos. The Alder Carr is special because of the water which runs through the site but sometimes it comes up in unexpected places. There is a spring which flows underground across the meadow and most of the year will emerge somewhere in the woodland. After heavy rain it rises much sooner flooding the main pathway from our work area to the hub of the woodlands. Last week we decided there was only one thing for it, a 'pallet bridge'! The long term aim will be to provide a French Drain system which has helped elsewhere on the site but it needs a mini digger and much more thought before we can do that. In the meantime the pallets are providing exactly what we need to keep our feet dry.



Pallet bridge to keep our feet dry



Paul delivering with a smile

Innovative Delivering

We deliver wood to many different places including having to take armfuls, bit by bit, through small cottages. As you can see, all deliveries are done with a smile. All he has to do now is put his wellies back on from a standing position!



Bob's Bee Notes ~ November 2019



Training and Education

This month we have been meeting with new or prospective beekeepers in the Llangattock school room on Wednesday evenings, learning about the beekeeping year and other subjects relating to the skills required for honeybee husbandry. Although many more expressed an interest in joining, the weather and other previously booked engagements have meant that all those who booked a place have been



Our very own honey.

able to join. The last time a beginner's class was arranged in the village was three years ago. Beekeeping is a very interesting subject but because of the relatively small numbers of people that are able to keep bees or have an interest, it is not viable to run a course every year.

Having a good room available to deliver the course on a suitable evening for all those interested individuals has also been a factor. Most of the course participants are connected in some way with the Llangattock Community Woodlands Group based at the Alder Carr site on the canal side in Llangattock, but anyone is welcome to attend. This is the main beekeeping site in this area where anyone interested in looking at honeybees can come along to see the colonies opened for inspection while they are standing behind a protective mesh screen inside the viewing area of the "Bee palace", while one of the manipulators is demonstrating the inspection of a hive.

As part of the course besides the slide show demonstration there will be an evening looking through microscopes, a mead making demonstration, assembly of hive parts, and beeswax processing. The idea is to get a rounded view of beekeeping as some people will be interested in just getting some honey for the kitchen or perhaps a few bottles of mead to drink. For those that are more interested in the environment and pollination of fruit trees, there is also a lot to learn about that side of things.

I have always been interested in making and inventing my own beekeeping equipment that is acceptable to the bees and makes the beekeeper's life easier. Many of those strategies are shared with the group and with other bee keepers in my travels around the area.

Bee Training Course:- 30 October for six weeks

Llangattock Village Hall

7.00 pm to 9.00 pm

£20 for the course with Mead Making at the end

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 please do get in touch. Please email Eric Gower eric.gower@gmail.com for a membership form.

LACAS ~ Bonfire blues and pumpkins

By Sue Cartlidge



Image by [PublicDomainPictures](#) from [Pixabay](#)

The Allotment Committee decided to go ahead with the No Fireworks Bonfire Party in spite of the disgusting weather! The marquee was put up after some lengthy negotiation of poles and canvas flappy bits to provide our guests with shelter for the evening. The bonfire eventually caught light with the help of some diesel-doused rags, and those of us brave enough to attend enjoyed a tasty supper of soup and burgers and plenty of chat to keep us warm! Thanks to all the team for joining in the soggy fun.

Meanwhile, when we're not partying on the allotments, this time of year we are gently winding down for the winter though some will be pruning their fruit bushes, netting the brassicas against marauding pigeons, staking up the Brussels sprouts and generally keeping the weeds down by covering up the ground or by planting a green manure crop such as rye grass or winter vetch.

In October, LACAS allotmenters came up trumps in providing some squashes and pumpkins for the Community Canteen on 2nd November held once a month in a local church hall. Funds raised overall so far amount to £15,000 for local and international charities, including our very own Tools For Self-Reliance. LACAS members were pleased to have contributed in a small way.

Although LACAS has welcomed a number of new members this year, several people have also left so we now have a couple of plots available. Do contact Sue Cartlidge in the first instance on llangattockallotments@gmail.com

☀ Please look out for our next hydro update in December's newsletter. ☀

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 also 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.

www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org

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