

Llangattock Green Valleys newsletter

Issue 43 – November 2013



WELCOME TO THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER!

Interest in the micro hydro co-operative share offer is building, with **over £118,000 worth of shares sold to date**. Many thanks to all of you who have invested so far, and to everyone who has helped us spread the word.

Of course there is still time to invest, and the good news is that if you missed our earlier presentations, there are easy ways to find out more:

1. Download the Share Offer Document from our website – www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org – or call us free on **0800 206 1915** to request a copy by post.

2. Pop along to one of our weekly **drop-in sessions** at the Crickhowell Resource & Information Centre **every Friday this month**. Members of the Co-operative team will be on hand to answer questions between 10am and 2pm.

3. Come along to one of our special evening presentations on the following dates:

Hay-On-Wye – Monday **11 November**, 7-9pm, Globe at Hay, Newport Street, HR3 5BG.

Abergavenny – Tuesday **19 November**, 6-6.45pm, St Michael's Centre, Pen-y-Pound, NP7 5UD (*short presentation ahead*

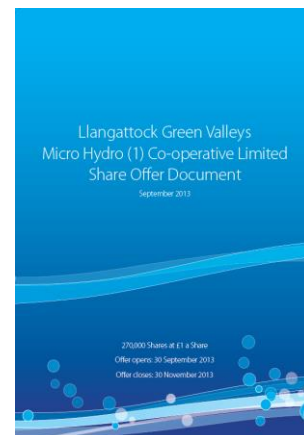
of the Abergavenny Transition Town film screening).

Abergavenny – Tuesday **19 November**, 7-9pm, Holy Trinity Hall, Baker Street, NP7 5BH.

Brecon – Wednesday **27 November**, 7-9pm, Plough Chapel Hall, Lion Street, LD3 8EW.

To recap, you can invest from £250 to £20,000, with a projected rate of return of 5% per annum, averaged over 20 years. In addition, HMRC has given advance assurance that the share offer qualifies in principle under Enterprise Investment Scheme regulations. This allows qualifying investors to claim tax relief of 30% of the value of their investment in the first year, boosting the effective rate of return to 8.1%. **Remember, the share offer is set to close on 30 November**, and if the offer is oversubscribed, shares will be issued on a strictly first-come, first-served basis.

And finally, for all our latest news and information, you can now follow us on Twitter @LGVcic.



MEMBERSHIP – Our current membership tally stands at **263**. To find out more about joining visit www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org

ALLOTMENTS (LACAS) – Many thanks to all who helped make last Friday's family bonfire evening at the allotments a roaring success. With clear skies, great food, excellent mulled wine and cider, good company, and some very creative Guys for the bonfire, it was a really enjoyable community evening.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT – Llangattock Litter Pickers have been busy over the past month working with Monmouthshire County Council on flytipping prevention measures along the Hafod Road. Thanks to a £1,100 grant from the Welsh Government's Local Environment Quality department, rock barriers are now in place in several unofficial lay-bys, and the Council is planning to follow this up with roadside fencing along the more notorious stretches of embankment favoured by the flytippers. A big thanks to our area Park Warden Sam Ridge, who oversaw the rock placement and helped secure permission for the works with Natural Resources Wales (the area is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, so special care was needed).

Meanwhile, the group is continuing to see a decline in littering. The October community pick yielded just 1.5 bags of rubbish, although the monthly total including individual litter picks came to just under 13 bags, of which almost 82% went for recycling. Altogether three volunteers put in 18.5 hours over the month, covering a grand total of 173.9 miles of roadside verge.

Next litter picks: Thursday **21 November** and Saturday **7 December**, meeting at 9:30am by the playing fields entrance on Park Drive.

WOODLANDS – The Woodland Group has taken on a new private woodland, Jarret’s Wood, and is already making its mark, clearing fallen timber and creating paths to aid extraction. The new woodland has plenty of hazel, so the group has also carried out a dormouse survey, collecting nibbled hazelnut shells for identification (*see photo below*). In this case, the nibble marks indicate wood mice and bank voles, but the group will continue monitoring for different types of wildlife to ensure appropriate management.

In other news, in line with the Welsh Government’s Action Plan for Pollinators, the group is also looking at ways to make the woodlands it manages more bee friendly. The group is lucky to have respected local beekeeper John Rees as a member, and will be calling on his expertise over the coming months to find ways to improve the habitat for bees in their woodlands.

Meanwhile, the group is taking orders for seasoned firewood (hardwood, £70 per load) and for their delightful **‘Woody’ deer**. Each handmade Woody is unique, and perfect as a centrepiece for Christmas garden displays. To place your order, email woodlands@llangattockgreenvalleys.org.

To find out more about the group and its various activities, go to their website <http://lcwg.btck.co.uk/>.



L-R: Nibbled hazelnuts, evidence of bank voles and wood mice at Jarret’s Wood; Huw Lloyd, the group’s contractor manager gets to grips with a large fallen beech.

MICRO-ENERGY GENERATION

Following the unusually dry summer, the recent rains mean all the streams in the area are in spate, so from having to flow gauge with smaller containers because of low flows, LGV Venture’s directors have been presented with the other end of the scale over the past month. Two weeks ago, the team

attempted flow gauging on three successive streams, only to find the force of water in each simply too great to measure accurately. In fact on the final stream of the day, not far from Llangattock, one sandbag was simply picked up by the rushing water and washed away, never to be seen again! And Steve has found himself emptying his boots again (*see photo, left*).



Meanwhile, as the share offer for our two Phase 1 micro hydro schemes heads surely towards its £270,000 target, we’re making steady progress with our four Phase 2 schemes. In addition, we’ve commissioned feasibility studies on eight forestry commission sites, six of which have been shown to be viable, so we’re currently

negotiating the various landowner agreements and permissions required with Natural Resources Wales to take these schemes forward to the next stage.

For more information on all our activities and to become a member of LGV visit www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org.