



LLANGATTOCK GREEN VALLEYS NEWSLETTER

Issue 62 - July 2015

ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS:

Hydro Update:

Good news! The Cwm Gu system passed its G59/3 testing and Western Power have confirmed that the system can be run, although at the moment the system is not running due to lack of sufficient water! Once we have had some rain, we will commission the system and the 20-year generation period will begin. In the meantime, we will go ahead with full registration of the scheme with OFGEM.

The construction of our Nant yr Hafod scheme is progressing well. The turbine house should be finished soon and work is progressing on the intake and penstock of the scheme, with commissioning likely to be in September.

The planning application decision for the amended Blaen Dyar scheme is now expected on 31st July, and we are hopeful that permission will be granted. We have got the necessary drainage consent and we expect to receive the remaining licences for the scheme next month.

We are in initial talks with the landowner of a new potential hydro scheme for LGV near Builth Wells, which is about the same size as Nant yr Hafod and the revised Blaen Dyar schemes.

PV Update:

Anybody with some ideas on how to move this forward, do make contact. We would be delighted to have some help! Many thanks, Andrew - andrew@wernwatkin.fsnet.co.uk.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT – LLANGATTOCK LITTER PICKERS:

June saw Llangattock Litter Pickers' efforts rewarded with 14 bags of litter/2 tyres/87.5kg collected from 68 miles of road side verge, country lanes, canal tow path and community areas with 36 hours of volunteer time needed to achieve these results, and 74% of the litter collected recycled.

It is heartening that in recent months we have welcomed new volunteers to the group but we require more of you to come out and help us maintain the standard of cleanliness we have come now to expect in and around Llangattock. If it is just an hour a month, that hour makes such a difference to our whole community.

Advance Notice: The monthly community litter pick for August will be held on the 2nd Saturday (8th August) of the month and not the usual 1st Saturday of the month meeting at 9.30am on Park Drive (Llangattock). All welcome with equipment provided.

We will also be out litter picking **from 9.15am** on the following weekdays in **August: Friday 7th, Monday 10th and Tuesday 25th, and on Wednesday 19th we will meet at 2pm.** All our litter picks meet at **Park Drive (Llangattock).**

If you intend to come along with us on any of the litter picks just [send us an email](#) in advance to confirm that you will be attending so that we can plan the routes to litter pick and put out enough road safety signs prior to the litter picking. Please note that it is **essential** that you bring a fully charged mobile phone with you, in case of emergencies – unfortunately if you don't, we won't be able to use your help that day. Everyone is welcome and all other equipment will be provided.

We hope you are enjoying the displays that the flower troughs are now giving around the community with the wild flower verges on Beaufort Road just coming into flower. Thank you to everyone who is watering the flower troughs, dead heading the flowers, maintaining the verges where the troughs have been placed, and weeding the wild flower verges. We intend to install further flower troughs in the coming months following requests from residents in other parts of the community.



The other day, we were pleased to receive feedback from the Land Agent for the Beaufort Estate who provided the following comment in relation to Llangattock Litter Pickers' efforts on a particular area of our litter picking patch:

"I recently visited the Estate and drove along the Hafod Road. Whilst there I did not see a single piece of rubbish, litter or any fly tipped material, so I wanted to write to say thank you

for the hard work that the Llangattock Litter Pickers Society has been doing. This is evident by the lack of litter and fly tipping material along the Hafod Road, and also by the presence of your Litter Pickers Society signs indicating that the area has been recently picked."

Breaking News: It gives us great pleasure to inform you that Llangattock Litter Pickers has been short listed for the PAVO (Powys Association of Volunteer Organisations) Volunteer Award for 2015. PAVO will be meeting with Llangattock Litter Pickers next month to take a tour of the community and surrounding area to judge our activities and the results of the efforts of all of the volunteers.

2015 is turning out to be a year that is seeing our hard work being recognised at a local, regional and national level, through the annual Keep Wales Tidy, Tidy Wales Awards, where we were awarded the Cleaner Communities Award for 2014, and in recent months Llangattock having been voted as one of the top 50 rural communities to live in the UK (Sunday Times - 1st March 2015) and also one of the top ten greenest places to live in the UK (Sunday Times - 22nd February 2015). Llangattock Litter Pickers sees its work as playing a part in receiving this recognition. We are also pleased to be receiving positive feedback from both residents in the community and visitors to the community.

LACAS (ALLOTMENTS):



Come Dancing!

For those of you not cruising the Med., soaking up the Greek sun or driving down Route 66, how about coming to our Ceilidh in 3 weeks' time.

It's guaranteed to be a fun evening and no dancing ability is required; all moves will be called. Not just for allotment members, this event is open to you, your family and your friends. Snacks and soft drinks will be provided – please feel free to bring along your own wine and beer.

Even if you can't make it but could sell a ticket or two for us please get in touch.

We still have a few spare plots, if anyone would like to join or maybe you know someone who might be interested. Spread the word. Contact gibsons@uwclub.net or phone Phil on 01873 811537.



LLANGATTOCK COMMUNITY WOODLANDS IN CRICKHOWELL:

Last week we had a special volunteer day at Ty'r Ash Meadow. We thought we might be building the bridge with volunteers from Crickhowell High School but sadly our project management team is overworked just at present. Well I say project management team it actually consists of Sam Ridge the National Park Warden for the area who has undertaken to support Llangattock Green Valleys and Llangattock Community Woodlands with the bridge construction.

So instead we carried out some environmental research in the woodland area and Cwmbeth Brook, did some balsam bashing (himalayan balsam!!), and clearance work making habitat piles.

Here you see sixth form students checking out the crustaceans or little shrimps from a pool on the edge of the stream.



The students had to do a special presentation on Thursday using the data they had collected, including maps of the area and leaflets explaining more about Llangattock Community Woodlands.

An Open Day was organised in June. The **Summer Solstice** seemed like the ideal time to have a special event for family and friends for volunteers of Llangattock Community Woodlands. So, on 20 June over 40 visitors and volunteers attended the open evening with wildlife walks, flora and fauna identification, skittles and other games. It was great to see so many turn out for a really good evening. We were entertained by the special woodland band (volunteers and friends) which gave the woodland atmosphere a special dimension. There was great food and of course as always food cooked on an open fire or BBQ always tastes so good. Many thanks to all the hard work by volunteers preparing the woodland, organising games and the wildlife walk. All the equipment for the skittles and other games were made from wood harvested and then

made by volunteers and there was green crafts making beautiful flowers from wood too.

Llais Y Goedwig which is the "voice of community woodlands in Wales" has just been successful in obtaining substantial funding from the Welsh Government and will be delivering much more into communities. If you are keen to support community woodlands locally then do go to their website for great information (<http://llaisygoedwig.org.uk>).

Finally Llangattock Community Woodlands will be putting in an expression of interest to



which is the new LEADER 11 programme. The website has lots of information and outlines the strands for all expressions of interest. So if you have a good project idea in one of these areas:-

- Adding Value to local identity and natural and cultural resources
- Facilitating pre-commercial development, business partnerships and short supply chains
- Exploring new ways of providing non-statutory local services
- Renewable energy at community level
- Exploitation of digital technology

- see more at <http://www.arwain.wales/#sthash.tqby6cUG.dpuf> Anyone can apply as the whole purpose is to support project ideas from small groups and businesses across Powys. That's why we are putting in an application from Llangattock Community Woodlands.

LCW Trustees are justly proud of the commitment and enthusiasm of all our volunteers. If you are interested in environmental management, green wood crafts or bee keeping then please do get in touch. Visit our website lcwg.btck.co.uk or email eric.gower@gmail.com for a membership form.

TY'R ASH MEADOW - Llangattock Green Valleys Project:

As seen in the Llangattock Community Woodland piece we have not been able to build the bridge before the end of term. Sad news but sensible as the important thing is to get it right and that needs good project management. Sam Ridge the local Warden for the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority has partnered Llangattock Green Valleys and Glanus Estates to get this done probably next year now.

Why is this taking so long? Well firstly you need to have low water levels to get the concrete blocks safely in place to sit the bridge on. Which means doing the build in the driest summer months. That should of course be July and August but you never can tell in Wales. Sam is flat out at the moment putting into place new projects on the uplands and undertaking other emergency works during the summer months.



So that means waiting till next year now. Glanusk Estate has also pledged some volunteer time and work in kind to help us get this built.

In the meantime, once the lease has been finally agreed we will be undertaking more environmental management during the summer and Llangattock Community Woodlands will be providing the expertise to support the woodland management. We need to make it safe and practical for the environmental classroom next year.

Our partners at Ty'r Ash Meadow:



MEMBERSHIP:

To find out more about joining please visit [Llangattock Green Valleys](http://www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org).

PLEASE ASK US!

If anybody would like to look at our finances or discuss our schemes, please contact us and we will be very happy to help. We are proud to be operating a transparent and successful Community Interest Company.

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: andrew@wernwatkin.fsnet.co.uk

**For more information on all our activities
visit www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org**

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**Please forward this email to anyone
who might be interested.**

If you'd like to see your photographs in the next newsletter send them to:

admin@llangattockgreenvalleys.org