



LLANGATTOCK GREEN VALLEYS NEWSLETTER

Issue 63 - August 2015

ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS:

Hydro Update:

We got some excellent news this month, as our revised Blaen Dyar scheme received planning permission. We are finalising the licences and leases but expect this to be done before the end of August and construction of this scheme should start later this year.

The official commissioning date for our other MH-1 scheme, Cwm Gu, is 23rd June 2015. We're still waiting for a decent amount of rain before this scheme starts to generate much electricity, but periods of non-generation are forecast for most high-head hydro schemes over summer months and the majority of electricity is produced over the winter months.

The construction of our first MH-2 scheme, Nant yr Hafod, is progressing well. The intake and turbine house are almost complete and all the penstock pipe is in place.



The DNO service cable has been laid from the grid pole into turbine house and Western Power plan to upgrade the transformer next week. Delivery of the turbine and final testing is scheduled for September and we expect the scheme will be commissioned soon after.

We also have some good news about replacement schemes for our MH-2 Co-op. Three LGV directors visited a site just south of Builth Wells earlier this month, to meet a landowner who has a potential scheme on his land of about 20kWp. Discussions went very well and, although they are at an early stage, we are quite confident that we will be able to take on and develop this scheme in MH-2. We are also in discussions with our construction partners TGV Hydro about two other small schemes which might fit into our MH-2 Co-op.

PV Update:

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

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT – LLANGATTOCK LITTER PICKERS:



July saw Llangattock Litter Pickers' efforts rewarded with 11 ¼ bags of litter/0 tyres/78kg collected from 72 miles of road side verge, country lanes, canal tow path and community areas with 32 hours of volunteer time needed to achieve these results, and 59.5% 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 September will be held on the 1st Saturday (5th September) of the month, meeting at 9.30am on Park Drive (Llangattock). All welcome with equipment provided.



We will also be out litter picking on the following weekdays during September with the meeting time in brackets:

Wednesday 2nd (2pm), Wednesday 9th (2pm),
Tuesday 15th (9.15am) & Monday 21st (9.15am).

All our litter picks meet at Park Drive (Llangattock).

If you can come along and help, please send us an email in advance (michaelbutterfield@hotmail.com) to confirm, so that we can plan the routes to litter pick and put out enough road safety signs before the litter pick begins. 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.

We are somewhat taken back by the interest being shown in the roadside verge signs that we have in

Llangattock with interest not just being shown in and around Llangattock but in the region as well and right across the UK. Talybont-on-Usk has been inspired by the signs and are placing such signs in their own community. Sometimes the simple solutions are over looked and we are finding the signs to be effective in both communicating out that litter picking is taking place and seeing a reduction in littering where we have the signs placed.

Llangattock Litter Pickers continue to work hard behind the scenes with regards to lobbying for a deposit return scheme for Wales for drinks cans, bottles and cartons. We know after six years of litter picking that the amount of drink related litter that is out there is a significant proportion of the litter that we collect. In fact for every 10 bags of litter we collect on average 7½ bags is drink related litter. That is why we are lobbying hard for the introduction of such a scheme in Wales. With Scotland now having conducted a feasibility study/options report with a call out for evidence in May to industry and other stakeholders on the role of a deposit return scheme in Scotland and with Northern Ireland considering such a scheme as well, it is ripe for change here in Wales.



We are now hoping to bring you some good news this autumn on the above which will assist matters in Wales having its own deposit return scheme and the subsequent reduction in drink related litter which in itself should deter further littering as we are great believers in litter attracting further littering.

We are currently working on a follow up project to our fly tip prevention project on the Hafod Road (which is the old tram road from the escarpment on Hillside, Llangattock around to Brynmawr). The rocks we placed in unofficial lay-bys and pull-ins on the initial project have not only significantly reduced the amount of fly tipping but also general littering at this location. Given the success of the initial project we are now looking to install preventative measures to curtail the fly tipping over the steep embankment on the Hafod Road over some 800m of roadside verge. We will keep you updated as to the progress of this project.

MEMBERSHIP:

To find out more about joining please visit [Llangattock Green Valleys](#).

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

LACAS (ALLOTMENTS):



The Allotments Summer Show is nearly with us again, Saturday September 5th is the date for your diary (2pm – 6pm with registration for the popular dog show from 1pm on).

We are in need of donations for our Book Stall, Produce Stall, Cake Stall and Bottle Stall. If you can help, even in a small way, with any of these please contact Phil or anyone on the allotments.

Contact gibsons@uwclub.net or phone Phil on 01873 811537.



LLANGATTOCK COMMUNITY WOODLANDS IN CRICKHOWELL:

We have done two great little litter picks at and around Jarretts' Woodland in the last month. Our aim is to keep that small stretch of the A40 and into the layby clear of litter and prevent further fly tipping on this land.



We still have much to do clearing historic fly tipping in the wood but we are in full swing again now with the winch.



This September, Tidy Towns Wales are asking you to get involved in the "Be proud and Be Tidy" campaign to help clean up Wales in one of the country's biggest ever clean-up campaigns!

LCW has set aside the 29th September as a day to **Be Tidy** which is part of the Tidy Towns Wales opportunity to volunteer and gettogether to help spruce up the local community. Our Canal Side woodland doesn't suffer too much litter but we do have invasive species there in abundance such as Laurel and Rhododendron which needs constant clearance. This is our litter and we want to get rid of it!! So if you can help please contact jackiecharlton@msn.com for more details.



Tidy Towns Wales special guest for the campaign is **Simon the Gull**, who reminds people that they need to be responsible with their litter and food waste at all times so that he and his friends aren't blamed for the mess! **#DontFeedSimon**

Registering your very own event is simple! Visit www.keepwalestidy.org/betidy and Tidy Towns Wales will send you a FREE Be Tidy pack, full of handy tips, contacts, information and freebies to help you organise your Be Tidy event this September.

LCW has registered and we are awaiting our pack now.

Don't forget to follow the latest Be Tidy news:
@Keep_Wales_Tidy using the hashtag #DontFeedSimon

He might be a gull... but he's no ordinary gull. Simon is on Twitter! Follow his Be Tidy advice and antics. @Simon_Gull

Lesley Jones, Keep Wales Tidy Chief Executive said; *"Wales is a beautiful country but unfortunately we still have a big litter problem and the Be Tidy Campaign is a reminder that we can all do our bit to make a positive change. We live in busy times but most of us could spare a couple of hours to make our local area a nicer place to live. Please help us to make a difference and Be Tidy this September".*

For more information please e-mail betidy@keepwalestidy.org
You can find all the information about Be Tidy on their website www.keepwalestidy.org/betidy. If you have any questions, you can email betidy@keepwalestidy.org or Rachel, our local Project Officer, rachel.palmer@keepwalestidy.org

! And remember... #DontFeedSimon!

LCW has undertaken some great wood processing in the last month and will soon be ready to take the winter orders. Please contact us through the website www.lcwg.btck.co.uk for your orders.



(Below) Volunteers receiving training in use of Wollenstein Splitter. Funding from 'Awards 4 All' made this possible and the splitter is great for the big rounds cut ready for fire wood.



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.

We are actively looking for an additional Trustee for LCW. Would you be interested? A gap has arisen to look at the future financial sustainability of the group. We have been extremely successful over the last five years in gaining support and funds to take a small group of enthusiastic volunteers to the point we are at today which is an organisation with a turnover exceeding all expectations but needing a strategic approach for the future. If you think you can fill that role we would be really delighted to hear from you. Please contact jackiecharlton@msn.com for further details.

**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