



LLANGATTOCK GREEN VALLEYS NEWSLETTER

Issue 50 - August 2014

WELCOME TO OUR BUMPER SUMMER EDITION!

LLANGATTOCK GREEN VALLEYS MICRO HYDRO (1) CO-OPERATIVE AGM

The first AGM of LGV's first Co-operative was held at The Old Rectory Hotel in Llangattock on 30th June.



An encouraging 20% of the Co-op's 100 subscribers attended and, having accepted the formal motions which were put to the meeting, Chair Steve Sharp updated members on progress of the two hydro schemes (see Micro Hydro update on p.4 for details). Jackie Charlton was re-elected to the Co-op 1 board, and Steve also welcomed two new directors: Mike Procter, a retired chartered

accountant with over 40 years' experience in that profession, who is already a director of LGV and LGV Ventures, and Miriam Griffiths, who has a wide range of Board experience in the public sector and has worked in further and higher education in Wales for 40 years, as a lecturer, Head of Department and Director of the Open University.

SHARE OFFER UPDATE

We were only a few thousand away from our target of £690,000 for the Llangattock Green Valleys Micro Hydro (2) Co-operative share offer scheme and we have received confirmation of an approved loan from the Welsh Government to make up the shortfall. Certificates have gone out to shareholders and the scheme is now closed to investors. Work on the **Micro Hydro (3) Co-operative** share scheme will hopefully be underway soon, however, the continuing decrease in Feed-In Tariffs (FITs) makes this a more difficult challenge.

ALLOTMENTS (LACAS) - A date for your diaries

The LACAS Summer Show is being held on Saturday 6 September and will again incorporate the popular Dog Show introduced last year. LGV hope to have a presence there with Llangattock Community Woodlands. Please come along and support your community event, share your experiences and ideas and have some fun! Look out for more details in the August newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP - Our membership currently stands at 507 - so a big welcome to all our new members since the last newsletter. To find out more about joining please visit [Llangattock Green Valleys](#).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE! CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for a number of people who would like to get involved as Directors for one or more of the legal entities. Ideally, commitment is a monthly day time board meeting (half a day including prep), regular e-mail action and taking on and leading one of our strands.

Some of the things we need help with at **Director level** are as follows - and this isn't comprehensive!

1. Working with TGV to build and operate the range of Hydro schemes - including supervising the legal processes, building relationships with landowners, feeding into financial modelling, prospecting for new sites, providing constructive but hard-nosed relationship management to the various Regulatory bodies. There is specifically a project management/programme role here to make sure everyone can understand and track the myriad of key dates and activities.
2. Working as part of the sub team to deliver the PV schemes - as above for the Hydro schemes.
3. Building community activity level on energy monitoring and energy saving to support Llangattock Green Valleys' 2015 carbon negative goal.
4. Talking to the myriad of bodies and potential partners to develop long term relationships which will enable us and them to succeed in reducing the area's Carbon footprint and improving its resilience and sustainability. Opportunities exist here for working with everyone from local businesses and community members to trying to build our relationship with the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Welsh Government - are there any budding lobbyists out there?
5. Starting to think and build community consensus on how the community fund should be used.

6. Taking a lead and developing our social media presence.

Please get in touch with Andrew Fryer re: the above: andrew@wernwatkin.fsnet.co.uk

For those wanting to get involved at **non-Director level** we have a range of volunteer opportunities including (but do tell us what you want to do):

1. A range of practical tasks on Hydro building including photographic recording of sites, hydro gauging, prospecting (i.e. walking streams), putting up bird/bat boxes, and building otter holts.
2. Helping during the fund raising phase of future co-ops, including manning stands and drop in sessions, public meetings, dealing with phone and e-mail queries, envelope stuffing, leading on social media etc.
3. Working with Mike Procter on grant applications, tracking etc. and financial modelling.
4. Helping Jackie Charlton with the company secretary and admin aspects of running 6 legal entities.
5. Doing anything which will enhance our communications - any video artistes? Photographers, Hydro poets, PR gurus, Social media addicts?

Please get in touch with Andrew Fryer re: the above: andrew@wernwatkin.fsnet.co.uk

ENERGY AUDIT - Andrew and Jackie attended a 'Community Energy - Assessing the Benefits' conference this month which outlined the benefits of community energy initiatives. Maddy Stow, our very own PhD student, who has been helping us with our questionnaires and Energy Audit was one of the key note speakers. Much was said about our

Llangattock Energy Audit and the main finding of the conference was to produce an easy to use tool for communities to measure their energy consumption and **we're proud to have got there first!!**

If you live in Llangattock and haven't filled in a questionnaire please spare a few minutes to complete the online survey at [Llangattock Energy](#). This will help us develop a clear picture of energy use in our village and the more who respond the more holistic and useful our survey will be. **Many thanks to all those who have completed the survey so far.**

WOODLANDS - Lottery Funding for Llangattock Community Woodlands £4810 has been received from Awards for All Big Lottery by Llangattock Community Woodlands' wood fuel project. We have used the money to buy a log splitter enabling our volunteers to efficiently process wood to sell as fuel for local people.



Altogether, we now manage 5 small woodlands around Llangattock and the wood sold helps to fund our activities. We hope that our dedicated bunch of volunteers will benefit hugely from this labour saving equipment and vitally, it also means Llangattock Community Woodlands can contribute to the renewable energy agenda and move another step towards financial sustainability.

Above: "This is a fantastic bit of kit which will serve us well for many years" - Jackie Charlton

Huw Lloyd the Woodland/Volunteer Manager said, "Our volunteers contribute enormously to supporting our aims of being environmentally aware and improving bio-diversity. They deserve a little help when we process our wood for wood fuel."

We have processed 70 cubic metres of wood fuel this year alone and have also benefited from funding to support our Green Craft Project from [Powys Environmental Partnership](#) and from [Environment Wales](#) for the Trees and Bees - a very exciting new project in our woodlands.

Volunteer tasks include woodland management, wood processing, green crafts and bee keeping which all promote understanding and help preserve woodland species by providing the best possible environment for healthy, strong trees and other fauna and flora.

Interested in volunteering? or would like to find out more, please visit [our website](#) which includes a weekly calendar and contact details, or call **Huw Lloyd** on 07773791207.

NB/ All our volunteers are provided with safety equipment and training and are fully insured.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT - These beautiful flower boxes are creating a big buzz of enthusiasm in the community. With nine of these now dotted around the village, many are hoping that they will become permanent fixtures with colourful all-year-round displays.



Our thanks go to the **Llangattock Litter Pickers** for making this possible through the funds they have raised. Litter picking in Llangattock and the surrounding area has continued on the 1st Saturday of each month during June and July with the help of the group's diligent band of volunteers. There are also others in the community, who deserve recognition for picking up litter

as and when they find it. To everyone who appreciates our environment and helps to maintain it, the Llangattock Litter Pickers salute you!



Next litter picks:

Saturday 2nd August and Saturday 6th September, meeting at 9:30am by the playing fields entrance on Park Drive.

MICRO-HYDRO GENERATION

Llwmws (Co-op 1):

Sadly, over the last four years, the volume of water in the Llwmws water course appears to have reduced. To verify the flow, LGV's directors carried out 15 flow gauge sessions on the stream between June 2013 and April 2014 and commissioned two hydrologist reports to assess the flow gauge data collected. Unfortunately, these reports indicated the flow would no longer produce a viable scheme using the LGV business model and so, with great sadness, as this was LGV's first potential hydro scheme and has taken up hundreds of volunteer hours since 2010, the decision has been made not to proceed with this scheme. The directors considered several alternative options for Co-op 1 and it was decided to fast-track another similar sized scheme in the LGV portfolio as a replacement for Llwmws. A potential scheme at Trefil was earmarked as a possible replacement but recent flow gauging and a hydrologist report have now indicated this scheme is also unviable. Therefore we are investigating other options and hope to announce a suitable replacement in the not-too-distant future.

Cwm Gu (Co-op 1):

The start of construction of Cwm Gu has been delayed slightly, as we learn that the workings and processes of large estates are not straightforward, but the directors are confident that construction

will start on this scheme soon. Due to a shoot on the estate, it is not now going to be possible to build the intake and top half of this scheme until next February, but we plan to build the bottom half and the turbine house before the winter and we are hopeful that the scheme will be commissioned in March 2015.

Other schemes:

Two of LGV's Co-op 2 schemes (Nant yr Hafod and Blaen Dyar) are now in full licencing with Natural Resources Wales (NRW), and final site visits have been carried out recently at Nant y Gadair and Gargwy Fach and their NRW licence applications will be finalised shortly.

LGV has decided not to proceed with any of the potential schemes in the Dyfi/Forestry Commission area, due to a mixture of high electricity grid connection quotes and new proposed abstraction regimes for some of these hydro schemes, in an area which is not that steep and is quite remote compared with the Brecon Beacons.

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

admin@llangattockgreenvalleys.org

**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.**