



Llangattock Green Valleys newsletter

Issue 68
February 2016

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

ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS

By Steve Sharp

Hydro Update:

Our two operating hydro schemes at **Cwm Gu** and **Nant yr Hafod** continue to benefit from the significant volumes of wet stuff coming from above. The latest total generation readings for the two schemes are:

- Cwm Gu (MH-1): 50,526 kWh
- Nant yr Hafod (MH-2): 28,483 kWh

We have hit a problem with our planned **Blaen Dyar** scheme. Whilst attempting to negotiate access and equipment storage for the construction phase of this scheme, we've discovered that a second landowner owns land in the scheme area. When planning this scheme, we relied on maps provided by the Duke of Beaufort and these indicated that his estate was the sole landowner, but an old viaduct under which the scheme passes is owned by Railway Paths Ltd. (RPL). We have started negotiations with RPL but likely additional costs may put a question mark over the financial viability of this scheme. Therefore the MH-1 Board has decided to clarify all likely additional costs over the next month and rework calculations before making our decision. However, we are aware that some subscribers to our Co-ops have quite different expectations and priorities and therefore we also plan to seek the views of MH-1 subscribers; this will be by email over the next couple of months and we appreciate your patience in the meantime.

Andrew Fryer and I recently had another meeting with the directors of the community group, Welcome To Our Woods, to discuss a collaboration between our two organisations and how to progress the proposed **Cwm Saerbren** scheme. Both parties are keen to work together to mature this and possibly other hydro schemes in the Treherbert area.

Along with some other LGV schemes, **Abernant** is still progressing through the long-winded FIT pre-accreditation process. It seems that the people now administering the FITs process

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are doing everything possible to delay and frustrate applicants, but we're hoping we'll hear the verdict on our outstanding schemes soon.

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.



LLANGATTOCK COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

By Jackie Charlton

Delighted to be featured in the Guardian as a Woodland Trust Charter Champion

Llangattock Community Woodlands have been invited to become one of the first Woodland Trust Charter Champions in the UK representing Wales. The Woodland Trust has been working with partners across the UK to encourage and support tree planting in urban and rural areas. As the UK has less forestation than any other European country this seems like a good cause. At LCW we are well aware of the importance of trees and woodland management. We are delighted to support this initiative and Huw Lloyd our Volunteer and Woodland Manager featured in this Guardian article. The task now is to share that enthusiasm with other people in our community. The first step will hopefully be to Llangattock Community Council. If you would like a presentation or more information about the Woodland Trust Charter please get in touch (see contact details on page 2).

<http://www.theguardian.com/tree-charter/2016/jan/22/meet-the-charter-champions>

Please visit the above site for more information about Charter Champions supporting the Woodland Trust Charter. Llangattock Community Woodlands are very proud to be part of the project spreading our story and that of our volunteers.



Photograph: Gareth Phillips

Huw Lloyd explains how LCW helps to celebrate local heritage and woodlands in Wales.

I work in woodland management, and for the past three years I've been working and volunteering for Llangattock Community Woodlands charity. I organise activities for volunteers to manage woods to produce a range of habitats and increase biodiversity. People can take part in thinning and coppicing, charcoal making, making greenwood products, tree planting and bee keeping. We are also able to produce a sustainable source of wood fuel by regenerating old woodlands.

"I remember when pigs used to be turned into oak woodlands to eat the acorns – something you rarely see anymore."

As a youngster, I harvested mushrooms and hazelnuts in the woods in the autumn. I remember when pigs used to be turned into oak woodlands to eat the acorns – something you rarely see anymore. When woodlands were an integral part of a farm, farmers would obtain their firewood from there and children would play under the trees, making bows and arrows, building wood shelters and having fires. Woods are an important part of the landscape and I would like to see a greater public awareness of this.

As a charter champion, I'll try to bring members of the community together to promote the Charter for Trees, Woods and People. This will involve liaising with environmental organisations to organise activities and events that celebrate the beauty and benefits of woodlands and trees. There's a lot of history regarding Welsh names in the area, so we're also going to try and promote the use of the Welsh language and tell people what the trees are in our native language.



Piglets in the New Forest



Recruitment of Volunteers and Trustees

We are actively looking for volunteers and one more Trustee for LCW. Would you be interested?

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.

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.



BUZZ NOTES FROM BOB'S BEES

Bob is away for a month but the bees in Jarretts' Wood are looking good and there was some activity one morning when we did at least have a bit of warm sunshine. Bob will have much more news in March.

The Bee Keeping course is going well as there are now nine of us and we have had a crash course in Mead Making. Bob provided the honey, yeast and guidance. The learners provided demi-jons, water and the age old questions, When will it start fermenting? How long do I have to wait to drink it and will it taste good?. As learners we have been sharing our concerns on line and giving each other a bit of support about the right temperature, whether it looks like the yeast has died and when will it begin to need more honey added. Bob has been providing great support, telling us that we need to be patient and that it will begin to bubble soon.

When he gets back in March we will start the course in earnest, talking about and learning about Bees.

If anyone is interested in coming along then please do get in touch llangattockbees@gmail.com



Photograph courtesy of: Beethoven by Bike

LLANGATTOCK LITTER PICKERS

By Pete Bates, Rollo Lewis and Michael Butterfield.

Please follow these links for our most recent news:

- [Newsletter January 2016](#)
- [Llangattock Litter Pickers Supporters Club](#)



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

MEMBERSHIP

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

PLEASE ASK US!

If anybody would like to look at LGV's 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.

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

Follow us on [Twitter](#)

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