



LLANGATTOCK COMMUNITY

WOODLANDS LTD

Managing local woodlands for people and communities

ANNUAL REPORT

October 2023 – September 2024

The mission of Llangattock Community Woodlands (LCW) is to:-

Manage woodlands local to Llangattock for biodiversity, sustainable wood fuel and community enhancement; through volunteer activities.



October 2023 to September 2024



CHAIRS REPORT 2023 TO 2024

This is the 9th Annual Report of Llangattock Community Woodlands as a Charity and Co Ltd by Guarantee. It's been another good year for LCW with well attended workdays as well as training days. Volunteers have kept the environmental activity going, our customers have had wood and we continue to maintain a level of support to remain sustainable. Development this year has been great including raising funds from many different places. This supports our aim as Trustees to develop our activities for volunteers and maintain the site for delivering our objectives. We have attended more events this year than previously communicating what we do to more people.

We continue to communicate our activities in a bi-monthly newsletter distributed to over 500 members of Llangattock Green Valleys, a strong and supportive partner for LCW and use Facebook every week to chart our work. Other important partners include Canal & River Trust, Crickhowell Volunteer Bureau, Llangattock Allotments (LACAS), Bees for Development, Keep Wales Tidy, Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, Llangattock Community Council who are a Bee Friendly Community, Woodland Trust Cymru, the Glanusk Estate and Crickhowell Estates.

The work we do with Woodland Trust Cymru and being gifted wood from various sites we manage the flow of wood for wood sales and charcoal managing to provide wood and charcoal to all our customers. Thanks to Andrew Peach our Treasurer we have managed to consolidate and improve our financial well-being during this period and our accounts were registered with both the Charity Commission and Companies House on time.

As always and never to be forgotten, we want to give a big 'thank you' for all the help and support that Llangattock Community Woodlands has received again this year from Trustees and partners but most importantly from volunteers and we have welcomed new volunteers during 2023 and 2024 again. We continue to gain greater credibility as an organisation now and into the future. So well done to everyone who has helped and if you have enjoyed the year then we have succeeded. We will have notched up an amazing **5699** volunteer hours between October 2023 up to end of September 2024 which is a record for LCW.

Eric Gower stood down as Secretary at the last AGM, Trustees have shared the secretarial role in the absence of the appointment of a new Secretary. For 2024 and beyond Trustees appointed Barry Sandilands as Chair, to be confirmed at AGM, and I will take over the role of Secretary, I'm not going anywhere!! We also recommended the appointment of another Trustee Keith Gregory.

So much goes on behind the scenes. I want to give the sincerest thanks to everyone who has helped get charcoal burners filled and emptied, have shared information with friends and family, worked on the events management this year and extended the environmental activities and training in woodcraft. This does not happen without people giving time and committing to support the work of LCW. It is humbling to see what people are willing to do and hopefully still enjoy their time with LCW.

Jackie Charlton (Chair)



VOLUNTEERS

LCW Weekly Sessions

Every week we have around 15 to 20 volunteers giving their time and joining the team. It never ceases to amaze me how people come together to help our beleaguered environment. A lot of hard work goes on every week, supported and managed by lead volunteers. There is a picture gallery in this report showing some of the different things we have done this year. Of course, what makes us sustainable is the wood for wood fuel and charcoal, an important asset keeping us going, providing the sausages and refreshments, ensuring we have well maintained equipment for all the volunteers.



Volunteers have amassed an amazing **5699** hours of volunteering since September 2023 that is an increase of over 1000 hours. We saw a record 4599 hours the previous year so this is an amazing feat after COVID and the amount of work put in by volunteers and Trustees to keep Llangattock Community Woodlands going.

LCW have been successful with massive funding boost between 2023 and 2024 amounting to **£26,395** with a list of all the funders later in the report and a brief description of how the money has been spent.

Events and extra activities this year:-

We have had stalls more events this year to promote what we do - Llangattock Village Fete, Gilfest, LACAS Open Day, Cwmdru Agricultural Show and Llangynidr Agricultural Show and the now famous Balsam Bash in T'yr Ash.



Communication

We have worked hard to communicate with our volunteers and to the wider community attending events this year. Every week volunteers receive the weekly tasks which arrive in email boxes on Sunday evening for Tuesday activities. We also advertise our training events on Facebook with a weekly update with photos shared to partners and friends <https://www.facebook.com/llangattockcommunitywoodlands> and experimented with Discord to keep in touch, which has proved very successful.



During the summer LCW has had a presence at five different local events/shows:-
Llangattock Village Fete – June
Cwmdu - July
Gilfest in Gilwern - July
Llangattock Allotment Society Show - August
LLangynidr Horticulture and Agricultural Show - August

Attending these events has raised our local profile and will support more communication next year with a Spring Open Day and a community survey to find out what local people would like to see happen on our site moving into the future.



LCW contribute to a bi-monthly newsletter that our partners Llangattock Green Valleys (<https://www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org>) send to over 500 recipients keeping them up to date with our activities and environmental actions.



Funds and Grants

During 2023 and 2024 we were very successful in attracting funding for training and equipment. Below is a list of the successful bids and a brief description of how the money was spent. Being a Trustee isn't just sitting in meetings four times a year, there is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes. Thanks to Jane Lee, Trustee and Barry Sandilands, Trustee we have been particularly successful this year in raising money.

Percy Davies Trust £1500 (October 2023) - Trailer

Powys Welsh Church Fund £2,564 (August 2024) -

Powered barrow

BBNPA Local Places for Nature £14,999 (July 2024) A

Vehicle first used in August 2024

National Lottery Small Grant £6,732 (April 2024) -

Woodcraft & willow weaving workshops

Llangattock Green Valleys £600 (December 2023) -

Promotional materials & gazebo

Total £26,395





Volunteers Training

Thanks to Lottery Funding we have set up and delivered focused woodland training for all our volunteers. We still have several more events to deliver this year including one at Christmas inside!! Some of our volunteers at work and quotes from the day.



"Under instruction from tutor Celi McCutcheon we made spatulas from Ash and a lemon squeezer from Cherry using shavehorses and mainly drawknives."



"Using a pole lathe isn't as easy as it looks. Tutor Geoff Hannis spent a day with us to show us how to use the lathes & what the different chisels can do. We all had an opportunity to have a go under Geoff's guidance."

"We held a willow weaving workshop today in our woodland with tutor Anna Stickland making bird feeders, plant supports & garden ornaments. Thanks to Anna we all created some very passable."willow products.





Volunteers Environmental



So much has happened through the year, and we have continued to deliver on environmental outputs, planting trees, building bug hotels for the site and lots of Balsam Bashing. The tree nursery is stronger than ever, we just need the space to plant the trees!! We must not forget our fruit trees and the wildlife meadow in the centre of our site which is being monitored at different times of the year and records now being kept in our weekly Diary.



Sales – Charcoal and Wood Fuel



The sale of wood and charcoal is crucial to the sustainability of LCW. The funds help us keep equipment in safe order and replace when needed. It also provides us with match funding for grants too. A valuable source of cash flow enables us to run as a business as well as a charity with strong environmental objectives.

A big thanks to everyone one involved in this from lighting and stacking our charcoal to chopping and delivering our wood.

We also continue to support those who need training too offering the opportunity when funds allow to attend different specialist training to keep this element of LCW going.

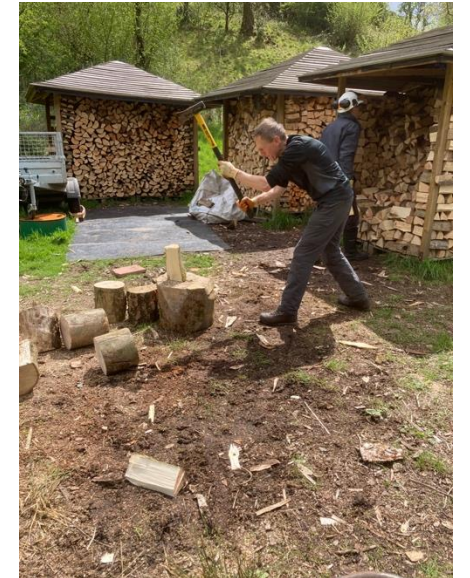
Sales between April 2023 and March 2024 amounted to:-

£5204 of wood amounting to 71 loads

£1278 of charcoal amounting to 228 bags

£1567 of timber work

Since April 2024 we have sold 153 bags of charcoal amounting to £862 and 41 loads of wood amounting £3130.





Finances and Governance Information

I am delighted to report that the group is in a very stable financial position with good cash reserves and steady income from our woodland activities. Expenses are nicely under control. Many thanks should go to all the volunteers especially those involved in firewood and charcoal sales.

All our financial activity is managed by our Treasurer Andrew Peach who makes sure we are legal, and all our expenses are paid as well as managing our income. Barry Sandilands manages all our sales of wood and charcoal and ensures our customers receive invoices as soon as deliveries are made. Jane Lee who joined us as a trustee this year has been busy applying for grants which are listed below.

Our accounts were filed by electronic means this year and can be seen at Companies House and on the Charity Commission website and Eric Gower our Secretary ensures all our records on Companies House and with the Charitable Commission are kept up to date. We meet regularly through the year as Trustees to manage our finances and ensure all our policies are up to date.

We are delighted to say that our accounts have been approved, we have good policies in place and with Health & Safety policy update which we have started to share with plans for regular in-house volunteer training. Rob Dunning has continued to work with PAVO to ensure the polices are fit for purpose.

Our income for 2023 to 2024 was £13,525 and expenditure was £17,859. As a charity our job as trustees is to ensure we stay solvent but also put funds to our charitable objectives. You have seen in an earlier slide the success with funding this year which is outlined in the financial report below. It is down to a lot of hard work and dedication from our Trustees Jane Lee and Barry Sandilands, worth repeating twice I think.



FUNDING

Percy Davies Trust £1500 (October 2023) - Trailer
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 BBNPA Local Places for Nature £14,999 (July 2024) A Vehicle first used in August 2024
 National Lottery Small Grant £6,732 (April 2024) - Woodcraft & willow weaving workshops
 Llangattock Green Valleys £600 (December 2023) - Promotional materials & gazebo



Annual Financial Report
 from Treasurer
 April 2023 to March 2024

Cash	£6114.15 in bank. Trustees aim to maintain a minimum balance of £6000			
Sales Performance		Annual Budget 23/24	Values at 31/3/24	Values at 31/3/23
	Firewood		£5167.50	£8254.50
	Crafts		£172.50	£10
	Bee Product	£4400	£0	£208.40
	Charcoal	£250	£1516.05	£837.35
	Services/Misc	£0	£1387	£1224.00
	Total Sales	£1460	£8243.05	£10,534.25
	Income	£450		
		£6560		
	Donations	£	£	
	Grant Income	£7500	21/7/23 £1400 £1500 £600 £1082.06 £700 £5282.06	£8477.25
	TOTAL	£14060	£13,525.11	£18,534.25



Expenses	Annual Budget	Values at 31/3/24	Values at 31/3/23
Insurance		£190.40	£232.67
Accountancy fees	£300	£672	£630.00
Bank	£600	£72.80	£88.37
Misc Admin	£84	£137.08	£223.00
Equipment/Tools	£96	£9042.91	£4774.39
Subsistence	£3500	£1346.08	£725.02
Bee Costs	£600	£0	£102.50
Materials	£200	£3409.85	£6044.97
Trustee Expenses	£2000	£63.75	£72.50
Volunteer PPE	£500	£260.67	£0
Open Days	£500	£0	£0
PR	£600	£0	£0
Training	£250	£0	£0
Total	£2000	£15195.74	
	£11,230		
Other/contractor		£2664	
Total		£17859.74	£12,893.42
Unpaid Invoices (+ 30 days)		None	£246 write off
Fixed Assets			

NOTE: Jane Lee has been set up as additional signature for the bank account.



The BIG Thank You
People who have
Contributed to our success

The Trustees: -
Jackie Charlton – Chair
Eric Gower – Company Secretary
Andrew Peach – Treasurer
Rob Dunning
Barry Sandilands
Paul Watts
Jane Lee

**THE GOLDEN VOLUNTEERS
HOURS OF
VOLUNTEERING
BETWEEN OCT 23 TO SEPT 24**

Supporters and Partners including
Canal & River Trust
Llangattock Green Valleys CIC,
Llangattock Allotments LACAS
Brecon Beacons National Park
Glanusk Estates
Woodland Trust Cymru

REGISTERED
COMPANY NUMBER:
8756399 (England and
Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY
NUMBER: 1154649

Report of the Trustees
and unaudited accounts
for 2023 - 2024

for
Llangattock
Community
Woodlands Ltd



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Manage woodlands local to Llangattock, for biodiversity, sustainable wood fuel,
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