

ANNUAL REPORT



FIVE YEARS IN AND THE COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU IN 2015 FOR LITTER PICKING, WILDFLOWER PLANTING AND MAINTAINING THE FLOWER TROUGHS

In November 2014 the group celebrated its 5th anniversary. This co-incided with us passing through the 1,500 bags of litter mark collected from in and around the community since our inception.

Having demonstrated what can be achieved on the litter front, the group in 2014 turned its attentions to enhancing the community further with nine flower troughs placed around the community paid for from the revenue generated from our litter picking. It is anticipated that 2015 will see a further fourteen flower troughs being placed into the community along with wild flowers sown on three grass verges on Beaufort Road opposite the allotments. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those concerned local inhabitants who simply pick up litter whenever they see it, whether they are out walking, exercising their dog or riding their bike.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Llangattock Litter Pickers spent the early years picking litter that had accumulated in and around the community over many years. Now, firmly in 'maintenance mode', most of our work is simply removing very recently dropped litter. We don't think it is a coincidence that the less litter there is, the less inclined people seem to casually drop it. Litter attracts littering. Remove it and, to an extent, it deters further littering. The table below shows the impact of regular litter picking in the community:

Tally	2010 (Year 1)	2011 (Year 2)	2012 (Year 3)	2013 (Year 4)	2014 (Year 5)	Total
Bags of litter collected	551	351	199	208	200	1,509
Tyres collected	177	79	65*	29	37	387
Tonnes of litter collected	4.1	2.1	1.5	1.6	1.4	10.7
% recycled	Not recorded	82	76	77	68	75.75
Roadside verge cleared (miles)	227	1,276	824	1,857	1,027	5,211
Volunteer hours	Not recorded	540	377	417	310	1,644

*Includes 42 tyres from a fly tip clearance on the Hafod Road

There has been a significant reduction over the years in the number of tyres dumped around the community. Also, fly tips are a rare rather than a common occurrence around the community these days.

RECYCLING

We continue to recycle much of the litter collected with 68% sent on for recycling in 2014. To aid the sorting of the litter, 2014 has seen us sort drinks cans, plastic and glass bottles into one bag whilst out litter picking, with the rest of the litter going in the second bag on the litter picking hoop. This saves us sorting time at the end of each month.

AREA COVERED

Llangattock Litter Pickers now covers 70 miles of roadside verge, lanes, paths and canal tow paths month on month. The group is currently working on reducing the amount of litter dropped rather than expanding its area any further. With the village and surrounding areas broken up into manageable areas, an average of 25 ¾ volunteer hours each month is spent litter picking. All areas receive at least one litter pick a month, with some areas needing at least two picks a month to maintain the high standard of cleanliness we have established.

RAISING AWARENESS

The introduction of the roadside verge signs in and around the community saw a reduction in litter. So 2015 will see them being introduced again. We have also had enquires from Keep Wales Tidy following other groups showing interest in using roadside verge signs. The signs simply tell motorists that the verges have been cleaned and remind them not to litter.

Please join us at our AGM in the lounge at The Old Rectory Hotel in Llangattock
on
Thursday 29th January 2015 at 7.30pm.

FLOWER TROUGHS

2014 saw the group introduce nine flower troughs into the community paid from the revenue generated from litter picking. Following the positive feedback we received from not only community members but also visitors to the community we have taken the decision to introduce a further fourteen troughs into the community in the spring 2015. We are grateful to Keep Wales Tidy's All Wales Grants Scheme with the group being successful in gaining £499 of funding towards the costs of the additional troughs. To reduce the on-going maintenance costs of the troughs perennials are being planted in them but we continue to be committed to the planting of both summer and winter annuals. We have also given an undertaking to Powys County Council that we will maintain the grass verges around the flower troughs thereby further enhancing our community. We would love to hear from any community members who can help us maintain the flower troughs and the grass verges that they are on with watering, dead heading and mowing being some of the tasks we need help with.

WILD FLOWER VERGES

Having been inspired by the wild flowers on the roundabouts in Monmouthshire and Blaenau Gwent in 2014, we will be sowing wild flower seeds on three grass verges on Beaufort Road (opposite the allotments) in 2015. The same seed will be sown that both councils used which whilst not cheap will, we hope, provide a wonderful display. Preparation work has already having taken place in readiness for the seeds to be sown in April. We will maintain a grass border to all the verges sown with wild flower seeds and we are also taking this opportunity to further enhance the drive into Llangattock by the weeding the pavement and edging of the grass verges in this area of the community. Again your help in both the preparation and maintenance of these areas would be greatly appreciated and the group would be delighted to hear from you if you can help out.

FUNDING

We now fund our increasing range of activities largely from the income generated by litter picking on the Beaufort Estate common lands, selling any recovered scrap metal and from one-off litter picking projects. 2014 saw us use a significant amount of our income funding the initial nine flower troughs. Consequently, grant monies will continue to be sought for capital costs as this allows us to use our income towards the upkeep of the group's equipment and purchasing of plants for the flower troughs.

PARTNERING

The anti-fly tipping signs we requested from Blaenau Gwent CBC on the Hafod Road (Brynmaur) are providing a useful deterrent, along with the rocks placed on the Monmouthshire end of the Hafod Road. The group was successful in securing a grant of £1,100 from the Welsh Government in the purchase and placement of rocks in unofficial lay-bys to deter fly tipping. We continue to receive invaluable support from the Beacons National Park Authority through their Assistant Warden Sam Ridge. We are also grateful for the support that Brian Price and his team at Powys County Council and Matthew Perry and his team at Blaenau Gwent Council show the group.

RECYCLING BOXES

We have noted on Thursdays when the recycling boxes are being collected that a minority of boxes put out for collection do not have the lids placed on the paper recycling boxes and netting covering the plastic recycling boxes. Whenever there is inclement weather the recyclable material from the boxes is blown out and onto the streets which, given the standard of cleanliness in the community, is frustrating and easily avoidable. Replacement netting and lids are available from Powys County Council if they have been damaged or lost.

STOP PRESS: Llangattock Litter Pickers have been shortlisted for the Keep Wales Tidy "Tidy Wales Awards" under the Cleaner Communities Award category. We will know if we have been successful on the 26th February 2015.

VOLUNTEERING

So why not join us and give litter picking a try or help us with the flower troughs and wildflower verges? As well as getting out and meeting new people, you'll help Llangattock maintain what is now an enviably high standard of cleanliness and enhance the community. The group meets at the entrance to the Llangattock recreation ground on the 1st Saturday of each month, starting at 9.30am lasting a maximum of two hours on the following days in 2015...

3rd Jan | 7th Feb | 7th Mar | 4th Apr | 2nd May | 6th Jun | 4th Jul | 1st Aug | 5th Sep | 3rd Oct | 7th Nov | 5th Dec

We know that weekends can be difficult with people's diaries so some members of the group go out litter picking on weekdays each month as well. Join our mailing list so we can keep you informed when we go out and you can join us. We provide all volunteers with hi-vis vests, litter picking sticks, litter picking hoops and bags, but please bring your own gloves. Children are always welcome, but must be supervised by their parents.

We hope you've seen the difference Llangattock Litter Pickers have made in our community. Now your support is needed to maintain it and enhance it further.

For more info and to join our mailing list to keep up with all our activities, contact Pete Bates tel: 01873 812073 or email: batesovic@yahoo.co.uk

**Please join us at our AGM in the lounge at The Old Rectory Hotel in Llangattock
on
Thursday 29th January 2015 at 7.30pm.**