

Claverton Pumping Station Group

Annual report for AGM

October 2021



Overview

It has been an unprecedented couple of years. We missed our 2020 shutdown meeting, in fact we never managed to run in the 2020 season. This report will cover the group's activities for what should have been the 2020 season and for the 2021 season.

A global pandemic and lockdowns kept business in 2020 to a minimum. In 2021 Pete Dunn and Nicky Rogers stepped down from Volunteer Group Leader and Secretary, also longstanding members John Connel and Pete Adams had to leave the group. We wish to thank Pete, Nicky, John, and Pete for their years of commitment to the group. We are happy that Pete Dunn remains a member in an advisory role helping the new management committee.

The 2021 season got off to a poor start flood damage causing nine broken float boards, and ongoing restrictions limiting us to only pre-booked visits. Despite these setbacks, we end the year with the pump fully functioning, with the grounds looking beautiful and well maintained, and with a reasonable income from tours. We look forward to a more normal 2022.

Governance and Finance

We have updated our management structure, at the AGM we are voting on an updated constitution for the group which will make the management team into an elected management committee. We have also moved our bank account to a community bank account in the name

Table 1: Financial summary

	2019 Full Year	2020 Full Year	2021 Year to date
Opening bank account	£4,477.39	£6,596.46	£4,221.28
Opening expenses due	(£0.00)	(£0.00)	(£63.02)
Opening funds	£4,477.39	£6,596.46	£4,158.26
General income	£4,415.46	£344.24	£1953.20
Grant income	£0.00	£0.00	£2,000.00
Expenses	(£2,296.39)	(£2,782.44)	(£4,042.72)
Movement of funds	£2,119.07	(£2,438.20)	(£89.52)
Closing bank account	£6,596.46	£4,221.28	£4068.74
Closing expenses due	(£0.00)	(£63.02)	(£0.00)
Closing funds	£6,596.46	£4,158.26	£4068.74

of Claverton Pumping Station Group.

We are due to renew our partnership agreement with the Canal and River Trust (CRT), this will likely happen later this month. Over the last year in negotiations with CRT we negotiated a £2,000 budget for new power tools which we have received and spent. We also have a verbal agreement for CRT to provide the group with a yearly partnership grant, the details of which are still being worked out. We are delighted with this support and hope it will allow us to fund new and exciting projects at the pumping station.

Our income for 2020 was down considerably when compared to 2019, but has picked up significantly in 2021, but has not yet reached pre-pandemic levels. Our expenditure remained approximately constant over the 2019–2021 period (not including the the extra £2,000 spent in 2021 on new battery power tools). A full financial summary is provided in Table 1.

Our activities

Pre-lockdown 2020

In January 2020 a digger levelled an area increase the size of the upper car park as part of our Engineman’s Walk project. Considerable work was put into cutting back years of overgrowth along this route.

First Lockdown 2020

The pump was closed during the first lockdown.

Between Lockdowns 2020

After the first lockdown there was significant overgrowth. Grounds work dominated this period.

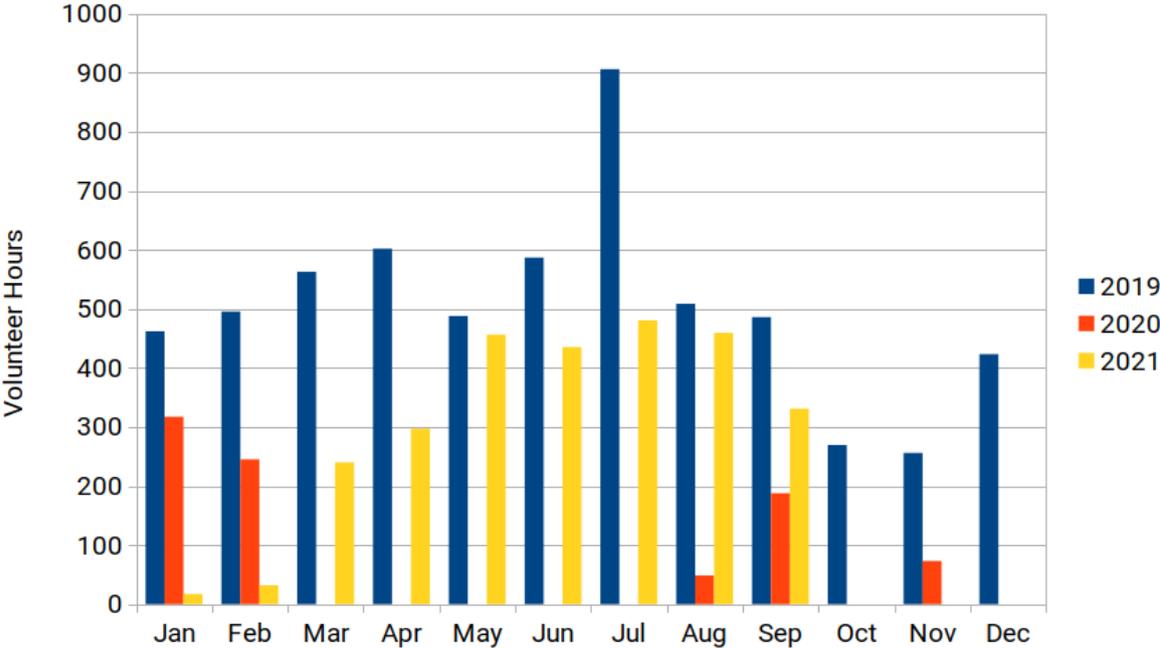


Figure 1: Volunteer hours by month from 2019 until September 2021.

The bearing were replaced ready for a single run in October 2020, but an early flood stopped this plan. Instead the site had to be re-winterised without a run in 2020.

Second and Third Lockdown 2020/2021

The pump was largely closed during the second and third lockdown. However, some members attended to clear floods.

Early 2021

Nine float board were broken during baring over due to a stick lodged against the centre bearing support. Only one new board was used in these repairs with the rest being repaired with new section doweled and scarfed in. The last of the new boards was replaces in May as was the centre bearing cap.

2021 Opening Season

The pump was run on June first for the first time in 20 months. We followed up with 6 pre-booked running days and gave tours on 13 other days. In total we had an estimate 132 visitors for the year. This is compared to 531 visitors in 2019, and no visitors in 2020.

During the opening season work continued on most Tuesdays and Saturdays. With Tuesdays focussing on groundskeeping. During this time as a group achieved many things including:

- A new gate was fitted for the car park.
- Significant progress on the Engineman's Walk. Including new steps and a new gate. The charity GoodGym helped out with moving ballast for the steps.
- The inside Green corner cupboard was restored and repainted.
- The tail race height markers cleaned and restored.
- The number 4 shed was completely rebuilt.
- The foundry patterns were repainted, as were many of the railings.
- A big tree was removed from the leat.
- Numerous areas of the site were significantly tidied including:
 - The scaffolding area behind the Number 6 shed.
 - The No 2 Shed, now all 3 machine tools are accessible.
- Tonnes of silt blocking up the sump inlet was cleared.
- The tailrace was cleared of a large log jam (with help from contractors).
- Silt banks that have built up in the tailrace and an island at the end were cut back.

Volunteer hours picked up to close to pre-pandemic levels in this time, see Figure 1.

The Year Ahead

As we look forward to the next year we hope to restart normal open days. As always pump maintenance and gorundskeeping will dominate our work. Our other key priorities for next year are:

- Secure grants to help with training and to fund other key priorities.
- Finishing the Engineman's Walk.
- Building a woodworking area at the end of the beam room.
- Improving the displays for visitors, including:
 - Tidying the mezzanine workbench.
 - Having new aluminium signs made.
 - Making display cases for artifacts such as the old gear teeth.
- Make a plan for the No 6 shed.

In Summary

It has been a long two years, but we have got through it, and we look forward to a new year. None of this could be possible without the thousands of hours of work performed by all of our volunteers. We want to thank everyone for their continued support in these unprecedented times.

Report prepared by the Claverton Pumping Station Group Management Committee

Julian Stirling
Volunteer Group Leader

Deb Wray
Secretary

Heather Higgins
Treasurer

Tony Wray
Committee
member