

Final Report the Clun Space Project, May 2018 to March 2019

<u>Clun Space Date</u>	<u>Venue, activity and event</u>	<u>Project staff paid and volunteers</u>	<u>Children/Adults attending</u>
May Planning	Clun Memorial Hall Meeting	Gary Cowell, Alison Weeks, Dave Thomlinson, Angela Martin, Christina Anderson and Ros Patching.	7
May to Sept Research by group All	Research by group All	Web based info, GC Land uses and information AM Clun History – Andrews Tina, Medieval Small Towns, Central Welsh Marches, Durham University 2017. Visits GC Clun Mem grounds RP Clun Museum archives. CA contacted people re flora and fauna esp. butterflies and flowers. AL, AM, AW	GC, AM, AW, RP, CA, Plus flora and fauna observations DT and RM re Butterflies in Clun general area, DT&RM June-July, i. Fauna/mammals DL, ii. Botanical JF, GC visited and photographed site. GC contacted Shrop. Council, Shrop WWF, Forestry Commission
July -Aug	Fiona Gomersall botanical survey 05.07.18, report Aug	Fiona Gomersall, Shropshire Wildlife Trust.	
28.08.18	Steering group	GC, AW, RP, DT, AM Plus CMH trustees. 22.07.18 AM and Sally Tudor reokie of area re access	
Sept	Admin, AM contacted St Georges school	AM, St George' school advised that they preferred following spring term.	
Oct	1. CMH Committee meeting 2. Steering group meeting.	1.1 st Oct GC presented work in progress PPT to committee 2.2 nd Oct review and planning	7 committee members
08.10.18	Access review	Sally Tudor (ST) – access review with Nick Dunn and 2 support workers	4 adults
28.10.18	Big 'Clunderland' Draw	Workshop leader AM plus 2 volunteers AB, CD	15 children, 10 adults
28.10.18	Research review Clun Museum and CMH.	AW and RP with Tina Andrew and AM. Review of documents from Clun Museum	5 adults
28.10.18	<i>Talk, Walk and Tea</i>	<i>Speaker Mike Kelly, Shrop. Hills AONB</i>	<i>18 Adults 4 CYP</i>
09.11.18	<i>Enrichment session with students from CCBC & prep for visit.</i>	<i>Workshop leader Antonia Pettitt with AM and DT</i>	<i>12 students mainly year 7s plus 2 teachers</i>
Nov to March Drafting, editing audit		Interim report AM 16.12.18. Draft Audit i. GC, ii. 2 nd iteration AM, iii. Sent out for consultation, iv. Reviewed audit GC, Edited final audit RP, consulted, TM, PJ Footpath group, DL, Clun/BCShropWWF	Shared draft audit with CMH Committee (Dec) agreed to share with Clun Town Council, some local people/groups over 20 people
January to March	<i>Beetles, Bees and Trees funded by South Shrop Housing Association</i>	<i>JO, AL, AM, AP, including St Georges Sch. 19cyp + 3 staff, assembly 44 CYP staff parents 20Haslehurst 11 adults, CCBC 12YP 1, teacher, BIG Draw 13CYP, 7adults</i>	<i>c.88 CYP and 62 adults</i>
28.01.19	<i>Talk Medieval Clun</i>	<i>Speaker, Tina Andrews, organiser AW from Light Foot and part of Clun Space.</i>	<i>Over 100 people attended.</i>
19.02.19	<i>Jenny McCracken Eng. Heritage meeting</i>	<i>Christina Anderson, Alison Weeks and Angela Martin</i>	<i>4 people</i>
January to March	Iterations to audit and further feedback. Report and accounts AM	AM, GC, RP, AW, report AM	

Introduction

The main part of the Clun Space project was creating an audit of Clun Memorial Hall land which has proved a rich source of research and has already created spin off events and a further project. The project led by Gary Cowell and the steering group audited the land, the flora and fauna, heritage, current uses, accessibility and community asset value and its potential to establish a baseline of what we have, what is sustainable and what can be developed. In tandem with the audit was and is awareness raising of conservation issues and creating interest and involvement in the area and its future. The project was enriched by a secondary project input from the Lightfoot project and further funding from South Shropshire Housing (Jan 2019 to March 2019) which worked with schools and the Haslehurst residents in Clun in the Beetles, Bees and Trees project. The project was ambitious given that the funding originally allotted. The above a table shows the main activities and work achieved by the project.

Outputs

- a) 3 talks/workshops - 28.01.18 all in-kind/or paid for by other groups/organisations – 1. 28.01.18 Big Draw – (in-kind labour workshop fee £120 plus 2 volunteer helpers£56 plus drawing materials £60), 2. 8.01.18 Talk, Walk, Tea with Mike Kelly in kind, 09.11.18 Workshop at CMH grounds leader Antonia Pettitt and Community College enrichment session with LightFoot woods project.
Spin off talks and new projects - The project was augmented by further events initiated by Lightfoot for example the Medieval Clun talk 28.01.19. A new project, Beetles, Bees and Trees focused on education and consultation. BBT was funded by South Shropshire Housing Association and worked with St George's School Clun, the Community College and the Haslehurst residents and local families.
- b) Community involvement took place through volunteering and assisting various activities – research, reviewing material collected, discussion with other community groups and supporting the project through the steering group and arranging and participating in activities and events. (18 people).

Over 30 Children and 66 adults have participated in activities in May to Dec and adding spin off activities and allowing for people already counted previously figures are over 180 adults and 100 children, see the activities calendar above. The whole project has involved huge amounts of community involvement in time, expertise and guiding the project. There has been willing support from people who are fascinated and knowledgeable about flora and fauna and also from children and young people and families. They have all expressed a wish for more involvement. All young people involved seemed more than ready to be involved and to help develop Clun Space. Older people particularly from the Haslehurst emphasised how much they would like to be able to navigate Clun Memorial Hall grounds instead of just looking at the grounds from the carpark in their buggies. On the contrary side there was concern about the comparatively recent history and the Clun Millennium Pool project which started in the second half of the 1990s. The audit was an attempt to establish a baseline of information and to look forward to how the ground could be developed sensitively around the biodiversity and uses and interests of local people of all ages and abilities. The access report and discussions have been pivotal. Good access is sometimes seen as an extra and of no great value or importance by many sectors including the environmental community.

- c) Increased knowledge of conservation has grown with the work of the audit and activities such as the Botanical Survey, the talk and walk by Mike Kelly from Shropshire Hills AONB, Antonia Pettitt's Community College enrichment session at Clun Memorial Hall grounds and the Big Draw sessions which looked more closely at the landscape and fauna. Discussions of work in progress generally generated further information and support. Gary Cowell discussed with the Memorial Hall committee his research in progress and ideas for implementing a land management programme. This discussion has been developed though draft Audits being reviewed by some committee members and also by some Clun Town council members. The aim was to create an overall picture of the land. Activities have been publicised in the Clun Chronical and the CMH fb page. The project research and subsequent spin off events and projects have increased awareness of conservation and raised the value of an undervalued piece of land through really looking at what is there and gaining understanding of what might be developed.

- d) Increased awareness of access and inclusion and ways of implementation. This subject has been raised at sessions and informally with volunteers and people in Clun generally. Over the year there has been gathering support for access and inclusion particularly helped by the report from Clun Memorial Trustee Sally Tudor and her son Nick. Young people at the Community College Bishop's Castle were particularly tuned in to this issue.
- e) All ages taking part Children and adults of all ages have been involved in the project. The project has moved the discussions about CMH land on and it is now discussed by year 5 and 6 at St George's Clun pupils and students from Clun and environs at the Community College Bishop's Castle. We have worked with a range of age groups – residents from the Haslehurst (spin off project Beetles, bees and Trees), Big Draw events attracting mainly families with children and young people and people (requesting for more such events) as well as people who have supported the research and steering group.
- f) Increased connectivity Gary Cowell and the steering group have contacted specialist and community groups and organisations which include Clun Memorial Hall committee and volunteers, Clun and Chapel Lawn Town Council, Lighfoot, Clun and Bishop's Castle Shropshire Wildlife group, the Clun pathways group, Clun Museum, Shropshire Archives, St. George's CE primary School Clun, the Community College Bishop's Castle, South Shropshire Housing Association, The Haslehurst residents, Clun Bingo group, Clun Friendly Café, Clun walking groups.

This area of the project has been complex due to recent history around the pool. The project wanted to revisit some of the emotive memories and piece together a factual account. In presenting what we have found the discussions have renewed perspectives to work with and often become more positive and supportive. This is work in progress and there is more work to be done.

The following is a short SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) report

Strengths

- Clun Space gathered complex issues together to create an overall picture of what information is available now. This body of knowledge has also created areas to focus more research.
- Buy in from a wide range of children, young people and adults involved and/or interested in CMH land.
- Revalued and created more facets to the area of land which to be explored further and developed.
- Benefitted from volunteers.
- Good to have someone with a fresh eye and environmental management skills to lead the project.
- Managed an audit that was difficult to gather and important to deliver a connected picture and can be the starting point for useful management and development.
- Local children and young people were enthusiastic and wanting to know more and be involved.
- Tenacity, after many iterations a readable and not overly long report that can be shared and read.
- A conduit which generated cooperation and further research, consultation and funding via the steering group members with a wide variety of organisations and groups.
- Some changes in attitude and interest in one year, many people all ages more receptive to issues around conservation and biodiversity.
- Some reflective and diverse events.

Weaknesses

- The project was underfinanced.
- Finances and time underestimated by project manager who saved time for project report in autumn which skewed project management.
- Recent history around the pool considerably emotive and reinvested by others not wanting to rock the boat.
- Resistance, lack of patience, interest and understanding about the project from some local people.
- Underfinancing is a big ask for key volunteers.

Opportunities

- The steering group acknowledged the complexity of the project.
- To create from an underused piece of land via an assemblage of audit information and evidence, recommendations and plans.
- To create a strong conduit which generated cooperation with partner organisations e.g. Lightfoot and further funding and a secondary project Beetles, Bees and Trees funded by South Shropshire Housing Association.
- New links and interest, people and organisations who might never have considered this land of interest.
- To consider those involved and who use the area and who will get involved in developing the land.
- To evaluate/review and gain better understanding, context, agendas and local politics and negative attitudes such as, *'that's Clun for you.....'*

Threats.

- Fragmentation of material.
- Stamina of volunteers and time available.
- Group think/hope.
- Anxiety over workload and number of audit iterations.
- Resistance and negativity.
- Costs – this was an under budgeted project.

Conclusion and Next Steps

The project has re-viewed Clun Memorial grounds and now has more information and evidence to work with though the audit and recommendations and through working with local groups and individuals of all ages. The project has been challenging and worthwhile. We have gained new perspectives, contacts, learning, discussion and guidelines for the next steps.

Next steps

- 1. Further work for the Memorial Hall Committee and volunteers to endorse the findings and create management action plan and delivery timetable.**
- 2. Further work to development the site with consultations, costings and funding.**
- 3. Develop plans for further access and a team to assist with fundraising.**
- 4. Create a friends of or action group for the site that includes all ages which could might pilot further wildlife observations, wildlife youth/intergenerational group sessions to create for example bird boxes, wild flower meadow, walks and artwork at the Memorial Hall grounds.**

(Photos provided in Botanical survey by Fiona Gomersall, Big Draw art work. Posters for Clunderland Big Draw event and Walk Talk and Tea. More photos available)

Clun Space, AM 10.04.19