

Carlton Gardening Group
Annual Report to Carlton Parish Council
2014

This report covers the period May 2013 to May 2014 (see previous report). The Group has reviewed the landscaping plan and worked closely with the Parish Council to agree specifications for the path, plantings and furniture. All items were priced, and an application submitted by the PC to the A4A Grant Scheme, but this application was not successful.

Four trees (T1, T2, T3, T6) were planted in 2013; three of them at a ground-breaking ceremony on 23rd July which was widely reported in the press (PC minutes p.1470/4 refer). These trees were watered through the summer and have all established well.

Two container-grown trees (T4, T5) were collected in February 2014, were planted in April, and are now coming into leaf. T5 had been supplied by the landscaping contractor, so the extra tree was planted in the northern hedge.

The northern hedge had not appeared to establish well, but when inspected in March it was found that about 80% of the whips had survived and were coming into leaf. 100 extra whips of hazel, dogwood, field maple and hornbeam were planted into the gaps in April, and are now coming into leaf. A few self-set holly whips have been transplanted from local gardens into the northern hedge.

The construction of a new electricity transformer in the NE corner of the Orchard meant that the sessile oak tree (T3) had to be moved, and the layout of the gateway adjusted. The installation of a soakaway along the southern side of the Orchard also means that the tree and shrub planting plans may have to be adjusted so as to avoid problems with tree roots.

The new gate, posts and fixings have been erected, four hedgehog boxes have been installed, and two reptile and amphibian refuges have been constructed. The building project is two months behind schedule and the CGG does not expect to have access to the Orchard until late May or June.

The CGG has 15 current members. The AGM was held on 20th March and attended by 10 members. At this meeting Franco Onesti was elected Chairman and Chris Peat Secretary.