

# DIAMOND JUBILEE ORCHARD PROJECT

Members of the Carlton Gardening Group (CGG) have now completed construction work in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard, and the picnic table and park bench have been installed. The picnic table and bench have been set on generous concrete bases to accommodate a wheelchair user, and big logs from the churchyard chestnut tree can be used as additional informal seating. The only works outstanding for this year are the provision of site signage, final levelling and rolling of the path, and the construction of the Toddlers Play Area.

Although small, the Orchard is intended to develop into a truly multifunctional public open space for everyone to enjoy - a screen and transition zone between Northfields and open countryside, an attractive place to walk through, a spot to sit and enjoy views over open countryside, a place of rest and respite for harassed carers, a refuge and food source for wildlife, and an orchard providing fruit for both wildlife and people.

The central part of the wildflower meadow was sown last October; the remaining areas have been weeded and dug over and are being left to settle down ready for seeding around the end of May. The shrub areas will be kept clear of weeds this year, and then planted with woodland herbs and bulbs next year.



The Barton Road shrub area is intended to develop into an informal woodland and contains dogwood, spindle, holly, privet, crab apple and guelder rose. It also contains several piles of wood for invertebrates, a heap of brash, a reptile and amphibian refuge, and two hedgehog boxes. In contrast, the Nailstone Road shrub area contains hazel, holly, guelder rose and just one pile of rotting logs.

We hope to enlist the help of young people from the village to build a *Bug Hotel* in the Barton Road shrub area over the summer holidays. Examples of *Bug Hotels* can be found on the CGG page of the PC's website, but the final design will depend on the materials available and the flair of the builders. This project will be advertised by notice, but in the meantime could you please set aside any suitable materials such as old air bricks, drainpipes, pallets, garden canes, plant pots, seed trays and suchlike. Please contact Franco Onesti (290310) for further information.

The mixed hedge along the northern boundary contains hawthorn, hazel, dogwood, hornbeam, field maple, and holly. The whips appear to have taken well, and will probably be left to grow tall and then layered to create a thick, stockproof hedge suitable for nesting birds.

The sketch plan below shows the overall layout and the position of the specimen trees, which are listed in the accompanying table. These have been chosen to provide a range of form and interest through the year. For example, the field maple 'Queen Elizabeth' is an upright growth form with particularly bright autumn foliage; the crab apples at each entrance are vigorous trees with bright fruits which should not fall until after Christmas; the fruit trees should be reliable croppers and where necessary have suitable pollination partners.

The total cost of the CDJOP to date is exactly £7,280.63, and has been covered by accumulated receipts of New Homes Bonus Funding. This figure includes land purchase, legal fees and items charged to Clerk's expenses and the CGG, but excludes VAT and donations. The park bench seat has been funded by a donation of £500 in memory of Councillor Bob Edmunds with £391 from the Parish Amenities Fund; the picnic table has been partly funded by a first prize of £250 from the RCC 2012 Village Achievement Awards.

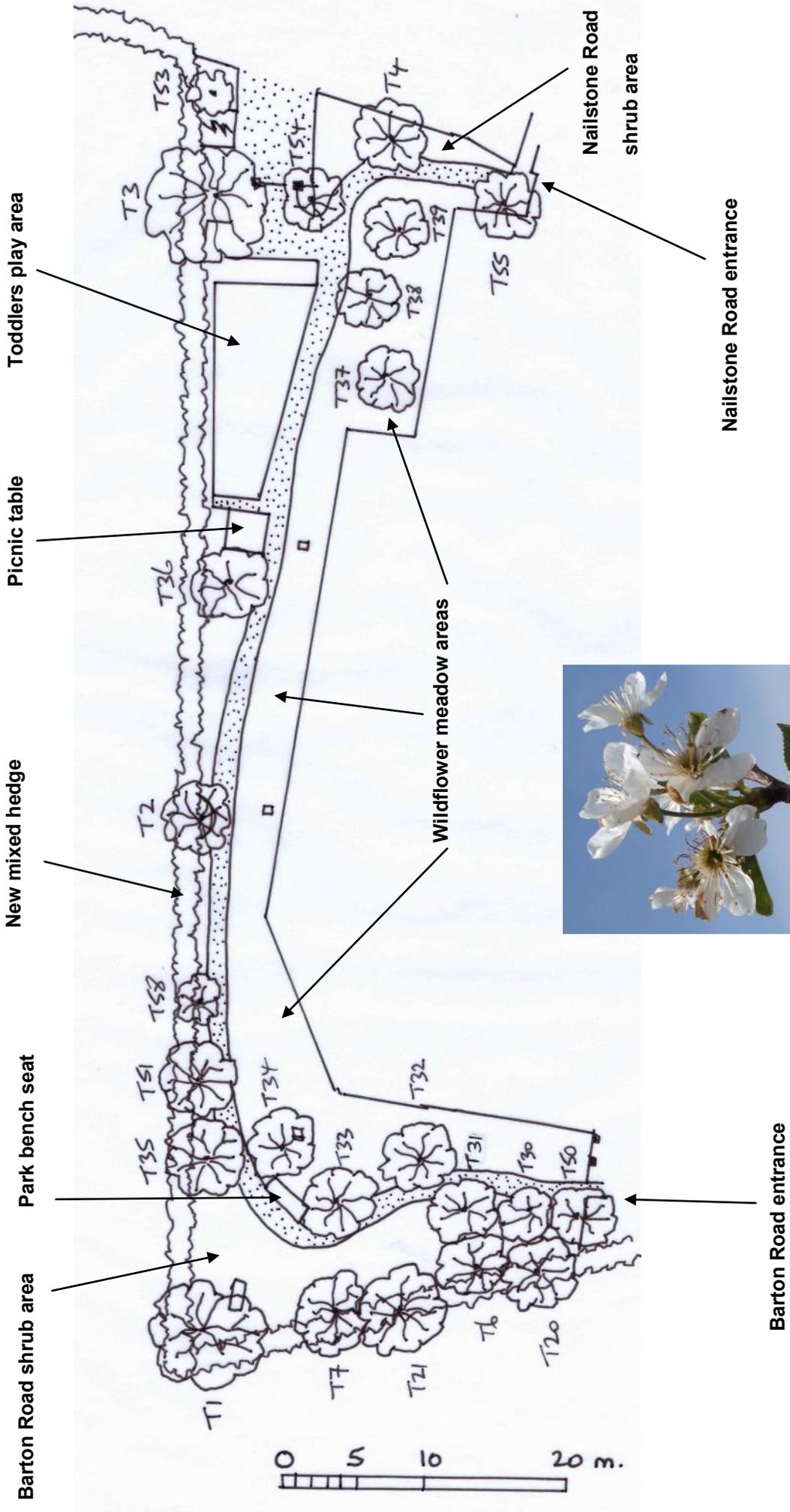
We thank the members of the CGG, who have contributed a total of 377 man-hours of work to this project to date. Thanks are also due to Mick Pointon who dug out for the path and moved the big logs, William Davis Ltd who decompacted subsoil in the Nailstone Road wildflower meadow area, Brian and Ben Sutton who excavated the Toddlers Play Area down to subsoil level, and AR Demolition Ltd who have kindly agreed to complete the excavation ready for installation.

The Toddlers Play Area is intended to be a place where villagers who care for young children can go for a walk, a break and a change of scene. The play equipment is intended for children less than six years old, and will comprise a double swing 1.8m high, with one cradle seat and one flat seat, and an activity unit. The activity unit will be made up of two platforms 900mm high, linked by a slatted suspension bridge, and with a stainless steel slide. The two platforms will be accessed by different kinds of steps and a ramp. The equipment will be installed in a bark pit 400mm deep, surrounded by timber edging. The equipment will be mostly made of wood so as to blend in with the surroundings.

The Parish Council has accepted a quotation of £12,821 for the provision and installation of this equipment, which will be fully funded by s106 developer contributions being held by the Borough Council. The manufacturer quotes 8 weeks from order to delivery, so if all goes according to plan the playground should be ready for use by August.

Chris Peat and Franco Onesti

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First blossom

Toddlers play area

Picnic table

New mixed hedge

Park bench seat

Barton Road shrub area

Nailstone Road shrub area

Nailstone Road entrance

Barton Road entrance

Wildflower meadow areas

0 5 10 20 m.

### **Specimen trees on landscaping plan 12/00889/FUL planted 2013**

- T1 *Tilia cordata* Small leaved lime 'Greenspire'
- T2 *Acer campestre* Field maple
- T3 *Quercus petraea* Sessile oak
- T4 *Acer campestre* Field maple 'Queen Elizabeth' (planted 2014)
- T6 *Malus sylvestris* Crab apple 'Evereste'
- T7 *Malus baccata* 'Red Siberian'

### **Hedgerow trees present before development**

- T20 *Fraxinus excelsior* Common ash. Single stemmed hedgerow tree
- T21 *Fraxinus excelsior* Common ash. 3-stemmed hedgerow tree

### **Fruit trees planted winter 2014**

- T30 Eating cherry *Prunus avium* 'Stella'
- T31 Cooking cherry *Prunus cerasus* 'Morello'
- T32 Damson *Prunus domestica subsp insititia* 'Merryweather'
- T33 Greengage *Prunus domestica subsp italica* 'Imperial gage'
- T34 Plum *Prunus domestica* 'Victoria'
- T35 Eating pear *Pyrus communis communis* 'Concorde'
- T36 Cooking apple *Malus domestica* 'Dumelow's seedling'
- T37 Cooking apple *Malus domestica* 'Bramley's seedling'
- T38 Cooking apple *Malus domestica* 'Lord Derby'
- T39 Plum *Prunus domestica* 'Czar'

### **Additional specimen trees planted winter 2014**

- T50 Toringo crab apple *Malus Sieboldii* 'Gorgeous'
- T51 *Acer campestre* Field maple 'Queen Elizabeth'
- T52 Crab apple *Malus domestica* 'Profusion improved'
- T53 Ornamental holly *Ilex aquifolium* 'J C van Tol'
- T54 Crab apple *Malus domestica* 'Butterball'
- T55 Crab apple *Malus x robusta* 'Red sentinel'



Picnic table



Bob's seat