

## Annual Reports from Parish Organisations and Parish Council Representatives

These reports were presented under agenda item 6 at the Annual Meeting of Carlton Parish Council which was held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in Saint Andrew's Church, Main Street, Carlton.

### **a) Carlton Charity Land**

Nigel Axelrad (Chairman) had submitted the following written report:

#### Trustees

There was no change in the trustees who remain:

Nigel Axelrad (Chairman)  
Joan Orton (Secretary)  
Nigel Henry (Vice Chairman)  
Roger Dobson  
Pat Lockwood  
Geoff Mepham

#### Financial Report for 2013

Balance of funds at start of year	£3688.72
Income	£ 902.65
Expenses	-60.00
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Balance of funds at year-end	£4531.37

No payments were made during 2013. The Trustees are aiming to update the objectives of the charity in the near future to enable payments to be made to young people in Carlton.

### **b) Carlton Footpath Group**

John Piggon (Chairman) reported that he had walked every public right of way in the Parish of Carlton over the previous two months, and they were all fully waymarked and clear of obstructions.

Waymark posts had been repainted, a kissing gate installed on S68 next to the Old Rectory, and a broken stile on S68 replaced, together with the adjacent footbridge planks.

Work was expected to begin soon on the replacement of stiles by kissing gates on footpath S50 between Bosworth Road and footpath S48. This path runs diagonally across the field behind The Gate Hangs Well. The Parish Council has also applied

for a grant to replace seven stiles on footpath S68 with kissing gates. This path runs past The Old Rectory and across Congerstone Lane, and then joins the path to the Red Bridge which is already stile-free.

Footpath S68, part of the Leicestershire Round, was still closed at Shackerstone Station. The temporary closure order was long expired, and it was understood that Leicestershire County Council was investigating the legal position and attempting to arrange an alternative route.

### **c) Carlton Gardening Group**

Mr F Onesti (Chairman) reported as follows.

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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> March and attended by 10 members. At this meeting Franco Onesti was elected Chairman and Chris Peat Secretary.

**d) Carlton Heritage Warden and Tree Warden**

Chris Peat had attended the Ancient Tree Forum at Byrkeley Park in October 2013.

The Diamond Jubilee oak tree (*Q. petraea*) had been watered during dry periods, and had established well. It would be examined in the autumn with a view to removing the stakes and ties. The Millennium oak trees had been pruned, and the stakes and tubes removed. Tree and hedge plantings had been carried out in the Diamond Jubilee Orchard Project by the Carlton Gardening Group.

The Tree Warden would lead a guided tour of Larch Spinney on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 6 pm as part of the Tree Council's *Walk in the Woods* scheme.

The Warden was involved in ongoing studies relating to Bosworth Park, had led guided walks in Market Bosworth, and had published articles on local history in Carlton News and Aspect.

Some fields in the parish had been surveyed by an experienced metal detectorist, and this work was continuing. The most significant findings so far were two decorated lead biconical spindle whorls, probably of medieval age, a broken crotal bell, possibly 17 – 18<sup>th</sup> century, a key, probably of Victorian or Edwardian age and possibly used to open a beer or cider barrel during harvest, and an interesting lead seal of the kind often used to seal bags of fertiliser or seed. These finds would be described and illustrated in a future issue of Carlton News.

**e) Carlton Parish Council website**

The Clerk reported on usage of the PC website, which had continued to increase rapidly since the new website had gone live on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012.

<b>Page Title</b>	<b>Page views 2011-12</b>	<b>Page views 2012-13</b>	<b>Page views 2013-14</b>
	1&1 website statistics 1/1/1 2- 30/4/12 x 3	1&1 website statistics 1/4/12 - 31/3/13	1&1 website statistics 1/4/13 – 31/3/14
Home Page	2052	2688	6701
News	1230	3261	3517
Diary	801	406	614
Meetings & reports	285	694	877
Parish Councillors	225	402	471
Cemetery & Churchyard	192	266	408
Parish organisations	171	317	439
Affordable Housing Project	372	675	807
Parish Plan & Appraisal	159	330	395
Council information	141	330	411
Parish organisations			439
Finance	159	256	432
Carlton Gardening Group			418
Carlton History	165	366	595
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5952</b>	<b>9991</b>	<b>16524</b>
<b>Total site visits</b>	<b>4674</b>	<b>13432</b>	<b>20861</b>
<b>Total page impressions</b>	<b>10713</b>	<b>22683</b>	<b>31242</b>

The main page headings had not been changed since the site went live, but some content had been reorganised, and two new pages had been added.

**f) Carlton Youth Champions: Mrs K Owen, Mrs M Purnell-Mullick, Ms R Yule**

Ms Yule reported that there had been no activity during the year.

**g) Keep Carlton Tidy Group**

Irene Peat (Chairman KCTG) reported as follows:

An annual litterpick has been held in Carlton since 1992, and the Keep Carlton Tidy Group was founded in 2004. The number of members has increased over the years, and the pick over the weekend of 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> March was supported enthusiastically by 24 adults and 4 young people. About three cubic metres of rubbish was collected from roads, ditches and verges extending as far as neighbouring villages. Prizes were awarded as usual, with extra categories in honour of our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A photo of the collection was added to the parish web-site.

In addition over the past 12 months, 70 carrier bags of litter have been disposed of, and 5 episodes of tipping reported. The overall volume of litter was slightly less than in 2013, when there were 8 fly tipping incidents. Although there have been several building sites in the village over the past twelve months, these have not created any significant litter problems.

We have had excellent and prompt help from HBBC Clean Neighbourhood Officer Shaun Gould and his team, in loan of equipment, and disposal of rubbish and tipping. Over the next year we will need to spend a small amount on new equipment, including grabbers and ring-holders for black bags, but this will be well within budget.

**h) Carlton Geocache**

Puddlejumper had reported that the written log in the geocache had 19 entries for the period 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014. Most of the comments were generic, along the lines of TFTC (thanks for the cache), or recorded the names of visitors or items left and exchanged. The more informative comments included: (a) 'Local man – good find', (b) 'Lovely place', and (c) 'Spotted whilst walking dog. We live in Carlton and can't believe didn't see it before'.

Some geocachers recorded their visits on-line, but these had not been investigated. The box had become worn, and had been replaced, and a new log book had been provided on 20<sup>th</sup> April. The cache had been set up on 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 2007, and the written log contained 188 entries – an average of 2 to 3 visits per month.

The Chairman **thanked** all contributors for their reports, and for their work and that of their groups on behalf of the community.