

**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 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015 in Saint Andrew's Church, Main Street, Carlton.

**a) Carlton Charity Lands**

Ian Sarson (Clerk to the Trustees) reported as follows.

The year 2014 was a year of upheaval. The Trustees sought to change the Objects of the Charity to enable grants to be made to young people in the village. In September one such award of £200 was made. However, as a result of a disagreement with the Parish Council over the appointment of Trustees, the incumbents felt that they were unable to continue and resigned en bloc in October 2014.

The Parish Council appointed four new Representative Trustees to the Charity in November and the Trustees met the following evening to appoint two Co-optative Trustees giving a full complement of 6 Trustees. A Chairperson, Hazel Davenport, was elected and a Clerk, Ian Sarson, was appointed from within the Trustees. The other Trustees are, Christopher Brockhurst, Graham Jackson, Andrew Mitchell and Gianfranco Onesti. There was discussion about the existing Objects and the bank mandate updated.

In December 2014 and January 2015 further meetings were held to agree the Objects of the Charity, the Criteria for making an award and details of an Application Form. An article for February edition of Carlton News was also agreed. Following the meeting, the revised Objects, which closely followed those proposed by the former Trustees, were forwarded to Charity Commission for Approval.

The February edition of Carlton News invited applications for awards from young people in the village aged from 14 to 23 years of age. A total of six applications were received.

The Charity Commission gave informal notification that the revised Objects were acceptable and that an on-line application was required before the Commission could formally approve the requested changes.

The Trustees met towards the end of March to pass a resolution agreeing the changes to the Objects, to consider the 6 Applications received and make 4 awards totalling £650 subject to submission of receipts. The other 2 applicants were asked to provide more information in support of the application to the July meeting. An article for the May edition of Carlton News inviting other applications was agreed.

A formal application to change the objects has been sent to the Charity Commission.

At the start of 2014 the fund stood at £4531.37. During the year income of £902.31 was received and an award of £200 paid. Thus the fund totalled £5233.88 at the end of 2014.

**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 waymarked and clear of obstructions.

The S50 and S68 Footpath projects had been completed and opened, and the Local Walks leaflet completed and published.

Footpath S68, part of the Leicestershire Round, had been temporarily diverted at Shackerstone Station, and Leicestershire County Council has initiated legal action to re-open the definitive route.

**c) Carlton Gardening Group**

Franco Onesti (Chairman) reported as follows.

**AGM and membership**

The CGG now has 22 members. The Annual General Meeting was held at 77 Main Street, Carlton at 19:30 hrs on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015, and was attended by eight members.

Graham Jackson, Jeanette Knappett, Franco Onesti, Bill Sharp & Chris Peat were elected members of the Executive Committee. Franco Onesti was re-elected Chairman, and appointed CGG representative on the Northfields Liaison Group, and Chris Peat was re-elected Secretary.

**Work carried out during 2014**

The purchase of the site by the PC had been completed on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014 and the Northfields development had been formally opened on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014. A display about the work of the CGG had been prepared for the Horticultural Show on 30<sup>th</sup> August, and displayed in the church at this and subsequent events. Regular reports had been published in Carlton News, and the CGG now comprised 22 members. The Executive Committee had met and discussed issues on site as they arose, rather than holding formal meetings, and this had worked very well in practice.

During 2014, members of the CGG provided a total of 249.5 man-hours of volunteer labour to the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard Project. CGG volunteers have planted all of the trees specified in the approved planning application, cut the Barton Road hedge and pruned the trees in it, planted up gaps in the northern hedge, weeded and levelled the site, made a base for the picnic table, built the path, cultivated part of the site and planted the central part of the wildflower meadow, planted the shrub areas and additional trees, imported and stacked dead wood for

invertebrates, and reconstructed the two reptile and amphibian refuges. The stakes and tubes for the shrub plantings have been donated by a parishioner. A plan of the site has also been drawn up.

The construction of the path was the biggest and most difficult project undertaken by the CCG, and was completed between 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September using hired plant. The path was kindly excavated by Mick Pointon, and the stone was kindly supplied at cost by Breedon Aggregates Ltd. The hired plant was also used for ground works and site levelling between 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The path construction and associated ground works had required 123.5 man-hours of volunteer time. All of the volunteers and the catering support team were thanked for their willing hard work and support through this period of intense activity.

The Nailstone Rd end of the wildflower meadow had become waterlogged in September, and WD had kindly provided an excavator and decompacted the subsoil which had improved the drainage. WD had also broken up the concrete base of the site sign. St Andrews PCC had kindly donated three lengths of trunk from the horse chestnut tree felled in the churchyard, and these had been delivered to the site by Mick Pointon. Local residents had kindly donated three plastic compost bins to the Project.

The picnic table and park bench seat had been delivered and were awaiting installation. The PC was planning to install play equipment for toddlers between the picnic table and the parking area.

### **Forward programme**

The agreed work programme (listed below) is on schedule. The picnic bench and park bench seat have been installed, tree plantings completed, and a detailed article about the project published in the May issue of Carlton News. The wildflower meadow areas have been cultivated, weeds will be sprayed out shortly, and the areas will be seeded around the end of May.

### **Work programme for 2015**

#### **February**

- Plant self-set holly plants from parishioners in hedges
- NCHA landscape contractor to plant T5 and Nailstone Rd hedges
- Look out for cheap crab apple trees in local supermarkets and plant in shrub areas and at site entrances
- Monitor previously waterlogged area behind 11 Northfields – if still wet consider installing field drain
- Adjust level of rodding eye near to 8 Northfields
- Survey and clean Barton Rd and north hedges and beat up

#### **March**

- PC to agree final design for Toddlers Play Area – decide on neighbouring planting and location of big chestnut logs
- PC's contractor to install park bench seat
- Install picnic table; peg down compost bins to stop them blowing over

Begin to collect materials for creation of bug hotel  
Burn brash on Barton Rd wildflower meadow area  
Attempt manual weeding and cultivation of Barton Road wildflower meadow area  
Spray out weeds – unsown meadow areas, along path, between shrubs, along both sides of North hedge if agreed with adjacent landowner; hand weed north hedge if necessary  
Cultivate and level Nailstone Road wildflower meadow

**April**

Wildflowers in meadow flower April – June in second year after planting  
PC's contractor to mow meadow to 25mm when grass reaches 75mm high and repeat through season, collecting all clippings and leaving in compost bins

**May**

Article about bug hotel in Carlton News  
Sow remaining wildflower meadow areas  
Spray around shrub and fruit trees  
Maintain weed-free environment along north hedge.  
Repeat spray around shrubs and fruit trees as necessary

**June / July**

Installation of Toddlers Play Area  
Reinstatement of path and parking area around Toddlers Play Area, remodel path edges if necessary, level and cultivate border between play area and gate  
PC to consider laying fine surface on path  
Consider re-use of redundant water trough from Cemetery Field

**August**

Summer school holidays – involve children in creation of bug hotel  
Order bulbs for planting in meadow areas

**September**

First planting of bulbs - ? village event  
Survey and decide on replacement of any dead trees and shrubs and plan perennial plantings  
? Path surfacing works

**October**

Review northern hedge and decide management for next year – leave/trim/leave to grow with a view to layering after 5 years  
? final cut of wildflower meadow to 25mm  
Begin plantings of perennials  
Plant hedge (? holly) between play area and car park

**November**

PC to consider seeking quotation from grounds maintenance contractor for mowing of wildflower meadow during 2016 only

**d) Carlton Geocache**

Puddlejumper had reported that the written log in the geocache had 16 entries for the period 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

**e) Carlton Heritage Warden and Tree Warden**

Chris Peat reported that he had continued with a joint research project on the landscape around Market Bosworth, and reports were being prepared for publication. The local metal detectorist had continued to survey fields in the parish, including scoping surveys of the East Green and Cemetery Field, and had given demonstrations at the Church Fete.

Chris Peat reported that the Diamond Jubilee oak tree (*Q. petraea*) had established well, and the stakes and ties had been removed. Tree, shrub and hedge plantings in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard had been carefully planned and carried out by the Carlton Gardening Group. Wild cherry trees in Little Lane had been cut back, and the final branch removed in the long-term project to raise the crown of the copper beech tree in the churchyard. Chris had also attended a field meeting of the Ancient Tree Forum at Bradgate Park on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

**f) Carlton Youth Champions**

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

**g) Keep Carlton Tidy Group**

Irene Peat (Chairman KCTG) reported as follows:

The Village Litterpick was held over the week of 9<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> March and 23 adults and 5 young people took part this year (2014 - 24 and 4). The volume of litter was about 3 cubic metres as usual, but the finds were less interesting, mainly cans, bottles and food and garden litter. There was a large find of whisky bottles and canisters in a ditch, which was reported as tipping. Prizes were awarded as usual, and a report and photographs placed on the Parish website.

Additional litter over the 12 month period was less, with 52 carrier bags disposed of (2014 - 70). 5 tippings in all was the same as 2014. There was surprisingly little extra litter following the Richard III event on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, when Carlton was used as the traffic diversion route and there were many visitors passing through.

As usual there was excellent and prompt help from the HBBC Clean Neighbourhood Officer, this time Luke Clements, and his team, with loan of equipment and disposal of rubbish. The response to tipping is very quick and the men are happy to take a verbal referral. Luke has used the Carlton Group as an example of good practice when he talks to schoolchildren and others about litter picking, and the idea of prizes proves very popular.

The Group spent some funds on new grabbers, and also litterhoops which made picking much easier.

**h) Northfields Liaison Group**

Ian Sarson (PC Representative) reported that the Group had not yet met.

**i) Carlton Parish Council website**

The Clerk reported on usage of the PC website, which had continued to increase overall, though less rapidly than in previous years. There had been a surge in access to the News page, possibly because information had been included about the reinterment of Richard III, and event which had attracted international interest. Usage of those pages such as *Council information* or *Finance* which would only be of interest to local residents appeared to be levelling off at around 400 hits pa. In contrast, usage of the *Carlton history* page was increasing rapidly.

<b>Page Title</b>	<b>Page views 2012-13</b>	<b>Page views 2013-14</b>	<b>Page views 2014-15</b>
	1&1 website statistics 1/4/12 - 31/3/13	1&1 website statistics 1/4/13 – 31/3/14	1&1 website statistics 1/4/14 – 31/3/15
Home Page	2688	6701	6085
News	3261	3517	8414
Diary	406	614	685
Meetings & reports	694	877	1156
Parish Councillors	402	471	526
Cemetery & Churchyard	266	408	549
Parish organisations	317	439	594
Affordable Housing Project <sup>2</sup>	675	807	
Parish Plan & Appraisal	330	395	484
Council information	330	411	422
Parish organisations <sup>1</sup>		439	594
Finance	256	432	394
Carlton Gardening Group <sup>1</sup>		418	439
Carlton History	366	595	981
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>9991</b>	<b>16524</b>	<b>21323</b>
<b>Total site visits</b>	<b>13432</b>	<b>20861</b>	<b>25870</b>
<b>Total page impressions</b>	<b>22683</b>	<b>31242</b>	<b>39810</b>

<sup>1</sup> page created 2012

<sup>2</sup> page removed 2014

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