

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 11th May 2016 in Saint Andrew's Church, Main Street, Carlton.

a) Carlton Charity Lands

Ian Sarson (Clerk to the Trustees) presented the following report.

As Councillors are no doubt aware, Carlton Charity Lands uses the annual rental income from two fields in the parish of Carlton to offer financial assistance to young people at the early stages of their careers. Grants are made to help with the costs of apprenticeships, buying books, equipment, fees, travel costs and starting a business.

The current Trustees were appointed in November 2014 and after an initial period of developing criteria and procedures for making awards, the meeting in March 2015 made four awards totalling £650. Subsequently, the award for £50 was not claimed.

Three more meetings took place during 2015 and two further awards were made, each for the sum of £200. One of the awards was support for an individual who had spent time volunteering in Africa. The recipient subsequently wrote a short article about their experiences for Carlton News.

Alternative ways of attracting applications were tried during the year including notices in the bus shelters, fliers and forms in the Church, a stall at the annual fete and articles in each edition of Carlton News.

On the ground, work was undertaken in November to lift the crowns of the trees within the hedgerows of the Charity Lands' fields adjacent to Congerstone Lane. Also, a Willow tree next to the small pool by the railway line was heavily cut back at the same time. The Tree Warden provide much-needed technical expertise and valuable assistance in carrying out these works and the Trustees' would like to record their thanks for that invaluable help.

During the works at the small pool, the culvert that takes flows from the pool and passes beneath the railway was seen to be in a state of disrepair. As the culvert is wholly within the railway's land, concern was communicated to the railway as a partial collapse could obstruct the outflow from the pool. Despite a subsequent reminder, no acknowledgement or response has been received.

Financial Report for 2015

	£.p
Balance of funds at start of year	5,233.88
Income	900.00
Expenditure	-1,000.00
Balance of funds at year-end	5,133.88

Hazel Davenport, Chairperson,
May 2016

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.

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.

With the support of the landowners, a grant application had been submitted to the H&BBC Parish & Community Initiative Fund to replace the last stile on footpath S68 with a hand gate. The works would be carried out in the autumn.

c) Carlton Gardening Group

Franco Onesti (Chairman) reported as follows.

Membership and appointments

The CGG has 22 members. The Annual General Meeting was held at 77 Main Street, Carlton at 19:30 hrs on Monday 4th April 2016, and attended by 9 members.

Graham Jackson, Jeanette Knappett, Franco Onesti, Bill Sharp & Chris Peat were elected members of the Executive Committee. Councillor Ian Sarson is an *ex officio* member of this committee. Franco Onesti was elected Chairman, and Chris Peat was elected Secretary by members of the Executive Committee. Franco Onesti was appointed CGG representative on the Northfields Liaison Group.

Work carried out in 2015

During 2015, members of the CGG provided a total of 187 man-hours of volunteer labour to the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard Project. In addition, Brian and Ben Sutton carried out the first stage of the excavation for the Toddlers Play Area and spread the topsoil on nearby land, and AR Demolition Ltd carried out the second stage of the excavation and removed the subsoil from the site, all free of charge.

The Toddlers Play Area and park bench seat were installed by contractors appointed by the Parish Council. The meadow areas were mowed by a contractor appointed by the Parish Council.

CGG volunteers installed the picnic table, weeded and planted up gaps in the north hedge, planted the final fruit trees, cultivated, levelled and seeded the meadow areas, levelled the car parking area and surfaced it together with the path, planted a box hedge next to the Play Area, built the bug hotel, planted bulbs, imported woodland plants, made and installed entrance signs, and cut the Nailstone Road hedge. The hard landscaping is now complete, and volunteer tasks going forward will comprise grounds maintenance and enhancement of the plantings.

The bulb plantings so far comprise snowdrops, bluebells, aconites, wild daffodils, fritillaries, narcissi, crocuses, and 'Carlton' daffodils in the Nailstone Rd verge.

The woodland plantings so far comprise ferns (3 species), wild garlic, woodruff, wood anemone,

violets, celandine, primrose, wood spurge, dog's mercury, gladdon iris, yellow flag, honeysuckle, and geranium.

The Chairman had represented the CGG at the first meeting of the Northfields Liaison Group, where minor grounds maintenance and planting issues had been resolved.

Reports about the project have been published in the February, May, August, and November 2015 issues of Carlton News, and a presentation about the project was made to the Market Bosworth Natural History Society.

A guided tour of the Orchard had been arranged for 6pm on Friday 10th June, when it was hoped that it would be possible to identify the wild flowers in the meadow.

Work programme for 2016

February

Adjust position of chestnut logs near picnic table
Survey and clean Barton Rd and north hedges, order extra whips and shrubs and plant
Plant feature holly at S end Barton Rd hedge
Plant hedge facing electricity transformer
WD/NCHA to plant hedge along Nailstone Rd frontage

March

Import additional woodland plants and ferns
Agree fence plantings with residents and NCHA and implement
Review bulb plantings, spot treat or dig out weeds as necessary
Review all tree and shrub plantings, replace any dead trees
Spray out weeds around all trees, and in path and parking areas

April

PC to enter project in RCC Village Achievement Awards competition
PC to investigate s106 funding for path and vehicular access surfacing
If available, use remaining stone to surface Little Lane
Wildflowers in meadow flower April – June
Consider repair of Nailstone Rd reptile & amphibian refuge
Inspect path with a view to making up any holes or hollows and rolling

May

Level and surface path and vehicular access if s106 funding available
Spray around shrub and fruit trees
Maintain weed-free environment along north hedge
Repeat spray around shrubs and fruit trees as necessary
Consider removal of stakes and ties from trees planted in 2013 (T1, T2, T3, T6, T7)

June

10th June – guided walk around site and identification of wildflowers
Spray out weeds around all trees
Treat park bench seat timbers with tung oil
? treat picnic table with oil/preservative

July

First cut of wildflower meadows by contractor. CGG to rake up first clippings.
After this, meadow will be maintained by contractor at 25mm height for rest of season, with clippings removed to compost bins.

August

Consider ordering additional bulbs
Inspect and weed if necessary, maintain weed-free environment round all trees
? pick first fruit and ?enter in Horticultural Show

September

Survey and decide on replacement of any dead trees and shrubs
Result of RCA Village Achievement Awards competition

October

Review hedgerow management – northern hedge to be trimmed or let grow with view to layering after 5 years or so
? final cut of wildflower meadow to 25mm by contractor

November

Trim Nailstone Rd and north hedges

December

d) Carlton Geocache

Puddlejumper had reported that the written log in the geocache had 10 entries for the period 1st May 2015 to 30th April 2016.

e) Carlton Heritage & Tree Warden

Chris Peat reported that he had continued with a joint research project on the history of the landscape around Market Bosworth. One research paper on the medieval parks had been accepted for publication in the Leicestershire Historian, and a more general work was in preparation.

Chris Peat reported that every tree and shrub planted in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard had grown, weeding had been carried out, and plantings of woodland floor plants were being made. The specimen trees planted in 2013 before the start of the building works would be

examined in the autumn, with a view to removing the supporting stakes. Judicious pruning would be carried out to shape the fruit trees as they grew on.

Two Italian alder trees near the railway bridge had died and had been removed; one had shoots growing up from the root plate which might make a multi-stemmed tree. Advice on tree management had been provided to the Carlton Charity Lands, and arising from this the hedgerow trees along Congerstone Lane had been pruned and the pollard willow next to the field pond had been re-pollarded by volunteers. During this work the common alder tree next to the field pond had been measured and found to be the biggest alder recorded so far in Leicestershire. The measurements had been reported to the Ancient Tree Register, and an article had been published in the May issue of Carlton News.

f) Carlton Parish Council website

The Clerk reported that the 1&1 site analysis programmes appeared to have been changed, so the figures might not be directly comparable with previous years. The data for April – July inclusive had been lost, so the figures had been adjusted. It appeared that more users were hitting the news pages, probably as a result of Google searches, than the home page.

Page Title	Page views 2013-14 1&1 website statistics 1/4/13 - 31/3/14	Page views 2014-15 1&1 website statistics 1/4/14 – 31/3/15	Page views 2015-16¹ 1&1 website statistics 1/4/15 – 31/3/1
Home Page	6701	6085	3835
News	3517	8414	5658
Diary	614	685	317
Meetings & reports	877	1156	772
Parish Councillors	471	526	313
Cemetery & Churchyard	408	549	231
Parish organisations	439	594	299
Affordable Housing Project ²	675	807	
Parish Plan & Appraisal	395	484	247
Council information	411	422	215
Finance	432	394	181
Carlton Gardening Group	418	439	217
Carlton History	595	981	351
TOTALS	16524	21323	12636
Total site visits	20861	25870	5449
Total page impressions	31242	39810	12648

¹ figures adjusted, and may not be directly comparable with previous years.

² page removed 2014

g) Carlton Youth Champions

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

h) Keep Carlton Tidy Group

Irene Peat (Chairman KCTG) reported as follows:

The Village Litterpick was held over the weekend of 13th March and 22 adults and 8 young people took part this year (2015 - 23 and 5). The pick was registered with the Clean for the Queen 90th Birthday Event. 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, and a collection of tyres. Prizes were awarded as usual, and a report and photographs placed on the Parish website.

Additional litter picked over the 12 month period was more than double last year's amount, with 117 carrier bags and 11 black bags disposed of, but only 3 fly tipping were reported (5 in 2015). The warning sign at the Lount Road layby seems to have been quite effective.

As usual there was excellent and prompt help from the HBBC Senior Clean Neighbourhood Officer, this time Lisa Kirby, and her 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.

The Group did not spend any money this year.

i) Northfields Liaison Group

Ian Sarson (PC Representative) reported that the inaugural and only meeting of the Group had been held on 30th November 2015. The meeting discussed issues of grounds maintenance and outstanding planting. Also raised was the requirement of Northfields residents having local connections and the importance of potential applicants being on the H&BBC Housing Register. Applicants would then have to bid through the H&BBC choice-based letting scheme.

The next meeting is currently being arranged and will take place in the next few weeks.

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