

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 10th May 2017 in Saint Andrew's Church, Main Street, Carlton.

a) Carlton Charity Lands

Ian Sarson (Clerk to the Trustees) presented the following report from Hazel Davenport, Chairperson.

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 and travel costs.

During 2016 a total of 9 awards were made involving £1,498.80. The finance was provided for, amongst other things, course fees and equipment.

To encourage applications, an article about the work of the Trust has appeared in every issue of Carlton News. Application forms have been placed in the Church and posters placed in the bus shelters.

Owing to the number of applications received and the experience that the Trustees have gained since their appointment in 2014, a review of the Criteria for an Award was undertaken. Consequently, the maximum amount of an award was reduced to £150 (annual income is £900). Also, an applicant will only receive three awards and the lower age of an applicant was increased to 16 years of age.

The next meeting will take place in November 2017.

Financial Report for 2016

	£.p
Balance of funds at start of year	5,133.88
Income	900.00
Expenditure	-1,530.58
Balance of funds at year-end	4,503.30

b) Carlton Footpath Group

John Piggon (Chairman) was unable to attend, but had advised that all public footpaths in the Parish were waymarked and in good order.

c) Carlton Gardening Group

Franco Onesti (Chairman) had been unable to attend but had submitted a written report.

Membership and appointments

The CGG has 18 members. The Annual General Meeting was held at 77 Main Street, Carlton at 19:30 hrs on Monday 20th March 2017, and attended by 8 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 2016

During 2016, 13 members of the CGG provided a total of 85.5 man-hours of volunteer labour in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard (48 hours), and in the Churchyard and Cemetery (37.5 hours). No trees or shrubs had died, trees had been pruned as necessary, some tree stakes, ties and tubes had been removed, mature ferns (kindly donated by Market Bosworth Parish Council) had been imported, a holly hedge had been planted along the Nailstone Road boundary, a specimen holly had been planted at the southern end of the Barton Road hedge, and shrubs had been planted next to the boarded fences and marked by stakes.

The daffodils in the Nailstone Rd verge had turned out not to be the variety 'Carlton', and only about half of those planted had survived because of lorry damage.

A guided tour of the Orchard had been held at 6pm on Friday 10th June 2016, with a display of the wild flowers on the site. The event had been attended by 6 members of the CGG, but had been brief because of a torrential rainstorm which had begun at exactly 6 pm.

The project had come second in the RCC Village Achievement Awards competition.

NCHA was proposing to replace the three areas of wild flower planting at the Barton Road entrance to Northfields with beds of *Lonicera*, *Lavendula*, and *Viburnum davidii*.

The wildflower meadow areas had exhibited a striking succession of flowers and grasses from April to June, but the growth had been very vigorous and tall, and plants had hung over the paths. Mowing and raking up the clippings and disposing of them had proved very difficult because of the thick stems, wet weather and volume of material. The PCs maintenance contract had been revised for 2017 to include regular mowing of a strip along each side of the path, and spraying along the bottom of the boarded fences. It was hoped that the meadow would gradually stabilise and the amount of growth reduce as the turf developed and the soil became less fertile.

The north hedge had not been kept clear of weeds because volunteers had not been available when the weather was suitable for spraying. For similar reasons, weed growth in the woodland areas had not been controlled early in the season, making these areas look unsightly and neglected, and requiring the weed growth to be cut back in October.

In the Churchyard and Cemetery a top soil storage area had been installed, spoil moved and ground levelled, and overgrown and invasive shrubs and brambles cut back. The brambles were expected to try to grow back in the spring, and the new growth would need to be sprayed out before grass seed was sown.

Work in 2017 would be focussed on path surfacing in the Orchard and Little Lane, weed control in the Orchard, and bramble control and shrub management in the Churchyard and Cemetery.

Work programme for 2017**February**

- Lay bark chips along box hedge
- Survey and clean Barton Rd and north hedges, plant holly in any gaps

March

- PC's contractor will mow path edges and grass under Shackerstone apple tree through year, and maintain weed-free strip along bottom of boarded fence
- Move hedgehog box and transplant ferns from corner of boarded fence adj no.10
- Transplant holly whips from gardens into gaps in Barton Road hedge.
- Spray out weeds around all trees, and in path and parking areas
- Cut brambles from under shrubs in Cemetery and then spray out new shoots

April

- PC to organise s106 funding and project to surface CDJO path, vehicular access and Little Lane path.
- Wildflowers in meadow flower April – June
- Carry out weeding as necessary in woodland areas
- Draft article about the CGG for May issue of Carlton News

May

- Spray around shrub and fruit trees
- Maintain weed-free environment along north hedge, Barton Rd hedges
- Repeat spray around shrubs and fruit trees as necessary
- Consider removal of all remaining stakes and tubes from woodland areas

June

- Consider repair of Nailstone Rd reptile & amphibian refuge
- Spray out weeds around all trees

July

- Second cut of wildflower meadows by contractor. CGG to rake up 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 - ? cyclamen under holly tree in Churchyard; ? snowdrops in highway verge under Nailstone Road hedge
- Inspect and weed if necessary, maintain weed-free environment round all trees
- ? pick first fruit and ?enter in Horticultural Show
- Treat park bench seat timbers and picnic table with tung oil
- Make display about work of CGG for Horticultural Show.

September

- Examine shrubs in Cemetery – remove/spray out any brambles, consider additional pruning

October

- Final cut of wildflower meadow to 25mm by contractor
- Tree planting – *Quercus petraea* in roadside hedges if PC grant application successful

November

- Trim Nailstone Rd and north hedges

d) Carlton Geocache

Puddlejumper had sent a written report. Between 1st May 2016 and 30th April 2017 there had been 6 'finds' reported on-line and 5 entries in the cache site book. There were also 5 notes left in the cache and two letters signed by 19 and 11 members respectively of the Newbold Verdon U3A Walking Group.

e) Carlton Heritage & Tree Warden

Chris Peat reported that work on the history of the landscape around Market Bosworth had continued through the year. A paper on the medieval parks had been published (A Squires & C Peat, 2016. The Medieval Parks of Market Bosworth. Leics. Historian no.52, p.11-18) and summarised in Aspect (26 (5) 25-28). A general paper on landscape history was in preparation.

Chris Peat had been assisting with excavations on the site of Carlton Hall, at the rear of 42-46 Main Street. A Victorian cellar had been fully excavated and associated brick walls exposed. One section of brick wall had been built on top of part of a T-shaped section of walling built of Carlton Stone and lying at a slight angle. Pottery finds had been dated as Iron Age, Roman and Medieval to recent, so there was clearly a long history of human activity in the centre of the village. A short summary of the work in progress had been published in Carlton News; a more detailed account was in preparation.

Chris Peat had taken part in the Rothley Big Dig in July 2016, and had volunteered for the Market Bosworth Links Project to excavate 26 test pits in the town, which would take place on 22nd-23rd July 2017.

Tree work for the PC had consisted of formative pruning of trees in the Diamond Jubilee Orchard, and the removal of most of the shrub tubes and some of the tree stakes. One old willow pollard next to Congerstone Road, and two next to Carlton Brook near the Ashby Canal had been re-pollarded on behalf of the landowner.

f) Carlton Parish Council website

The Clerk noted that the 1&1 site analysis programmes had been changed in 2015, so the figures for 2014-15 were not directly comparable with later years. Some data had been lost in 2016; the figures for 2015-16 include estimates for the missing months.

Page Title	Page views 2014-15	Page views 2015-16	Page views 2016-17
	1&1 analytics 1/4/14 – 31/3/15	1&1 analytics 1/4/15 – 31/3/16	1&1 analytics 1/4/16-31/3/17
Home Page	6085	3835	4374
News	8414	5658	3828
Diary	685	317	311
Meetings & reports	1156	772	1445
Parish Councillors	526	313	318
Cemetery & Churchyard	549	231	297
Parish organisations	594	299	324
Parish Plan & Appraisal	484	247	282
Council information	422	215	246
Finance	394	181	231
Carlton Gardening Group	439	217	248
Carlton History	981	351	398
TOTALS	20729	12636	12302
Total site visits	25870	5449	4374
Page impressions/visit	1.54	2.32	2.15

g) Carlton Youth Champions

Rosi Yule reported that strong representations had been made to Arriva about the impact of the withdrawal of the 153 bus service on young people who were just beginning to travel independently.

h) Keep Carlton Tidy Group

Irene Peat (Chairman) was unable to attend and had submitted a written report.

The Village Litterpick was held on Sunday 19th March, with some members completing a pick during the preceding week. 23 adults and 3 young people took part this year (2016: 22 and 8). The pick was registered with the Great British Spring Clean. The volume of litter was about 2.5 m³. Prizes were awarded as usual, and a report and photographs placed on the Parish Council website.

Additional litter picked over the 12 month period was also less, with 31 carrier bags and 33 black bags disposed of (2015: 117 and 11), and only 2 tippings were reported (3 in 2016).

As usual there was excellent and prompt help from the HBBC Senior Clean Neighbourhood Officer, Rob Smart, and his team, with loan of equipment and disposal of rubbish.

Bagged dog waste has recently been left in the gateway near to the village nameplate on Congerstone Lane, and I suggest that it might be helpful to install a litter bin on one of the posts supporting this sign.

i) Northfields Liaison Group

Cllr Sarson (PC Representative) reported.

Since the last Annual Parish Council meeting, Northfields Liaison Group has met twice, in November 2016 and April 2017. The meetings discussed issues of grounds maintenance and outstanding planting. The Housing Association has decided to replace the three small wildflower meadows at the Barton Road entrance to the Diamond Jubilee Orchard. During the summer, the areas will be re-planted with shrubs providing an improved appearance and reduced maintenance.

The County Council have installed a kerbline to mark the boundary between the public highway and the Northfields development.

Also highlighted was the requirement of potential Northfields' residents having local connections and the importance of new 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 will take place in April 2018.

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