

**Annual Reports from Parish Organisations and Parish Council Representatives**

The following reports were presented under agenda item 6 at the Annual Meeting of Carlton Parish Council which was held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in Saint Andrew’s Church, Main Street, Carlton.

**a) Carlton Charity Lands**

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.

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 and notices included with the flyer for the annual village fete.

During 2017 a total of 8 grants were made involving £1145.00. The finance was provided for, amongst other things, course fees and equipment.

At the start of 2018, one of the Trustees, Andrew Mitchell moved from the village and resigned as a Trustee. The Parish Council has appointed Andrew Tee, a resident of the village, to the vacancy.

The next meeting will take place in November 2018.

*Financial Report for 2017*

	£.p
Balance of funds at start of year	4,503.30
Income	1,000.00
<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>-1,145.00</u>
Balance of funds at year-end	4,358.30

Hazel Davenport (Chairperson)

**b) Carlton Footpath Group**

All public rights of way in the Parish are fully waymarked, and all stiles and gates are in good order. Footpath S68 had been made impassable by churned up mud near the northern boundary of the Parish caused by ditching and hedging works, and one finger post had been broken. This area will be inspected in the next few days.

John Piggon

**c) Carlton Gardening Group**

**Works carried out since the last meeting**

The CGG currently has 13 members providing a total of 102.2 man-hours of volunteer labour in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard (88 hours), Little Lane (12.2 hours), and in

the Churchyard and Cemetery (2 hours). We express our appreciation of the refreshments provided to working parties by Enid Morgan and Tania Sharp.

**a) Diamond Jubilee Orchard**

A new wearing surface had been laid on the path, contractors parking area, and site entrance over a period of three days using hired plant and funded by s106 developer contributions. All of the remaining shrub tubes and stakes had been removed. The fruit trees were still staked and had been pruned, and tubes had been left to allow easy spraying.

The NCHA border next to the path at the Barton Rd site entrance had been adopted by the neighbour, and planted with attractive shrubs. This makes for a much more attractive entrance to the Orchard.

The wildflower meadow areas had exhibited an interesting succession of flowers and grasses from April to June, but the growth had been very vigorous and difficult to clear and dispose of. Following discussions with the PC, the contracted maintenance regime had been changed for 2018 – most of the grassed areas would be mowed, leaving only two areas of wildflowers.

After removal of the cuttings from the wildflower meadow, the paths had all been covered with tiny weed seedlings which had required treatment with herbicide. A hedgehog box had been moved from the meadow area and installed in Little Lane.

The site had been cleared of weeds, the north hedge had been side trimmed and gaps planted up, and bark chips had been laid along the box hedge.

**b) Churchyard and Cemetery**

Sunken graves had been levelled and spoil from grave digging had been used to level a small area of the site. *Cyclamen* had been planted under the variegated holly next to the church path and were growing well.

**c) Little Lane**

A wearing surface of 4mm to dust granite had been laid over a period of two days, with help from a local excavator operator who had kindly loaded the stone, and a tractor owner who had transported it without charge. A mixed group of tall shrubs at the northern end of Little Lane had blown over, and had been cleared and disposed of with help from the neighbouring farmer.

**d) Roadside hedges**

Five specimen trees of *Quercus petraea* had been planted, thanks to the kind permission of the landowners, and a grant of 60% of the costs from H&BBC.

**Forward work programme:**

**April**

Orchard	Monitor weeds in paths and Nailstone Rd hedge and spray if necessary. Spray round fruit trees. Check whether shrubs along board fences need wire or tying up. Peg down compost bins. Transplant ferns away from board fence adj no.10 to allow mowing.
Cemetery	Level graves and spoil; sow grass seed.
Little Lane	Control bramble growth in bare area near seat.

**May**

Orchard Sow grass seed at Nailstone Road site entrance.  
 Cemetery Attack brambles growing through shrubs.  
 Little Lane Consider planting of tree to mark Royal Wedding.

**June**

Orchard Consider repair of Nailstone Road reptile and Amphibian refuge.

**July**

Orchard Cut wildflower meadow areas and dispose of cuttings.  
 Assess new contracted maintenance regime.

**August**

Orchard Treat park bench seat timbers and picnic table with tung oil.  
 Make display about CGG for Horticultural Show.  
 Consider ordering additional bulbs.  
 Consider entering fruit in Horticultural Show.

**September**

Orchard Review shrubs.  
 Consider removal of all remaining tree stakes.  
 Roadsides Review plantings of *Quercus petraea* in roadside hedges; replace any dead trees; invite landowner on northern side of Congerstone Lane between village and brook to consider an additional planting.

**October**

Orchard Autumn clean-up.

**November**

Orchard Trim Nailstone Rd and north hedges.

**January**

Orchard Consider planting snow drops in the green under Nailstone Rd hedge.

Graham Jackson (Chairman)

**d) Carlton Heritage & Tree Warden**

**a) Heritage**

I have helped to complete a trial excavation on the site of Carlton Hall. A full report has been prepared by Richard and Robert Liddington and is available from the PC website; a summary had been published in Carlton News. I also participated in the Bosworth Links project in 2017, and have volunteered for Phase II in 2018. A report on the 2017 work is available on-line.

**b) Trees**

I attended a Tree Warden Forum at The Allerton Project at Loddington on 18<sup>th</sup> November, and a fruit tree training course at Donington le Heath Manor House on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

The Allerton Project was set up in 1992, and is run by the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust which carries out practical research into how modern commercial farming can be combined with conservation of wildlife and the environment and game management. Copies of a booklet about this work have been given to local farmers, and I have suggested that a representative of the project be invited to speak at a meeting of the Market Bosworth Natural History Society.

Ash dieback is attacking trees in East Leics, and has been reported in the National Forest. So far, I have found no diseased trees in Carlton. This disease is expected to kill most ash trees in Leicestershire within the next 20 years, and will have a significant impact on the appearance of the countryside. Tree Wardens have been urged to encourage

landowners to plant or promote replacement hedgerow trees, and an article about this has been published in Carlton News. I worked with the PC Chairman to collect and plant five specimen trees of *Quercus petraea* in roadside hedgerows for the benefit of future generations, and thank the landowners concerned for their support for this project and H&BBC for a grant towards the cost.

Formative pruning has been carried out on the apple trees in the CDJO. Some roadside trees have been cut back, a broken-down willow next to the Stony Brook near footpath S71 has been pollarded and is now in good condition, and another neglected pollard further down the Stony Brook on private land was re-pollarded after several large branches were blown down.

Chris Peat

**e) Carlton Parish Council website**

Some data was lost in 2016: the figures for 2015-16 include estimates for the missing months. The sudden increase in visitors to the news page (in September 2017) is unexplained, but probably due to an item on this page containing a keyword relevant to a major news item.

<b>Page Title</b>	<b>Page impressions 2015-16</b>	<b>Page impressions 2016-17</b>	<b>Page impressions 2017-18</b>
	1&1 analytics 1.4.15 to 31.3.16	1&1 analytics 1.4.16 to 31.3.17	1&1 analytics 1.4.17 to 31.3.18
Home Page	3835	4374	5044
News	5658	3828	14835
Diary	317	311	677
Meetings & reports	772	1445	1483
Parish Councillors	313	318	355
Cemetery & Churchyard	231	297	317
Parish organisations	299	324	394
Parish Plan & Appraisal	247	282	285
Council information	215	246	344
Finance	181	231	278
Carlton Gardening Group	217	248	263
Carlton History	351	398	373
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>12636</b>	<b>12302</b>	<b>24648</b>
<b>Total site visits</b>	<b>5449</b>	<b>4374</b>	<b>5872</b>
<b>Page impressions/visit</b>	<b>2.32</b>	<b>2.15</b>	<b>3.40</b>

Parish Clerk

**f) Carlton Youth Champions**

There had been no activity in the past year.

Rosi Yule

**g) Keep Carlton Tidy Group**

The Village Litterpick was scheduled for Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March, but had to be postponed because of snow; some members had picked earlier and so the event lasted from 14<sup>th</sup> March to

2<sup>nd</sup> April. 10 adults and 3 young people took part this year (23 adults and 3 young people in 2017).

The volume of litter to be collected was about half that of previous years, and members were able to complete their section quicker, and to cover a larger area. There was also less variety in the finds, which consisted mainly of cans bottles and food litter, although there were more bits of car following skids into the verges from icy road surfaces. Prizes were awarded as usual, and a report and photographs placed on the parish website.

Additional litter picked over the 12 month period was much less, with 9 carrier bags and 22 black bags disposed of (2017 - 31 and 33), and there was only one tipping to report, (2017 – 2), although there was an abandoned car to be dealt with.

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.

Irene Peat

#### **h) Northfields Liaison Group**

During the Council year 2017/18, only one meeting of the Group was held in April 2018. There was a very sparse agenda for the meeting, there being no substantial issues to be discussed. The absence of issues is a testament to how well the development has integrated into the life of the village.

The Constitution of the Group requires a meeting to take place at least once a year. A proposal has been made that meetings only take place when there is an issue to be discussed to avoid calling unnecessary meetings. This approach was supported by the Parish Council at the April meeting. Nottingham Community Housing Association is consulting relevant parties to determine whether this change can be agreed.

Cllr I Sarson (PC Representative)