

# Carlton Gardening Group

## Annual Report to Carlton Parish Council

May 2016

### 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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**

10<sup>th</sup> 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**

Franco Onesti (Chairman)

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016