

Carlton Gardening Group

Annual Report 2018-19

The CGG had 15 members who had provided a total of 82.5 man-hours of volunteer labour in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard (33.75 hours), Little Lane (0.25 hours), Churchyard and Cemetery (41 hours), Carlton Green (2.0 hours) and on roadside tree plantings (5.5 hours) during 2018. Enid Morgan and Tania Sharp **were thanked** for providing refreshments for working parties. All members had signed consent forms, as required by the Data Protection Regulations.

a) Diamond Jubilee Orchard

The revised mowing regime had resulted in a much neater appearance, and had reduced the volume of clippings to be removed. The long grass had been cut with an Allen scythe and made into hay which had been donated to a local equestrian establishment.

A long drought over the summer had resulted in the death of about half of the holly whips in the Nailstone Road hedge, and a damson tree (T32). These had all been replaced. Stakes had been removed from all of the fruit trees except for the new T32, and the Shackerstone apple (T36) which had blown half over and been pulled back upright, pruned and staked.

The specimen holly at the end of the Barton Rd hedge had been cut off at ground level, possibly by the verge mower. This tree had been replaced and protected by a metal guard.

Rotting bark had been removed from the chestnut logs next to the picnic table and they had also been smoothed to provide a better seating surface.

Weed growth had been controlled; the path surface had stood up well to wear; the Barton Rd hedge had been cut and the northern hedge side-trimmed and gaps planted up.

Shrubs had been planted by a resident inside the knee-rail alongside the rear access to 9 Northfields.

b) Churchyard and Cemetery

Shrubs in the SW corner of the churchyard had been cut hard back, and a variegated holly on the west side of the church path had been pruned to a standard tree. In both cases vigorous bramble growth had been removed, emergent bramble shoots treated with herbicide, and cyclamen planted.

A small section of bank between the church path and a kerbed grave had been re-graded and turfed, and this experiment had worked well. The remaining areas of bank would be re-graded to a similar profile by a volunteer contractor when pipes were laid for a servery and toilet, and would then be cultivated by the Gardening Group.

The dead flowering cherry tree, and a rowan tree in poor condition near the church gate had been felled; the rowan had been found to be hollow and at risk of collapse. The rowan had been left to see whether it would coppice from the stool. The dead cherry root would be removed when the path banks were re-graded; possible replacement trees were being considered by the PC and PCC.

c) Little Lane

The path had settled down well and provided an excellent all-weather walking surface. Bramble growth in the cleared areas had been controlled by spot treatment with herbicide.

d) Roadside hedges

Three out of the five oak tree planted in 2017 had died in the summer drought, in spite of watering. All three trees had now been replaced with smaller container-grown oak trees.

e) Carlton Green

The ash tree on the West Green had been cut back because some branches were rubbing against cables. Encroaching turf had been trimmed back from the footway along the East Green.

Forward work programme

Spring

Orchard	Liaise with contractor about areas to be mowed. Weed grassed areas. 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. Transplant ferns away from board fence adj no.10 to allow mowing. Prune plum and damson trees. Consider removal of wire fence near electricity transformer. Check compost bins, use/dispose of contents, consider reducing number of bins, stabilise retained bins.
Churchyard	Remove bramble regrowth from cleared areas and spot treat and new shoots.
Cemetery	Level new graves; sow grass seed; check made-up ground. Lay out new burial area.
Little Lane	Control bramble growth in bare area near seat.

Summer

- Orchard Cut/remove weeds from woodland areas. Clear hay from meadow; rebuild Nailstone Rd reptile refuge. Liaise with contractor over installation of new bench seat; make good path after works. Treat park bench seat timbers with tung oil and picnic table with preservative. Consider plantings of bulbs - ? clumps of Carlton daffodils in woodland, grape hyacinths near path in central section.
- Churchyard Consider planting of dwarf narcissi along E boundary.
- Little Lane Examine leggy crab apple leaning over neighbour's wall and remove if necessary.
- Roadsides Check planted oak trees and water if necessary.

Autumn

- Orchard Cut Barton Rd hedge; trim sides of north hedge; autumn weeding clear-up. Consider ordering additional bulbs. Consider entering fruit in Horticultural Show. Prune apple, pear and non-fruit trees. Prepare display for Heritage Weekend (21st Sept).
- Churchyard Possibility of re-grading banks along church path; transplant cyclamen before works begin, move some to Orchard.
- Little Lane Consider planting of hornbeam at N end. Prune holly and bird cherry to ensure clear headroom over path.

Winter

Rest and recuperate.

Graham Jackson (Chairman)

The report above was presented at the Annual Meeting of Carlton Parish Council on Wednesday 8th May 2019 and has been extracted from Report 2019-16.

The complete reports, and minutes of the meeting can be found in the Meetings and Reports section of this website.