

Carlton Gardening Group

Annual Report 2019-20

The CGG has 15 members who had provided a total of 65.5 man-hours of volunteer labour in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard (35.5 hours), Little Lane (4.0 hours), Churchyard and Cemetery (19 hours), Carlton Green (0 hours) and on roadside tree plantings (7 hours) during 2019. I thank Enid Morgan and Tania Sharp for providing refreshments for working parties. All members had signed consent forms, as required by the Data Protection Regulations.

A display about the work of the Group had been exhibited at the Heritage Open Day in the Church on 28th September. Chris had led guided walks through the village which had included the Churchyard and Diamond Jubilee Orchard.

Victoria plums from T34 had been entered in the Horticultural Show, but had not been awarded a place in a strong class.

a) Diamond Jubilee Orchard

The revised mowing regime had worked well, with fewer clippings requiring removal and disposal. The meadow areas had not been cut until September which had left thick stalks and a poor appearance; it had been agreed with the contractor that these areas would be cut at the end of June in 2020.

The holly whips in the Nailstone Road hedge were all alive, but had not grown much. The new damson tree (T32) had shown good growth after a shaky start. The Shackerstone apple (T36) had been left staked.

The specimen holly at the end of the Barton Rd hedge was growing on well.

There were bracket fungi growing from the chestnut logs next to the picnic table and these logs were beginning to rot and would probably not last much longer. The log further west along the side of the path had been found to be rotten and had been cut into lengths and added to the woodpile near the reptile refuge. The narrow area of grass between the hedge and the path had been levelled, and would be mowed in 2020.

Untidy growth and weeds had been removed from the area near the board fence to No.10, but well-growing ferns had been left in this shaded corner.

The Barton Rd hedge had not yet been cut because of bad weather.

A new park bench seat had been installed on a concrete base by Ray May, and the area in front of it levelled and gravelled by the CGG. The bench and base had been funded

by s106 funds and a grant from the Borough Council.

Weed growth had been controlled; the path surface had stood up well to wear; the box hedge next to the Toddlers Play Area was bushing up nicely; and dwarf narcissi (Tete a tete) had been planted in clumps along the northern side of the path.

The ash trees in the Barton Rd hedge showed no sign of ash die-back disease.

The bottom of an old oil drum had been donated by the PCC for burning rubbish.

A botanical survey of the site had been carried out in June by Steve Woodward and Helen Ikin of the Market Bosworth Natural History Society. Their species list had been up-loaded onto the Parish Council's website.

b) Churchyard and Cemetery

The rowan tree in the NW corner of the churchyard had coppiced up vigorously from the stool, and the new growth reduced to 7 shoots. Naturalised cyclamen from the bank near the gate had been transplanted into the grass near the rowan tree and were growing well and in flower.

Two English yew trees to the west of the church tower had grown out over the roof of the adjacent property and had been cut back.

An area of concrete to the SW of the church tower had been broken up and removed to facilitate the excavation of one of three archaeological test pits. The pits had revealed few finds: a piece of medieval floor tile, two pieces of Swithland slate roof tile with fixing holes, and a piece of clay pipe stem.

c) Little Lane

The leggy crab apple near the S end of Little Lane which had been leaning over the neighbour's wall had been removed, and a big holly bush on the corner where the path widened out had been cut hard back. The holly cuttings had been donated to Loros for Christmas decorations, and a pile had also been left on Carlton Green for use by passers-by.

The branches of the old ash trees showed some evidence of die-back in June, and should be monitored. (The neighbouring landowners are responsible for the management of these hedgerow trees).

d) Roadside hedges

The three replacement oak trees had been regularly watered, but the leaves on the one at Harry's Grave had all died, new leaves had grown, but then the branches had appeared to die back in the autumn.

e) Carlton Green

There had been no work on Carlton Greens, and the ash tree on the West Green showed no sign of die-back in June.

Graham Jackson (Chairman)

The report above was presented at a meeting of Carlton Parish Council on Wednesday 8th July 2020 and has been extracted from Report 2020-16.

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