

# CARLTON NEWS

**May 2026**

## **Market Bosworth Inner Wheel**

Our August Meeting, on Wednesday August 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in St. Andrew's Church, will be an open meeting for anyone who would like to come to listen to a talk by Rebecca Spilane on "Fraud and Vulnerability". Tea and Coffee will be available.

*Pat Lockwood*

## **Carlton Fete - Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2026**

Planning for this event has already started. Full details will be found in the August edition of Carlton News.

If you would like to get involved, or for more information, please contact either:

*Sally Frazer on 07767310659 or Judith Boston on 06640945332*

## **Progressive Supper – Advance Notice**

We are planning to hold another Progressive Supper party on **Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup>**.

For those uninitiated amongst us, participants are requested to provide one course of a 3-course meal to 4 or 6 other people and then move on to another house for other courses. We then all meet up at the Malt Shovel (25, Main Street) courtesy of Geoff and Joanne Stratford, for cheese and further liquid refreshment. Each participant is asked to make a donation of £10 for the Friends of St Andrews, the charity which supports the maintenance of the fabric of the church.

This event is a great way to meet new people in the village, especially for those who have only recently taken up residence in Carlton. It is a fun, social event and not a cookery competition so please, if you want to know more call Caroline Tupling on 01455 290301.

*Caroline Tupling*

# A Year in the Life of St Andrew's Church

The church, which also hosts the Community Hub, is run by the Parochial Church Council, the Church Wardens and the Rector, Rev Paul Betts, who is based in Market Bosworth. The members of the PCC and the Church Wardens must be members of the church.

The PCC should not be confused with the Parish Council, which deals with civil matters relating to the Parish of Carlton. The Parish Council meets in the Hub and the church serves as a Polling Station for elections.

The "Friends of St. Andrews" is a charity, which was set up to raise funds for the maintenance of the church fabric, and we are grateful for all the financial help that they give us towards the repairs that we must make to keep the church safe.

The PCC must be financially self-sufficient, and we are grateful for the donations and grants that we receive, in addition to our own fund raising and personal giving. This money is used to pay our bills, which include insurance, electricity, water, the testing of equipment, repairs and fees. These total in the region of £9-10,000 a year. We also support charities such as "Self Help Africa", "The Children's Society" and "Rainbows".

The church is open to everyone who lives in Carlton and anyone can be baptised, married or have their funeral in church.

Over the course of a year the church is used in a variety of ways, in addition to our regular communion services. It is a collection point for donations of food, which are sent to help the people of Ukraine. It is part of the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council "Warm Welcome Scheme", and church is open every Wednesday afternoon for anyone who wants to drop in for a cup of tea. It was also a collection point for the HBBC coat exchange scheme, last winter.

The Hub hosts a thriving Whist Club and a sewing group which has produced a new Altar Frontal and various hangings, which illustrate stories from the Bible and were on display when we held an Art Weekend, to exhibit the work of local artists last June.

Over the course of the last year, we have served Pancakes at our Pancake Party and provided a 2-course lunch at our Harvest Festival and held a coffee morning at Christmas. The hub also provided teas when gardens in the village were opened for the National Garden Scheme. In December the church was used for the Christmas Lights switch on and Rock Choir Concert.

We are very grateful for all the help and support that we receive from people outside the church, who come to our events and support us. Our church is there for everyone, and all are welcome.

***Pat Lockwood.***

## Carlton Gardening Group - New Exchange Point

Calling all Gardeners. Do you have too many plants, seeds or materials that need a new home?

New wooden staging has been installed in the Churchyard where you can donate any excess items for others to collect. Please help to keep the staging tidy. To find the staging, approach the Church door and take the path to the left, the staging is in front of you by the fence.

So far this year the Gardening Group has taken down the Churchyard Christmas Lights, cleared weeds from the pavement at the eastern end of Main Street, cut back trees overhanging the pavement on Barton Rd, planted additional holly in the Jubilee Orchard hedge, removed ivy from yew trees in the Churchyard, transplanted cyclamen in the Churchyard and straightened leaning headstones in the Cemetery.

Membership is open to all - come and join us if you enjoy working outdoors in good company.



Ian Sarson

## Have your say on new same-day GP appointments

A questionnaire is now open for patients across Leicestershire to share their views on the new same-day GP appointments available during evenings, weekends and Bank Holidays since 1<sup>st</sup> April. These appointments aim to make it easier for people to get urgent help for non-life-threatening health concerns at the right place and time.

You cannot specifically request one of the new appointments. If you need to be seen on the same day, NHS 111 may offer you one of the new appointments. A small number of appointments is also available through GP practices on a weekday. There is nothing you need to do differently, and you should use your GP practice and NHS 111 as normal.

If you've used one of the new appointments — or even if you haven't yet — your feedback will help the NHS understand what's working well and where improvements might be needed in future. The questionnaire takes just a few minutes and is open to anyone registered with a Leicestershire GP practice.

The questionnaire is open until 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026 - please complete it here:  
<https://bit.ly/sda-leics>

## Our 34<sup>th</sup> Spring Clean Litter Pick - 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Two young people and 16 adults participated this year and cleared the roads to surrounding villages of accumulated litter. The volume collected (1.0 m<sup>3</sup>) was smaller than last year, but the finds were more interesting. As well as the usual food litter, cans and bottles (14 on one stretch on Barton Road), there were tyres, both car and motorbike, car number plates and wheel trims and other debris following mishaps in the flooding. The lower half of a household door had made its way into a ditch, and a large meat cleaver and the insulator from a power line were unexpected finds.



We thank the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Clean Neighbourhoods Team for the loan of equipment and for disposing of all the rubbish collected, and for removing 25 tyres tipped into the ditch on Lount Road that same week. Please join us again next year!

*Irene Peat, Chairman  
Keep Carlton Tidy Group, Tel 290934*

## Carlton Book Club

Carlton Book Club recently celebrated 30 years of reading. Anne and Pat, as founder members have lived through the whole experience. Twelve of our fourteen members got together for a few drinks and a meal at The Gate Hang Well. A good evening was enjoyed by all.



## Nature News

### More Ramblings of Mick Vann, “The Owl Man”

Last year I discovered that a pair of kestrels had taken over one of my barn owl boxes. On checking the box, I found five Kestrel eggs and one barn owl egg, meaning the kestrel had kicked out the barn owl. For this reason, I have, this year, put up a new box just for kestrels. However, watch this space because camera footage shows the kestrels are back in the barn owl box!



So, here are some Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) facts. Their wingspan is about 75cm and they weigh about 250 grammes. The males have a grey blue head and tail, with a chestnut underbody and black spots. The female is generally browner and lacks the blue grey colourisation. They have ultraviolet eyesight to detect the trails of their prey. They lay 3-6 eggs taking 27-30 days to incubate and fledge in 27-35 days.

I call these birds the spitfire of the bird world because if you look at their shape the wings look like those of a spitfire aeroplane. Kestrels can be seen hunting and hovering over fields and along verges, and if you look you will see their head never moves, only their body.

**Owlman**  
***mick.slwo@gmail.com***

### NatureSpot

NatureSpot is a charity operated by volunteers which collects and authenticates wildlife records from Leicestershire & Rutland. In 2025 it collected almost 50,000 records helping to build knowledge of the state of nature in the two counties.

The PC's website has a link to the NatureSpot website, supported by a grant from the Parish Council. The Carlton page currently holds 61 wildlife records from the Parish – please consider submitting more data. It is important to record common species for future reference, as many seem to be becoming less common.

**Parish Clerk**

## Otter Spotted in Carlton!

A Carlton wildlife camera recently captured an otter visiting the village! This came as a surprise, because we have never seen an otter in this particular area. This otter was near a village pond, but we think it was visiting, rather than looking for a place to live. There have been frequent otter sightings in a river less than two miles away and otters will travel kilometres overland and use tiny streams and ditches to travel. We think that the recent flooding might have encouraged the otter to use ditches to explore this area.



This otter was alone, which is not unusual. Otters spend most of their lives alone unless mating or raising young pups, although you can find them in small groups. We'll be looking out for spraint (droppings) in the ditch because that's how otters mark their ranges—and we'll be keeping the camera running in case our new otter friend returns!

To read more about Carlton's visiting otter, go to: <https://www.ortonacademy.co.uk/post/an-otter-stops-by>. For a more in-depth look at otters, take a look at: <https://www.ortonacademy.co.uk/post/otters-are-back-the-return-of-britain-s-mesmerising-mustelids>.

*Jane Orton*

## Notes from a Carlton Garden

There's a Song Thrush foraging on the back lawn this morning, which is a welcome sight, given their 50% decline since the 1970s. That, and the better weather means that spring is well on the way in the garden and all around Carlton.

Across the village, the daffodils have been particularly spectacular and the blossom in the hedgerows have brightened the entrances to the village. In the garden the early butterflies have been out - Orange-tips, Holly Blues, Brimstones and an occasional Peacock taking advantage of the sunnier days.



The migrant birds are returning and we have heard Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps advertising themselves from neighbouring trees. We already have fledgling Blackbirds and Robins feeding their young in a box by the fence. We have stopped feeding the birds in line with the recommendations from the RSPB; apart from fat balls, due to the risk of disease; especially among finches, who usually enjoy the feeders. Planting native food sources is suggested and there is plenty of information on their website, if you are interested.

We are hopeful that Swifts might investigate the nest box provided by the Leicestershire Swift Project this year, when they return from their migratory journey, we are always optimistic.

If you are interested in identifying wildlife that may come to your garden, useful apps include **Merlin** - for birdsong and **Obsidentify** - for photographic ID. Both are free and very helpful.

Please let me know if you find anything unusual in your garden and if you hear a Cuckoo in the area, please contact me, as they are in decline.

*Judith Boston – wildlife gardener*

**CLEAN WALKING FOR ALL**



**PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG**

# The Leicestershire Round

Q: What is the Leicestershire Round? Is it 8 pints in the local pub? A specialised local bread cob? 105 miles of footpaths encircling Leicester?

Well, the answer is, of course, C. This wonderful varied long-distance walk takes in meadow and wood, country park, iron age barrows and Roman roads, rivers, canals and farmland and numerous pretty and interesting villages around our County. This includes our own village of Carlton as the Leicestershire Round runs right through it on the footpath behind Shackerstone Walk to Shackerstone and across the fields from Main Street to Market Bosworth.

We walked the Leicestershire Round in 2018, and I found it a fascinating insight into the landscape and history of Leicestershire. You could do it in just 7-10 days straight, walking 10 – 15 miles a day and using 2 cars or taxis but we chose a much slower option over many months.

The local sections of the route from Bradgate Park to Burbage Common are easy to reach and it's fun to be walking across familiar territory. But once you get further away and particularly out to Rutland there are many unknowns. Fortunately, the route is well marked throughout with yellow signposts showing the Leicestershire Round symbol and the paths are well walked – no secateurs needed!

Two of my favourite sections were the delightful water meadows of Cossington nature reserve and the Burrough Hill iron age fort with views of the Wreake Valley - but you can certainly find your own. Village pubs are plentiful on the route but not always open mid-week. On one 32° heatwave day we found visiting ancient stone churches en-route the best way to cool down.

I recommend the book *The Leicestershire Round* £9.95 published by the Leicestershire Footpath Association for lots of local information and we also used the OS app for ease but gpx downloads or paper maps are also available. Public transport sounds feasible for tackling a circular walk but unless its improved massively in the last few years I wouldn't recommend it. We ended up going into the City Centre on a bus just to come out again to get back to the car. Another time hitch hiking proved a useful way back to our car many miles away! But whichever way you choose to do it, give it a go as a walking challenge for 2026. I can thoroughly recommend it!



## Neighbourhood Watch

There were 4 reported crimes in Carlton in the 3 months December to February. These were 1 robbery, 1 other theft and 2 violence and/or sexual assault.

Many people will know that in March a break in took place in Carlton while the residents were sleeping, in an attempt to steal keys to a vehicle. Fortunately, the keys were well hidden, and the thieves were disturbed before making off empty handed and the police attended. This is a very unusual crime for our village and a horrible one to be the victim of. Please do everything you can to look out for your neighbours and keep your vehicle keys hidden, especially at night.

### Market Bosworth Beat Team

A Beat Surgery will be held at The Gate Hangs Well 11am to 12.00 on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May. All welcome to raise any policing issues you may have.

To report a crime or suspicious activity call **101** or you can report online. In an emergency, with a crime in progress, call **999**. If you want to report a crime or suspicious behaviour anonymously you can call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**.

### Cyber crime

Cybercrime is now believed to account for around 40% of all crime and many of us have received scam emails, calls or messages. For any fraud, scams or cybercrime the **Report Fraud** service is on **0300 123 2040**. You can also report online at **reportfraud.police.uk**. Many of us receive scam emails, text or WhatsApp messages. You can forward emails to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk), or forward spam text messages to **7726**. For scam WhatsApp simply press Report. This removes scammers from circulation and helps a more vulnerable person.

*Rosi Yule Carlton Neighbourhood Watch, 292212*

## CARLTON EDUCATIONAL AND YOUNG PERSONS' GRANTS

These are non-means tested grants and available to all young people living in Carlton between the ages of 16 and 23 years of age that meet the criteria below.

**Are you studying at university or college?**

**Are you attending a training course?**

**Are you being supported with coaching in your studies, sport, music etc?**

**Are you starting a business?**

**Have you got fees or expenses to pay?**

**Would £300 be a help to you?**

The next meeting is in November 2026 but you can apply at any time by contacting Franco Onesti at the email address below.

Have a look at how Carlton Charity Lands funds can help you.

**Email: [franco@onesti.co.uk](mailto:franco@onesti.co.uk) or [davenport hazel@gmail.com](mailto:davenport hazel@gmail.com) for all the details and an online application pack.**

## **Please do not park on pavements**

- doing so could force a vulnerable pedestrian onto the road

This is simply a matter of common sense and courtesy for those around us.

The bottom line is that **IT IS AN OFFENCE** to drive on a pavement and **IT IS AN OFFENCE** to block pedestrian access on a pavement.

## **Churchyard Wall update**

Detailed plans and specifications are now being drawn up to re-build the churchyard wall on a new line so as to provide a pavement 1160mm wide all along the highway frontage.



The works are estimated to cost more than £27,000 and will be partly funded by an increase in council tax. Applications for grants are being submitted.

The tall Austrian pine tree has been surveyed, and will be destabilised by the excavations for the wall. This tree will have to be removed.

The works will require a Faculty (permission from the Diocese), and an application is in preparation.

There will be traffic lights and single file traffic in Main Street while the building works are in progress.

Volunteers will be needed to help take down the original wall and clean the bricks.

The start date will not be known until the Faculty has been granted and a contractor appointed. There will be an update in the next issue of Carlton News. If necessary, notices will be posted on the Parish noticeboards.

**Parish Clerk**

## Parish Council News

**Speed & Traffic monitoring.** In December the Speed Indicator Device (SID) was fixed to street lighting column 7 in Main Street to monitor eastbound vehicles. 23,758 vehicles were counted, an average of 603/day with an average speed of 25.5mph and an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 31.5mph.

In January the SID was moved to street lighting column 4 in Nailstone Rd to monitor northbound vehicles. 29,920 counts were recorded, but storms meant that there were a lot of spurious counts and the speed data was not reliable.

In March the SID was sited on street lighting column 6 on Bosworth Rd to monitor northbound vehicles. 24,092 vehicles were counted, an average of 765/day with an average speed of 34.6mph and an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 43.2mph. The full reports can be found on the Traffic & Speed Monitoring page of the PC website.

**Mounting posts for SID.** Four locations have been agreed for permanent posts for the SID. This will save money in the long term, as regular structural surveys have to be carried out on street lighting columns used to house the SID, and these are expensive.

**Parish Council's accounts** – will be open to public inspection from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June to Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July. The accounts will be formally approved at the Annual Meeting of the PC on 13<sup>th</sup> May. Detailed financial information can be found on the PC website – [www.carltonpc.co.uk/finance](http://www.carltonpc.co.uk/finance)

**Parish Councillors - *Stuart Tupling*** (Chairman) Bufton Lodge, Barton Rd, 290301

***Robin Arnold***, 53 Main St, 293663

***Judith Boston***, 64 Main St, 291880

***Ian Sarson***, 74 Main St, 290733

***Mick Vann***, 91 Main St, 07944-799106

Clerk - ***Chris Peat***, 7 Main St, 290934

E-mail: [clerk@carltonpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@carltonpc.co.uk)

Website: [www.carltonpc.co.uk](http://www.carltonpc.co.uk)

## Carlton Footpath Group

New volunteers are needed to monitor the condition of our local footpaths and carry out minor clearance works. Stalwart members of the Group have now left the area, or have hung up their walking boots and new blood is needed.

The Carlton Footpath Group was inaugurated in 1992 when many local paths were in poor condition or had been unofficially diverted. Since then all obstructions have been cleared, the paths re-aligned, and most of the stiles replaced with kissing gates.

Footpath usage has increased, and many less able walkers now visit our area because of the number of attractive circular walks without stiles. Routine maintenance and monitoring are now straightforward, involving little more than clipping back vegetation, but are essential to keep our paths open and easy to use.

If you can help look after this important local amenity please get in touch.

***Chris Peat Tel 290934***

# Dates for Your Diary

Progressive Whist Drive at The Community Hub, Wednesdays 2 - 4.30pm

Coffee Morning at The Gate Hangs Well - Fridays 11am

## May 2026

1 <sup>st</sup>	Fri	11am to 12noon	Police Beat Surgery, Gate Hangs Well
10 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	9 am	Communion, St Andrew's Church
13 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	7pm	Annual Parish Meeting, followed by Annual Meeting of Carlton Parish Council, Community Hub
24 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	9am	Communion, St Andrew's Church

## June 2026

14 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	9am	Communion, St Andrew's Church
28 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	9am	Communion, St Andrew's Church

## July 2026

8 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	7pm	Carlton Parish Council meeting, Community Hub
12 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	9am	Communion, St Andrew's Church
17 <sup>th</sup>	Fri		Deadline for contributions to the August edition of Carlton News
26 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	9am	Communion, St Andrew's Church

## August 2026

12 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	7.30pm	Market Bosworth Inner Wheel lecture ' <i>Fraud and Vulnerability</i> ', Community Hub
29 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	12noon to 4pm	Carlton Village Fete, the Rectory

## Emergency contact numbers

Dial 999 and ask for Police, Fire or Ambulance if there is immediate danger or a crime is being committed. If a cardiac arrest is suspected the ambulance service will give you the code to access the community defibrillator. Ring 05603-680-268 for a volunteer to bring the community defibrillator to you.

Crimes are best reported on-line at [www.leics.police.uk/report-online](http://www.leics.police.uk/report-online). The alternative is to ring 101, but be aware that this service can be very slow. Individual officers can be contacted by voicemail by ringing 101 and then quoting their collar number.

## Carlton News

### Editor

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