

Annual reports from parish representatives and organisations

The following reports were presented at the Annual Meeting of Carlton Parish Council on Wednesday 8th May 2019 in Saint Andrew's Church, Main Street, Carlton.

1) 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.

Articles were placed in Carlton News describing the work of the Charity and requesting applications for an award. Flyers, also requesting applications, were posted on the Parish notice board and in the bus shelters.

During 2018 a total of 6 grants were made totalling £890.44. The finance was provided for, amongst other things, course fees and equipment.

The Charity has recently learnt that the tenant for the last thirty years no longer wishes to rent the land and a new tenant is being sought. The Trustees would like to thank the outgoing tenant for his positive efforts over the years.

The next meeting to consider making awards will take place in November 2019.

Financial Report for 2017

	£.p
Balance of funds at start of year	4,358.30
Income	+ 1,000.00
Expenditure	- 890.44
Balance of funds at year-end	4,467.86

Hazel Davenport,
Chairperson

2) Carlton Footpath Group

All public Rights of Way (RoW) in the parish were in good order; members took secateurs with them on local walks to keep encroaching vegetation cut back. Waymark posts on S68 were repeatedly knocked down during hedgecutting; one kissing gate had been bent by a falling branch; another had been bent by being used as a strainer post. There had been a delay in restoring S68 to the definitive route after the re-opening of the footbridge at Shackerstone Station, but this was now in hand by LCC RoW.

John Piggon

3) Carlton Gardening Group

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)

4) Carlton Geocache

Geocachers may sign the log book or record their visit on-line. A typical on-line log looks like this:

Little Lane (GC17FFE) has a new log:
 Logged by: GeoDaddyBrain Log Type: Found it Date: 5/1/2019 12:00:00 PM
 Location: East Midlands, United Kingdom Type: Traditional Cache
 Log: A nice informative sign at the start of this path. An intriguing hide; so obvious, yet not obvious! No difficulty finding it though. TFTC. [Thanks for the cache]

There were 7 on-line logs during 2018-19, and 10 written entries in the site log book. The latter included an entry from the *3 Villages Group*, and one which read ‘*4th Geocache of the day and the cutest find yet*’.

Puddlejumper

5) Carlton Heritage & Tree Warden

(i) Heritage

I participated in Phase II of the Bosworth Links Project in 2018; the final report is available on-line. This project was very successful, and there are plans to carry out minor supporting digs during 2019 and to seek funding for an additional major project in 2020-21.

An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was carried out at the rear of 42-44 Main St (the site of Carlton Hall) in advance of new development. This revealed a sequence of Roman boundary features and a medieval burgage ditch, together with pottery shards, bone fragments and charred plant remains. Taken together, the results suggest a long period of domestic Roman occupation in the 1st-2nd centuries, followed by a gap, and then occupation from late Saxon or early Medieval times to the present. The full report is available on-line (ULAS Report No. 2018-116), and was summarised in the May issue of Carlton News.

(ii) Trees

I attended a field meeting of the Ancient Tree Forum at Kedleston Hall in November.

Ash dieback disease has been reported in Leicestershire, but so far I have not identified any infected trees in Carlton. It is important to promote or plant new trees so as to retain the well-treed appearance of the local landscape. Five oak trees were planted in local roadside hedgerows in 2018, but in spite of watering only two survived the dry summer. Three replacement trees were planted during the winter, and all five have now come into leaf. I thank local landowners for their support for this project. A number of roadside trees were pruned over the winter to prevent damage from or to vehicles.

The dead cherry tree and a hollow and diseased rowan tree in the churchyard were removed in the autumn, and the rowan tree is now coppicing up vigorously from the stool. Consideration is being given to a suitable replacement for the cherry.

I examined the tall Austrian pine in the churchyard, and found no evidence of disease or of mounding or cracking of the ground around the base of the trunk. After removal of the horse chestnut and cherry trees, this tall pine is now more exposed and needs to be examined periodically to check that it remains windfirm and healthy. This was not a good choice of tree for this site, but it is now something of a local feature and I recommend that it should be retained for as long as possible.

A crab apple and rowan tree near the southern end of Little Lane have grown leggy and are leaning over a neighbouring wall because of shading from other trees. I recommend that these trees be removed, but suggest that a hornbeam might be planted at the northern end of Little Lane.

Chris Peat

6) Keep Carlton Tidy Group

24 volunteers including 3 young people took part in the Annual Litterpick on March 17th, and we were pleased to welcome Maureen Cook, our Borough Councillor, to the team. We managed to clear all the roads leading to neighbouring villages, and although there was less rubbish than in 2018, the pile still measured 1.6 cubic metres.

Prizes were awarded as usual. The most interesting finds were seven frying pans, a baking tin and a box of toys, and the most useful finds were a pair of spectacles with only one lens broken and an ice scraper. The most disgusting finds were a soggy mouldy muddy roll of carpet and a nappy. A report and photographs were placed on the Parish Council website.

We were grateful to the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Clean Neighbourhoods Team for the loan of equipment and disposal of the rubbish, and more recently for their donation to the Keep Carlton Tidy Group of a wheelbarrow, 10 grabbers, 10 hoops, heavy duty gloves and bags.

Additional litter picked over the 12 month period again was less than in 2018, with the equivalent of 19 black bags collected (25 in 2018 and 42 in 2017). One incident of fly tipping was reported.

I M Peat, Chairman KCTG

7) Carlton Parish Council website

The marked increase in visitors to the news page in September 2017 is unexplained, but may be due to an item on this page containing a keyword relevant to a major news story. The *Traffic and speed monitoring* page was created in September 2018, and the *Carlton News* page in February 2019.

Page Title	Page impressions 2016-17 1&1 analytics 1.4.16 to 31.3.17	Page impressions 2017-18 1&1 analytics 1.4.17 to 31.3.18	Page impressions 2018-19 1&1 analytics 1.4.18 to 31.3.19
Home Page	4374	5044	7293
News	3828	14835	11971
Diary	311	677	763
Meetings & reports	1445	1483	965
Parish Councillors	318	355	427
Cemetery & Churchyard	297	317	414
Parish organisations	324	394	347
Parish Plan & Appraisal	282	285	350
Council information	246	344	486
Finance	231	278	337
Carlton Gardening Group	248	263	288
Carlton History	398	373	505
Traffic and speed monitoring	-	-	112
Carlton News	-	-	26
TOTALS	12302	24648	24284
Total site visits	4374	5872	7209
Page impressions/visit	2.15	3.04	3.43
Average duration of visit (secs)		34.73	34.37

Source of visitors: Europe 4692; N America 1413; Asia 834; S America 58; Africa 46; Oceania 29; Unidentified 137.

Pages of origin: Direct 77.12%; Search engines 2.97%; Social networks 0.10%; Other 19.82%.

Pages with bounce rate of more than 100: Home Page 3342; News 669; Carlton history 161.

Parish Clerk

8) Carlton Youth Champions

There had been no activity in the past year.

Rosi Yule

9) Northfields Liaison Group

The Group had been created to deal with any issues arising from the Northfields development, but had struggled to find any matters to discuss. It had been agreed that the Group would in future meet if and when an issue arose. There had been no meetings in the past year.

Ian Sarson