

Annual reports from parish representatives and organisations

The following reports were accepted at a meeting of Carlton Parish Council on 8th July 2020

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 2019 a total of 4 grants were made totalling £600. The finance was provided for course fees and equipment amongst other things.

Advertisements for a new tenant were placed in the summer months. The new tenant began work on the land from October 2019. The new agreement lasts for 10 years with rental increases at specific points during that time. The first rental payment was received in early 2020. The land is being used to grow Christmas trees.

The next meeting to consider making awards will take place in November 2020.

Financial Report for 2019

	£.p
Balance of funds at start of year	4467.86
Income	0.00
Expenditure: grants and advertising costs	-652.50
Balance of funds at year-end	3815.36

Hazel Davenport, Chairperson

2) Carlton Footpath Group

Due to the bad weather early this year plus my knee operation I have not had much chance to walk the footpaths. but in the last few weeks I have ventured onto a few paths. I must say I was surprised at the number of footpath posts that have been knocked down or broken by tractor activity. The ones I know about are:

- footpath S77 map ref. SK394049 1 post broken;
- footpath S68 map ref. SK388055 2 posts broken;
- footpath S68 map ref. SK387056 2 posts broken;
- footpath S69 map ref. SK394059 1 post broken.

I have informed the LCC Highways about the problems.

John Piggon (Chairman)

3) Carlton Gardening Group

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)

4) Carlton Geocache

From the 1st of April 2019 to the 31st of March 2020 18 people logged having visited the cache on the Website. This is probably in addition to about 6 entries noted in the book at the end of March.

The cache was found on the 22nd of March 2020, then on the 25th of April 2020, a user called 'niknrich' kindly wrote the following - "Out for our Government-sanctioned daily exercise, social distancing maintained at all times. Spotted the hiding place straight away but there's no box 🤔 - left a small tube with a log sheet, hope that's ok." A replacement has now been installed.

Comments left on-line show that our cache is appreciated and include the following:

A nicely constructed cache, TFTC!!!

Again another one I didn't pick up on previous visits to the village. Parked nearby and headed up the path; I was a little bit anxious as the muggle dog walkers were out in force but fortunately they didn't come up the path. At GZ spotted something of interest right away and made a QEF. TFTC and for bringing me here!

A nice informative sign at the start of this path. An intriguing hide; so obvious, yet not obvious! No difficulty finding it though. TFTC.

On a circular walk from Market Bosworth so we approached from the fields side. Noticed the hint item as we approached and geowife spotted something suspicious as she got nearer for a quick find.

The cutest little geocache, really good find! Hint really helpful

After doing part of the Bosworth Round I went for the CM and then came here. A nice quick find followed. I thought it was nice that there is still a card left by the FTTFers almost 12 years after the cache was placed which must mean it hasn't been muggled in all that time! TFTC

TFTC means 'thanks for the cache' QEF means 'quick easy find'.

Puddlejumper

5) Carlton Heritage and Tree Warden

(i) Heritage

In 2019 I helped with a follow-up dig in the Parish Field in Market Bosworth, as part of the Bosworth Links Project. There are plans to excavate additional test pits in Market Bosworth and to extend the project to Carlton, Cadeby and Sutton Cheney.

Three test pits were excavated at the rear of St Andrew's Church, in advance of plans for a small toilet and kitchen extension. The pits did not reveal any earlier church foundations or archaeological features, and yielded only a small number of Swithland roof slates (probably medieval) and a fragment of a 15th century floor tile (ULAS Report No. 2020-015v3).

The Parish participated in the national Heritage Open Day events for the first time in September, and I prepared displays in the Church and led two guided walks around the village.

(ii) Trees

I carried out a survey of roadside ash trees in the Parish in June/July, and found that 59% appeared to be healthy; 25% showed signs of infection; 11% were infected and 5% were severely infected (Report 2019-17). The landowners with infected trees on their land were all advised to monitor the condition of their trees. The photos and documents arising from the study have been used as templates by the Tree Council. I plan to repeat this survey in 2020.

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 in 2019 and were watered during the summer. One at Harry's Grave lost its leaves early and some branches died back in the autumn, but this sapling and the other four 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, and a willow next to the Stony Brook was pollarded on behalf of the landowner following wind damage.

Coppice re-growth on the rowan stool in the churchyard has been reduced to 7 stems. Planting to replace the dead cherry has been deferred until building work is complete and the banks alongside the path have been regraded.

The tall Austrian pine in the churchyard was examined during a gale, and there was no evidence of movement or heave around the base of the trunk, nor were there any signs of disease such as fungal growth or weeping sap.

Two English yew trees near the church tower were pruned by the CGG because branches were overhanging the neighbouring barn conversion.

The crab apple and rowan tree near the southern end of Little Lane were removed, and work was planned to cut back branches from two wild cherry trees which are beginning to overhang neighbouring outbuildings. The latter work has been deferred until the coronavirus lockdown has been lifted and a CGG working party can be organised.

I attended a field meeting of Leicestershire Tree Wardens in Launde Big Wood in July, and a conference on ash die-back at Beaumanor Hall in March.

Chris Peat

6) Carlton Neighbourhood Watch Group

Carlton NHW is an informal community group that exists to help Carlton stay safe, increase knowledge of local crime and policing matters and encourage neighbourliness.

74 households are currently registered with the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator and receive monthly e-mail crime updates and alerts. Information is also shared via Carlton News and the Carlton Villagers Facebook page on an occasional basis.

Leicestershire Rural Crime is available as a text alert service with live updates of local issues and the national NHW frequently circulate alerts on latest "scams". Market Bosworth Police Facebook page and the monthly Police newsletter for Market Bosworth and Villages is a good source of local police news.

2019/20

During the 12 months April 2019 to March 2020 there were 21 reported crimes in Carlton. This is less than the total of 28 for last year and a little higher than the 19 reported crimes of 2017/18. Details are as follows and previous year's figures are shown in brackets for comparison:

- 2 - criminal damage and arson (1)
- 4 - vehicle crime (6)
- 7 - violence and/or sexual offence (4)
- 2 - public order (1)
- 3 - other theft (3)
- 2 - burglary (11)
- 1 - anti-social behaviour (2)

January was our busiest months for reported crime.

It is helpful to note the considerable fall in burglary and to a lesser extent vehicle crime, possibly caused by householders taking more measures to secure their assets. The

increase in violence and/or sexual offence which covers domestic abuse amongst other things is a cause for concern. National reports suggest that this figure will increase further during the COVID-19 Lockdown period.

Financial and internet scams remain a national issue, on the increase affecting all ages and social demographics. NHW have continually highlighted the need for vigilance and care for vulnerable friends or relatives.

Outcome rates for crime in our wider area 12 months to May 2020 show:

- 43% "Investigation complete, no further action"
- 21% "Unable to prosecute suspect"
- 6% "Further investigation or formal action not in the public interest"
- 6% "under investigation"
- 7% "offender dealt with by local resolution/caution/ court result unavailable/action by another organisation/ awaiting court outcome/charged as part of another case"
- 6% "Status update unavailable"
- 11% "Other"

The 11% "other" is a mystery. The 7% where a clear outcome is shown against a crime report may be disappointing for many local residents.

Wider Comparisons

In the 12 months to June 2019 (latest available ONS) the crime rate in Hinckley and Bosworth was broadly the same as the crime rate across nationally similar areas and lower than average for the Leicestershire force area. However:

- burglary was much higher than average (the 2nd worst in a family of 12 most similar groups)
- vehicle crime was much higher than average (the worst in the family of 12 most similar groups)
- drug crime was significantly lower than average (2nd best in the family of 12 most similar groups)
- violence and/or sexual offence was significantly lower than average

Despite the recent improvements to March 2020 Carlton residents are advised to maintain high security on their property and vehicles and continue to be vigilant for neighbours. NHW messages continue to reinforce the need to secure our property and outbuildings at all times and look out for unusual behaviour.

Leicestershire Police

Our local beat team have continued to engage on a regular basis offering meetings and drop in sessions which are advertised in the NHW circulation, social media including the monthly newsletters and Bosworth Facebook page. The Police also recommend signing up to Neighbourhood Link at <https://www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk/> This website allows residents to register their details and receive alerts from police about relevant crime in the local area.

Contacts

PC 207 Robert Cross is a dedicated Neighbourhood Officer for Bosworth villages and can be contacted on 101 voicemail no 0207

Sgt 730 Andy Cox heads the local policing unit for Bosworth, Ratby, Groby, Markfield and Stanton and can be contacted by calling 101 and asking for voicemail no 0730

PC 537 Phil Hale and PCSO 6639 Allan Charles make up the rest of the team. Inspector Emma Maxwell is the Local Policing Commander for Hinckley and Blaby

We thank all local officers for their support over the past year.

Rosi Yule Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

7) Carlton Parish Council website

The *Traffic and speed monitoring* page was created in September 2018, and the *Carlton News* page in February 2019.

Page Title	Page impressions 2017-18	Page impressions 2018-19	Page impressions 2019-20
	1&1 analytics 1.4.17 to 31.3.18	1&1 analytics 1.4.18 to 31.3.19	1&1 analytics 1.4.19 to 31.3.20
Home Page	5044	7293	7641
News	14835	11971	7772
Diary	677	763	867
Meetings & reports	1483	965	1067
Parish Councillors	355	427	671
Cemetery & Churchyard	317	414	674
Parish organisations	394	347	622
Parish Plan & Appraisal	285	350	573
Council information	344	486	824
Finance	278	337	574
Carlton Gardening Group	263	288	556
Carlton History	373	505	791
Traffic and speed monitoring	-	112	558
Carlton News	-	26	663
TOTALS	24648	24284	23853
Total site visits	5872	7209	7586
Page impressions/visit	3.04	3.43	2.71
Average duration of visit (secs)	34.73	34.37	30.86

Source of visitors: Europe 4736; N America 3151; Asia 954; S America 37; Africa 60; Oceania 19; Unidentified 26.

Pages of origin: Direct 75.83%; Search engines 4.45%; Other 19.73%.

Pages with bounce rate of more than 200: Home Page 3279; News 1642; Carlton history 248; Council information 210.

Parish Clerk

8) Keep Carlton Tidy Group

16 volunteers took part in the Annual Litterpick on March 15th, and we were pleased again to welcome Maureen Cook, our Borough Councillor, to the team. We managed to clear all the roads leading to neighbouring villages, and the volume collected was 2.0 cubic metres (1.6 in 2019).

Prizes were awarded as usual. The most interesting finds were an i-phone charger and an orange workman's jacket, the most useful were a bucket with no holes in it and a dibber, and the most disgusting was a mud filled and mouldy pair of workman's boots. A report and photographs were placed on the Parish website.

We were very grateful as usual to the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Clean Neighbourhoods Team for the loan of equipment, and disposal of the rubbish.

Additional litter picked over the 12 month period was the equivalent of 20 black bags, compared to 19 in 2019. One fly-tipping incident was reported, and members cleared a surprising amount of car debris after the flooding under the railway bridge.

Irene M Peat (Chairman)

9) Carlton Youth Champions

There had been no activity in the past year.

10) Northfields Liaison Group

There had been no meetings in the past year.

Ian Sarson (PC Representative)