

**Annual reports from parish representatives and organisations**

**a) 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.

Originally two meetings were planned for 2020, in March and November. No applications were received for the March meeting which was cancelled as a result. Owing to the Covid 19 outbreak, the business of the November meeting was conducted by email.

During 2020 a total of 5 grants were made totalling £938.45. Of that sum only £800 was paid by 31 December, the remaining £138.45 being paid in 2021. The finance was provided for course fees and equipment amongst other things. Payments were also made to solicitors and a land agent in respect of the work they had undertaken to create a new tenancy agreement.

The next meeting to consider making awards will take place in November 2021.

*Financial Report for 2020*

	£.p
Balance of funds at start of year	3815.36
Income	1800.00
Payments to Solicitors/Land Agent	-726.00
Awards made	-800.00
Balance of funds at year-end	4089.36

***Hazel Davenport, Chairperson May 2021***

**b) Carlton Footpath Group**

In this pandemic year with no social mixing and having to distance ourselves it's good that walking is free, and the local footpath network has been well walked. Three new kissing gates have been installed, thanks to a grant from the LCCC Highways & Community Fund and the support of Nailstone Parish Council and local landowners.

With most of the paths in our Parish stile-free people of all ages and abilities have been able to walk the countryside often. The evidence for this is that most footpaths are well marked on the ground due to the use and in some cases have been doubled in width such as footpath S68. This is mainly due to the wet weather early in the year with people skirting the wet parts. The farmer has put up notices about this, but this is the same farmer that has broken approximately six footpath posts due to the careless use of farm machinery. So in conclusion keep walking it's free.

**c) Carlton Gardening Group**

The Annual General Meeting scheduled for March 2020 had been cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions; the 2021 AGM had been postponed until June. Essential works during the year had been carried out by individuals, pairs or very small socially-distanced groups. This report has been approved by the CGG Executive Committee.

The CGG has 15 members who provided a total of 57.5 man-hours of volunteer labour in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard (23.75 hours), Churchyard and Cemetery (28.75 hours), Little Lane (4.0 hours) and roadside trees (1 hour) during 2020. Enid Morgan and Tania Sharp kindly provided

refreshments for working parties. All members had signed consent forms, as required by the Data Protection Regulations.

**Diamond Jubilee Orchard**

The revised mowing regime had worked well, with fewer clippings requiring removal and disposal. The meadow areas had been cut at the end of June, and the dry hay had been burned on site in July.

The stake had been removed from the Shackerstone apple (T36), and the tree had been pruned.

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

The chestnut logs next to the picnic table had been cleaned and smoothed; the grass strip between the hedge and the path had been mowed and this had improved the appearance of the area.

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

**Churchyard and Cemetery**

The coppice shoots from the rowan tree in the NW corner of the churchyard had been killed by a severe late frost, and the stool appeared to be dead. Naturalised cyclamen growing in the grass were spreading.

The top of a bird cherry in the E hedge had been blown down: the trunk had been found to have an area of heart rot from a pruning wound, but this had not been visible from outside. The tree had been removed and the brash burned.

The kissing gate to Main Street had been replaced.

**Little Lane**

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

The wild cherry trees are overhanging the neighbouring property, and it had been agreed that these would be cut back in a joint operation. This work had been postponed because of Covid-19 restrictions on group working.

The bench seat at the N end had been replaced with materials kindly donated by a neighbouring land owner.

**Roadside hedges**

The oak tree at Harry's Grave had recovered, and had been watered during dry spells. One new oak tree on the W side of Barton Road had been decapitated by a careless hedgecutting contractor. This tree had been growing well, and would be left to grow back from the remaining stem.

**Carlton Green**

There had been no work on Carlton Greens.

**Graham Jackson Chairman**

**d) Carlton Geocache**

From the April 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021, 12 geocachers made entries in the site logbook while 10 logged visits to the cache on the Geocaching website [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com): all of the comments were complimentary. The high number of visits even during the covid restrictions is partly due to at least 2 Travel Bugs we briefly hosted, always a pull to any local geocachers. In August, Carlton PC replaced the bench, and renewed the hiding spot.

The on-line comments were as follows (emojis have been replaced by \*):

*Great little cache, forgot my pen!!! \* Found with by my fam and enjoyed the walk like a gangsta \* TFTC*

*Nice and easy cache after a hard search on our last one. \**

*What a wonderful cache. Thanks*

*Stopped off in Carlton so Stevo185 could get the FYI and I could get all 4 caches around the village. Great hide!*

*TB picked up to move on. Tftc*

*Nice quick find and swapped TB's. TFTC*

*A day of two halves. I headed over to pfaffabouters for a morning of caching by bike. We did close to 29 miles grabbing a few caches as we passed. Logs signed MP. In the afternoon we headed to Burbage Common and Woods for a walk. At the first cache FYI multi we bumped into The Rogesters, Johnnie Lamplight and zaynor1972 so we joined forces for the series. These logs were signed TRJLZ72MP our group caching initials. A great time was had. Thanks for doing the hard work of setting and maintaining the cache. This is cache find 5 of 28 for today with 0 DNF's \*#35821 \**

*Huge cache on Little Lane. No problems here. Thanks TFTC.*

*Found temporary replacement. TFTC*

*Lovely lockdown walk on Lorraine's 40th birthday! TFTC \**

*Out for our Government-sanctioned daily exercise, social distancing maintained at all times.*

[ TFTC means 'thanks for the cache' ; DNF means 'Did Not Find' ; TB is a 'Travel Bug'- an item with its' own tracking page]

***Puddlejumper***

### **e) Carlton Heritage & Tree Warden** **Heritage**

The Bosworth Links Project has been on hold because of Coronavirus restrictions. There are plans to excavate further test pits in Market Bosworth and to extend the project to Carlton, Cadeby and Sutton Cheney.

A design was prepared for a new information board to be sited at Carlton Gate, with support from the owners of the Gate Hangs Well. A grant application has been submitted to H&BBC.

An enquiry about the Oldacres family and gravestones in the churchyard from a young man in Greece led to correspondence and re-connection with a local family.

### **Trees**

I repeated the 2019 survey of roadside ash trees in the Parish in July 2020 (Report 2020-17), and found that the disease was spreading. 46% of ash trees appeared healthy compared with 59% in 2019; 17% showed signs of infection (25%); 26% were infected (11%) and 12% were severely infected (5%). I plan to repeat this survey in 2021.

The five new hedgerow oak trees were watered during dry spells, and all five had good leaf buds in the winter. Regrettably, one on Barton Road was decapitated by a careless hedgetrimmer.

The coppice re-growth on the rowan stool in the churchyard was killed by a severe late frost, and there has been no re-growth. Replacement planting of this tree and the nearby cherry has been deferred until building work is complete and the banks alongside the path have been regraded.

A wild cherry tree in the eastern cemetery hedge blew down in a gale and was cleared up by members of the CGG.

An old crack willow tree next to the Stony Brook was pollarded, but unfortunately the frass in the hollow trunk was ignited by the chain saw exhaust, leading to a hot fire. As yet there are no new shoots at the top or base of the remaining trunk, which stands as a charred monument to a moment of carelessness.

The tall Austrian pine in the churchyard was examined during strong winds in December, 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.

The pruning of two wild cherry trees in Little Lane which are beginning to overhang neighbouring outbuildings has been deferred until the coronavirus lockdown has been lifted and a CGG working party can be organised.

The new hedge along the northern side of the CDJO has grown on well, and is to be laid in the autumn by a local champion hedgelayer.

Five alder cuttings were stuck into the eastern highway verge at the southern end of Congerstone Road, but although they appeared to have taken they now seem to have died back after a very dry spring. Two mature alder trees in this place became diseased and were removed a few years ago.

Following a kind donation from Goscote Nurseries and permission from the landowner, an English Elm tree (*Ulmus minor var vulgaris* 'Upper Swell'=*U. procera*) has been planted next to public footpath S69 and the Parish boundary. Articles about this tree were published in Carlton News and Aspect.

*Chris Peat*

**f) Carlton Parish Council website**

The *Traffic and speed monitoring* page was created in September 2018, *Carlton News* page in February 2019, *Accessibility* page in August 2020, and *Community Hub* page in October 2020.

<b>Page Title</b>	<b>Page impressions 2018-19</b>	<b>Page impressions 2019-20</b>	<b>Page impressions 2020-21</b>
	1&1 analytics 1.4.18 to 31.3.19	1&1 analytics 1.4.19 to 31.3.20	1&1 analytics 1.4.20-31.3.21
Home Page	7293	7641	6609
News	11971	7772	66150
Diary	763	867	99
Meetings & reports	965	1067	91
Parish Councillors	427	671	81
Cemetery & Churchyard	414	674	122
Parish organisations	347	622	198
Parish Plan & Appraisal	350	573	94
Council information	486	824	183
Finance	337	574	46
Carlton Gardening Group	288	556	7858
Carlton History	505	791	356
Traffic and speed monitoring	112	558	60
Carlton News	26	663	85
St Andrews Community Hub	-	-	10
Accessibility	-	-	17
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>24648</b>	<b>24284</b>	<b>82059</b>
<b>Total site visits</b>	<b>7209</b>	<b>7586</b>	<b>80296</b>
<b>Page impressions/visit</b>	<b>3.43</b>	<b>2.71</b>	<b>2.27</b>
<b>Average duration of visit (secs)</b>	<b>34.37</b>	<b>30.86</b>	<b>29.57</b>

Source of visitors: Europe 78057; N America 3164; Asia 861; S America 49; Africa 232; Oceania 18; Unidentified 30.

Pages of origin: Direct 17.58%; Search engines 1.32%; Other 81.10%.

Pages with bounce rate of more than 200: Home Page 4612; News 65267; Carlton Gardening Group 7815, Carlton history 315.

Our internet services provider (ISP) 1&1 was taken over by Ineos last year, and the site analytics function now works in a completely different way. The figures for 2020-21 above have been double-checked, but are clearly not comparable with those for previous years. However, the number of page impressions is much nearer to what I would expect from our known user community, except for the CGG page.

Repeating the search for 2019-20 resulted in completely different numbers to those reported last year – for example Home page (11,129), News page (63,492) and Gardening Group page (7958).

There were marked peaks in visitors in October and December, with 69,479 visits made in the period October-December inclusive. It might be that a particularly attractive keyword was inadvertently used at this time. It is interesting that of the 78,057 hits from Europe, 28,782 were from the UK, 24,310 from Russia, and 23,566 from the Netherlands. Of the hits from the UK, 25,831 were from London, and 2,252 from our part of the Midlands.

*Parish Clerk*

#### **g) Carlton Youth Champions**

There was no activity during 2021-21.

#### **h) Keep Carlton Tidy Group**

41 volunteers took part in the Annual Litterpick on March 21<sup>st</sup>, and managed to clear the roads between Carlton and Market Bosworth, the Marina, Congerstone, Barton-in-the-Beans and Osbaston as well as Gibbet Lane. The volume collected was 2.0 cubic metres (1.6 in 2019), mainly bottles, cans and food wrapping, although spent gun cartridges, tyres, a smashed cathode ray TV tube, a sat-nav, and bedding added variety.

Prizes were awarded as usual and a new category – most decorative item- was added this year. A report and photographs were placed on the Parish website, and printed in Carlton News and The Graphic.

We were very grateful as usual to the HBBC 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 22 black bags, similar to last year. We thank these volunteers. One fly-tipping incident was reported to HBBC, and a large pile of tipped rubbish in the sewage works entrance was dealt with by Severn Trent.

The group was successful in applying for equipment made available by LCC and now has two large road signs and 5 additional grabbers.

Next year will be the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Litter Pick for Carlton.

*I M Peat, Chairman KCTG*