

**Annual reports from parish representatives and organisations**

**a) Carlton Charity Lands**

The Parish Council will be aware that Carlton Charity Lands has received very few applications in recent times. Indeed, you will recall a paper that was included in the February edition of Carlton News discussing the situation and asking Readers to make suggestions about how the Charity should move forward. The Trustees would like to thank the Parish Council for the response which it submitted.

Unfortunately the Charity received a very limited response. Some suggestions were made that would see some funds distributed in areas other than the village. The current Governing Document sets the Charity’s objectives as providing assistance to young people in the village and also assisting villagers who suffer with health problems.

After much deliberation, the Trustees decided that increasing the current £200 award to a maximum of £300 was appropriate given the number of young people who would be eligible to apply in the near future. To date, most awards have been to young people who were following an academic path. The Trustees decided that young people who were taking up apprenticeships or training in physical skills, e.g. plastering, should also be encouraged to apply.

Following a suggestion and given the Charity’s remit in the area of health, the Trustees decided to make a donation of £250 to North West Leicestershire Community First Responders.

The meeting scheduled for March 2021 was cancelled owing as no applications were received. At the November meeting, one application was received and approved. The next meeting to consider making awards will take place in November 2022.

*Financial Report for 2020*

	£.p
Balance of funds at start of year	4089.36
Income	1800.00
<u>Awards made</u>	<u>-138.45</u>
Balance of funds at year-end	5750.91

***Hazel Davenport, Chairperson***

**b) Carlton Footpath Group**

All public RoW in the Parish are free from obstruction, in good condition and are clearly well-trodden. Many waymark posts are rotting, and several have been pushed or fallen over: the LCC RoW Team will be asked whether this area is scheduled for review.

Regrettably, dog fouling remains frequent in spite of exhortations in Carlton News and an article about the serious harm caused to local livestock by *Toxocara*. A Parish Councillor removed a dump of more than 20 plastic bags containing dog faeces from under a bush at the junction of footpaths S77 and S68, and similar deposits have been made in the churchyard.

Concerns are regularly expressed about herds of lively and curious beef cattle, particularly when they are first let out in the Spring. These animals may attack dogs, but are usually wary

of humans. Farmers are entitled to graze these animals in fields crossed by public rights of way: dog walkers are advised to keep away, or to let their dog loose if approached.

Thanks to Cllr Bertie Harrison-Rushton, the LCC Members Highways Fund, Market Bosworth PC and local landowners, three stiles on footpath S69 across Silk Hill have been replaced by two kissing gates and one hand gate. One Carlton resident who cannot climb stiles but who regularly walks to Mkt Bosworth has expressed appreciation of these works which have enabled her to walk directly to Back Lane instead of having to detour round Barton Road. Two residents of Mkt Bosworth have also expressed their appreciation. An article is being written for Aspect.

John Piggon has resigned, having served as Chairman of this Group since 2008, and I thank him for his practical work, support and advice over the past 16 years, which have seen most of the stiles in the Parish replaced by gates.

**Chris Peat**

### **c) Carlton Gardening Group**

The AGM was held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022: Graham Jackson, Bill Sharp, Jeanette Knappett, Mick Vann & Chris Peat were elected members of the Executive Committee; Graham Jackson was elected Chairman and Chris Peat Secretary. Councillor Ian Sarson is an *ex officio* member of this committee and was elected group representative to the Northfields Liaison Group.

The CGG has 22 members who provided a total of 180.5 man-hours of volunteer labour in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard (23 hours), Churchyard and Cemetery (146.5 hours) and other places (11 hours) during 2021. Enid Morgan and Tania & Bill Sharp kindly provided refreshments for working parties.

#### *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 specimen holly at the end of the Barton Rd hedge had been cut off by the verge mower (which had also mashed up the steel guard net) and was growing back from the stump.

The chestnut logs next to the picnic table had been cut up; some had been stacked on site for invertebrates; the rest had been stacked in a local conservation woodland.

A bench made from recycled timber had been erected next to the picnic table.

The grass strip between the hedge and the path had been mowed and this had improved the appearance of the area.

The toddlers play equipment had been painted, and additional playbark installed.

Horsetails in the hedge bottom had been bruised and then sprayed with Roundup, and this appeared to have killed them. The operation would need to be repeated at other problem sites.

The northern hedge had been laid in February 2022.

#### *Churchyard and Cemetery*

Spoil from excavations for the church extension had been used to level up (i) a sunken area in the churchyard in front of the church; (ii) footpath S69 where it left the cemetery field; and (iii) areas near the extension at the side of the church tower and behind the church where new inspection chambers had been installed.

The root of the coppiced rowan tree, together with those of the dead cherry tree and two other stumps had been removed and the sites levelled up.

Contractors had laid a new path from Main St to the church door, and had partly restored the banks; the restoration work had been completed by the CGG.

Three leaning slate gravestones had been straightened up, and a broken memorial recovered from the base of a demolished lean-to shed behind the church tower had been erected against the wall of 28 Main St.

Brambles and an elder sapling had been removed from an Irish yew in front of the church.

Ivy had been removed from the weeping silver birch tree in front of the church. Dead wood had been removed from this tree, and two low branches had been removed from the copper beech at the back of the church.

The cemetery paths had been repaired and extended by a contractor in November.

#### *Little Lane*

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.

#### *Roadside hedges*

The oak tree at Harry's Grave had been watered during dry spells and now appeared healthy. The decapitated oak tree on the W side of Barton Road had been pruned and was growing on well. Both new trees had been marked with hazard tape in the autumn and had survived hedge trimming in 2021. In addition one branch from a holly bush in the hedge was being promoted to form a new hedgerow tree.

#### *Carlton Green*

There had been no work on Carlton Greens.

#### *Other sites*

A disease-resistant elm tree (*Ulmus minor* var *vulgaris* 'Upper Swell') had been donated to the PC and planted next to footpath S69 at the northern boundary of the parish by kind permission of the landowner. An article about this tree had been published in Aspect in April. The sapling had struggled at first, but had been mulched and then watered through the summer and had survived. It will need to be monitored for another year.

An information board had been erected in the garden of The Gate Hangs Well.

***Graham Jackson***

#### **d) Carlton Geocache: Puddlejumper**

From April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022, 11 geocachers made entries in the site logbook while an additional 11 submitted comments to the geocaching website [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com). The latter often included photographs and complimentary remarks about the cache.

***Puddlejumper***

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

The Bosworth Links Project remains on hold because of Coronavirus restrictions. Three archaeological test pits were dug on the site of the church extension (ULAS Report 2020-015), and produced Swithland slate roof tiles of medieval date and a fragment of 15<sup>th</sup> century floor tile. A watching brief was maintained during the construction works, with full details and photographs published in ULAS Report 2021-109. 21 objects were recovered during the watching brief, all undatable or from the 19/20<sup>th</sup> century. The latter report contains numerous errors about the general history of Carlton.

The church was rebuilt in 1764 after a serious fire, and was then gothicised in 1867. The distinctive saddleback top to the tower dates from 1867, and it was thought that the tower had been re-built at this time. However, fragments of old brick found in the stonework strongly suggest that the tower dates from the rebuilding of 1764.

A new information board was put up in the garden of The Gate Hangs Well at Carlton Gate, with the co-operation of the landlord and thanks to a P&CIF grant from H&BBC. An article about the board was published in Aspect and the Hinckley Times; a more detailed version of the history text is available from the PC website.

**Trees**

The survey of roadside ash trees was repeated in July 2021 (Report 2021-16) and showed an increasing number of trees showing signs of infection, and a deterioration in the condition of trees previously assessed as infected.

The tall Austrian pine in the churchyard had been examined after strong winds in January 2022. 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.

All five hedgerow oak trees were healthy and growing on; the decapitated tree had been pruned and had made vigorous new growth.

The elm tree planted next to footpath S69 had been watered and mulched and had shown good leaf growth in the spring.

The hedge along the northern side of the CDJO had been laid in February, thanks to a P&CIF grant from H&BBC. An article about this had been published in Aspect and the Hinckley Times, and a short film (shot by the RCC) shown at the rural conference. A vigorous field maple planted as a hedgerow whip but growing out of the line of the hedge, had not been layered but left to grow on a standard tree.

The two bird cherry trees in Little Lane overhanging neighbouring outbuildings had been pruned in May 2022, and other encroaching shrubs and vegetation cut back by the CGG with help from the adjacent occupier.

Ivy was removed from the weeping birch tree in the churchyard and two low branches had been removed from the copper beech. The weeping birch tree had put out vigorous growth in the spring and appeared rejuvenated. Low branches overhanging the carriageway and footway had been removed from the street trees along Barton and Bosworth Roads.

The roots of four trees, including the flowering cherry and rowan in last year’s report, had been removed from the churchyard, and three new trees – a crab apple (*Malus* ‘Red Jewel’), a Japanese rowan (*Sorbus commixta* ‘Embley’) and a Chinese hornbeam (*Carpinus omeiensis*) - planted on 6<sup>th</sup> February to mark the Platinum Jubilee. An article about these plantings had been published on the PC website and in Aspect.

**C J Peat**

**f) Carlton Parish Council website**

The *Accessibility* page was created in August 2020, and the *Community Hub* page in October 2020. The figures for the Home, News and Gardening Group pages in 2020-21 are clearly anomalous, possibly due to the presence of an ambiguous keyword or abbreviation.

<b>Page Title</b>	<b>Page impressions 2019-20</b> 1&1 analytics 1.4.19 to 31.3.20	<b>Page impressions 2020-21</b> 1&1 analytics 1.4.20-31.3.21	<b>Page impressions 2021-22</b> 1&1 analytics 1.4.21-31.3.22
Home Page	7641	6609	9570
News	7772	66150	5257
Diary	867	99	893
Meetings & reports	1067	91	681
Parish Councillors	671	81	378
Cemetery & Churchyard	674	122	307
Parish organisations	622	198	370
Parish Plan & Appraisal	573	94	318
Council information	824	183	398
Finance	574	46	256
Carlton Gardening Group	556	7858	258
Carlton History	791	356	676
Traffic and speed monitoring	558	60	203
Carlton News	663	85	439
St Andrews Community Hub	-	10	265
Accessibility	-	17	164
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>24648</b>	<b>24284</b>	<b>20433</b>
<b>Total site visits</b>	<b>7586</b>	<b>80296</b>	<b>9007</b>
<b>Page impressions/visit</b>	<b>2.71</b>	<b>2.27</b>	<b>2.21</b>
<b>Average duration of visit (secs)</b>	<b>30.86</b>	<b>29.57</b>	<b>18.03</b>

Source of visitors: Europe 4941; N America 3702; Asia 766; S America 16; Africa 45; Oceania 35; Unidentified 21.

Pages of origin: Direct 68.26%; Search engines 7.23%; Social networks 0.01%; Other 24.49%.

Pages with bounce rate of more than 200: Home Page 5471; News 496; Carlton history 272.

Our internet services provider (ISP) 1&1 was taken over by Ineos in 2020, and the site analytics function now works in a completely different way. The figures for 2021-22 above should be comparable with those for 2020-21 (but not 2019-20 (see Report 2021-14/f), but there is a marked lack of consistency across all three years.

**Parish Clerk**

**g) Carlton Youth Champions**

Concerns about the effect of the withdrawal of the 153 bus service on young people had been raised with the operator and Leicestershire County Council. The latter subsidised a wide range of bus services, and arranged some school bus services, but had refused to make any additional arrangements in the case of the 153 service.

***Rosi Yule***

**h) Keep Carlton Tidy Group**

The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Carlton Litter Pick was held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

The event was very well supported, with twenty-six adults and three young people participating, and we were able to clear all the roads leading to our neighbouring villages. There was less rubbish than last year, mainly food wrappings, cans, and bottles, including whisky, beer, and wine. Other items included a hard hat, Wi-Fi router, trug, bits of (different) cars, a pulley block, an electric bike pump and an almost wearable man's jacket. Prizes were awarded as usual. A report and photographs were placed on the Parish website and printed in Carlton news.

We were very grateful as usual to Streetscene Services at Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council for the loan of equipment, and for disposing of all the rubbish collected.

Additional litter picked over the 12-month period was the equivalent of 11 black bags, half last year's total (22). Three local fly-tipping incidents were reported to H&BBC. A dumping of hazardous material, marked with *Environmental Crime Scene* hazard tape, was left for 4 months (July to November), and complaints about this led H&BBC to change their procedures.

Thank you to all the volunteers!

***Irene Peat Chairman***