

Annual reports from parish representatives and organisations

a) Carlton Charity Lands

The Parish Council will be aware that Carlton Charity Lands has received only a few applications in recent times. However, at the November 2022 meeting there were 6 applications to be considered. The increase in applications were judged to be as a result of “word of mouth” between the young people in Carlton rather than posters displayed around the village and articles in Carlton News.

Unfortunately, there were no applications for grants before the proposed March 2023 meeting therefore it was agreed to cancel the meeting. There is some credibility to the idea that November is a time of year when students are more focussed on the cost of their education and training. Therefore, it is hoped that there will be applications to be considered at the November 2023 meeting.

Following a discussion, it was agreed to donate £200 to the Village Defibrillator Group to support their running costs. It was decided to offer to pay those costs this year as the Charity had sufficient funds and to review these costs annually at future November meetings and offer support to the Defibrillator group if funds allowed.

At the Annual General meeting of the Charity Lands there was a change in roles Hazel Davenport and Ian Sarson stood down from the roles of Chairperson and Clerk respectively. Graham Jackson agreed to stand as Chairperson and Hazel Davenport and Franco Onesti have taken on the role of Clerk on a shared basis.

The next meeting to consider making awards will take place in November 2023.

Financial Report for 2022

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| | £.p |
| Balance of funds at start of year | 5750.91 |
| Income | 1800.00 |
| Awards made | 1266.52 |
| Balance of funds at year-end | 6284.39 |

Graham Jackson Chairperson May 2023

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 have been asked to supply new posts for installation by members of the Group.

Overhanging trees and shrubs were cut back from footpath S75 in Little Lane in May by members of the Carlton Gardening Group and a neighbouring landowner.

Regrettably, dog owners frequently allow their pets to wander all over fields crossed by public RoW, and fail to keep their dogs on leads or under close control when in fields with livestock. Dog fouling remains frequent in spite of exhortations in Carlton News and an article about the serious harm caused to local livestock by *Toxocara*.

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, and neighbouring Parish Councils, 12 stiles have been replaced by kissing gates. These new gates are not in our Parish, but have extended stile-free routes. For example, it is now possible to walk from The Square in Market Bosworth to Shackerstone Station without climbing a single stile, and footpath S48 from Barton Road Market Bosworth to Lount Road Osbaston is now also stile free. Footpath S68 links to footpaths S50 and S51 which lead to Bosworth Road Carlton, creating new stile-free circuits. An article about these developments has been submitted to Aspect, for publication after the election.

I attended a RoW training session at County Hall on 23rd February, and agreed that the CFG would monitor the condition of the Leicestershire Round between Shackerstone Station and Market Bosworth on behalf of LCC and the Leicestershire Footpaths Association (LFA). It was agreed that these annual reports, and any reports of serious problems referred to LCC, will be copied to the LFA.

I gave a presentation about the work of the CFG and PC at a second RoW training session on 27th April.

Chris Peat

c) Carlton Gardening Group

The AGM of the Gardening Group was held on 30th March 2023. The Executive Committee comprises Mick Vann (Chairman), Graham Jackson, Bill Sharp, Jeanette Knappett, Ian Sarson (ex officio Northfields Liaison Group) and Chris Peat (Secretary).

The Group has 22 members who provided a total of 205.75 man-hours of volunteer labour in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard (29.50 hours), Churchyard and Cemetery (108.5 hours), Little Lane (21.50 hrs) and other places (46.25 hours) during 2022. Enid Morgan and Tania & Bill Sharp had kindly provided refreshments for working parties.

The activities in other places included cleaning and sealing the stone floor in the Community Hub, planting spring bulbs around the village, and putting up and taking down Christmas lights in the churchyard. The work carried out in the church and churchyard was reported to the AGM of the PCC.

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 repeatedly cut off by the verge mower and was dead.

The grass strip between the hedge and the path had been mowed and this had improved the appearance of the area. Additional clumps of spring bulbs had been planted in this area, and were making a good show.

Bird spikes had been installed on the swing cross bar to prevent bird droppings fouling the swing seats.

Additional playbark had been laid in the TPA.

The seats and picnic table had been treated with preservative.

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, and was trimmed by volunteers in February 2023. In future this hedge would be cut annually by the contractor.

The box hedge had been trimmed for the first time in February 2023 and was shaping up well.

Surplus soil from work in the churchyard had been used to level up a small area next to the Barton Road hedge.

Two sessile oak (*Q.petraea*) whips had been planted – one next to the northern hedge, one next to the Barton Road hedge.

Churchyard and Cemetery

The roots of the dead flowering cherry and rowan trees near the church gate had been removed.

The banks next to the church path had been graded and turfed.

Weep holes had been drilled in the western part of the churchyard retaining wall, and pea gravel and a field drain pipe had been laid behind the wall to introduce drainage and prevent soil heave.

Three trees - *Malus* 'Red Jewel', Japanese rowan (*Sorbus commixta*) 'Embley' and a Chinese hornbeam (*Carpinus omeiensis*), had been planted in the churchyard to mark the Platinum Jubilee. An article about the planting ceremony is available from the PC website.

The heap of spoil next to the new path in the Cemetery had been levelled and seeded. A new area of grave spaces had been laid out.

Little Lane

The wild cherry trees overhanging the neighbouring property had been cut back in May, and other low trees and shrubs cut back from overhanging the path.

Roadside hedges

The two oak trees and one promoted holly on the east side of Barton Road were healthy and growing on well.

One oak whip (*Q.petraea*) had been planted in the corner of the field next to footpath S47 at Harry's Grave by kind permission of the landowner.

Two yellow willow cuttings had been planted on the eastern side of Congerstone Road near the junction with Congerstone Lane (replacing two dead alder trees).

Carlton Green

There had been no work on Carlton Greens.

Other sites

A disused concrete water trough had been installed on the grass verge at the Main Street/Barton Road junction, planted up, and maintained.

The disease-resistant elm tree (*Ulmus minor var vulgaris* 'Upper Swell') next to footpath S69 had been kept watered during the drought and had survived, although it had not made any new growth. This tree will need monitoring for another year.

The Golden Jubilee Post had been treated with tung oil.

Mick Vann

d) Carlton Geocache

During the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 eight visits to the Geocache had been recorded on-line, and 12 in the log book. The visitors had all made positive comments, and there was a steady turnover of 'treasures' in the cache.

Puddlejumper

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

The Bosworth Links Project organised a community archaeological dig in Carlton on 10th and 11th September 2022 which was very well supported. 20 test pits were excavated and produced worked flint, and Roman and younger pottery and other finds. A film of the event has been uploaded to the PC website, along with some personal accounts of the weekend. The written report is in preparation. This project is part of a wider investigation of the settlements around Market Bosworth – along with other volunteers from Carlton I took part in a dig at Far and Near Coton on 22nd-23rd April, and intend to take part in a dig at Cadeby on 9-10th September.

In response to a question in *Ask Aspect* I wrote an article about the occurrence of Carlton Stone in local buildings (*Aspect*, April 2023, p.3-5) which has been uploaded to the PC website.

Trees

The survey of roadside ash trees was repeated in July 2022 (Report 2022-16). The disease had not progressed, probably due to the hot weather and drought during the summer. Wet and cool conditions are believed to favour the fungus while hot and dry conditions appear to shift the balance in favour of the trees.

The tall Austrian pine in the churchyard was examined after strong winds in March 2023. 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 was continuing to make vigorous new growth. The elm tree planted next to footpath S69 and the new trees in the churchyard had survived the summer drought thanks to regular watering, and all had shown good leaf growth in the spring.

Three oak whips (*Quercus petraea*) had been planted to mark the Coronation of King Charles III – one at Harry's Grave and two in the Diamond Jubilee Orchard. A member of the Carlton Brownie Pack from 1977 has been invited to plant a tree in the churchyard to mark the Coronation.

The yew tree next to the church tower had been cut back as advised in the Quinquennial Report to the PCC.

The hedge along the northern side of the CDJO had been laid in February 2022 and was trimmed in February 2023 by members of the CGG.

Two willow (*Salix* sp) trees had been planted next to the brook on the eastern side of the Congerstone Lane/Congerstone Road junction to stabilise the bank. The whips had been grown from cuttings taken from a hedgerow tree with striking yellow bark on Stoke Road near Hinckley. The species or variety has not yet been identified.

I attended a Leics Tree Warden Conference at Beaumanor Hall on 4th March, and have been measuring trees around Market Bosworth and submitting records to the Ancient Tree Inventory. An article about the lime trees around Bosworth Hall has been published (*Aspect*, May 2023, p.22-24); another about the yew trees is in preparation.

C J Peat

f) Carlton Parish Council website

The *Accessibility* page was created in August 2020, the *Community Hub* page in October 2020 and the *Carlton Charity Lands* page in December 2022. The figures for the News and

Gardening Group pages in 2020-21 are clearly anomalous as is the News Page in 2022-23, possibly due to the presence of an ambiguous keyword or abbreviation.

| Page Title | Page impressions 2020-21 | Page impressions 2021-22 | Page impressions 2022-23 |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 1&1 analytics 1.4.20-31.3.21 | 1&1 analytics 1.4.21-31.3.22 | 1&1 analytics 1.4.22-31.3.23 |
| Home Page | 6609 | 9570 | 10296 |
| News | 66150 | 5257 | 47833 |
| Diary | 99 | 893 | 476 |
| Meetings & reports | 91 | 681 | 654 |
| Parish Councillors | 81 | 378 | 339 |
| Cemetery & Churchyard | 122 | 307 | 285 |
| Parish organisations | 198 | 370 | 410 |
| Parish Plan & Appraisal | 94 | 318 | 273 |
| Council information | 183 | 398 | 348 |
| Finance | 46 | 256 | 244 |
| Carlton Gardening Group | 7858 | 258 | 220 |
| Carlton History | 356 | 676 | 585 |
| Traffic and speed monitoring | 60 | 203 | 189 |
| Carlton News | 85 | 439 | 446 |
| St Andrews Community Hub | 10 | 265 | 253 |
| Accessibility | 17 | 164 | 224 |
| Carlton Charity Lands | - | - | 74 |
| TOTALS | 24284 | 20433 | |
| Total site visits | 80296 | 9007 | 50375 |
| Page impressions/visit | 2.27 | 2.21 | 1.24 |
| Average duration of visit (secs) | 29.57 | 18.03 | 22.42 |

Source of visitors: Europe 23518; N America 26593; Asia 621; S America 28; Africa 46; Oceania 50; Unidentified 55.

Pages of origin: Direct 88.28%; Search engines 1.81%; Other 9.91%.

Pages with bounce rate of more than 200: Home Page 6327; News 39593.

The website usually gets 740-860 hits per calendar month, but the number of hits increased to 1,740 in Aug 2022, 1,210 in Nov 2022, 23,108 in Feb 2023 and 17,780 in March 2023. These hits came from North America and France, and were associated with similar increases in the bounce rates for those months.

Parish Clerk

g) Carlton Youth Champions

There had been no activity during the year.

h) Keep Carlton Tidy Group

The 31st Annual Litter Pick was held on 12 March 2023.

The event was very well supported, with 26 people participating, compared with 29 in 2022, and we were able to cover all the roads leading to our neighbouring villages. The volume of rubbish collected was similar to last year, mainly food wrappings, cans, and bottles, including whisky, beer and wine. However, the load was heavier because of the seven sandbags.

The most useful find was scaffolding poles and sandbags, the most interesting was an audio box/sound system and the most disgusting was a black bag full of decaying wild birds and snares. The most decorative item was a pergola. Prizes were awarded as usual.

A report and photographs were placed on the Parish website and printed in Carlton News. We were grateful to the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Clean Neighbourhoods Team for disposing of all the rubbish collected.

Four local fly tipping incidents were reported to HBBC compared with three last year: – a mattress near the railway bridge, a large piece of car left behind after the flood under the railway bridge, builders waste on Bosworth Road in the track adjacent to the Dixie Playing Fields, and on Lount Road a biohazard of cylinders. We also reported tipping at Far Coton, and at Shenton.

Additional litter picked over the twelve month period was the equivalent of 10 black bags (compared with 11 in 2022 and 22 in 2021).

It seems there is still a need for this group. We thank all the volunteers and look forward to next years' event.

Irene Peat ***Chairman Keep Carlton Tidy Group***