

**Annual reports from parish representatives and organisations****a) Carlton Parish Council**

Carlton is a small rural hamlet of about 160 dwellings. We may appear to be a sleepy village but beneath the surface there is a willing army of volunteers and enthusiasts working to promote the life of the community.

Thirty-four years ago Carlton was the first local community to carry out litter picking along local roads, collecting tons of rubbish discarded predominantly by passing motorists. In addition to the litter pickers we have an enthusiastic group of gardeners who meet regularly to maintain and improve the appearance of the village by planting bulbs, cutting back trees and hedges, levelling graves and clearing pavements.

Carlton News is put together and delivered by volunteers and is attracting articles on local issues by parishioners. Local walkers help to keep our public rights of way clear of obstructions and accessible. These groups are all supported by the Parish Council and without this willing labour we would have to employ contractors paid for out of the council tax.

Back in June an open gardens day was held; the weather was perfect and several hundred attendees raised funds for charity.

The annual village fete has been held in various locations for as long as I can remember. Thankfully this tradition has been continued with the formation of the Carlton Village Society. In August they ran a larger and very successful event incorporating the horticultural & produce show, charity auction, musical performances, car and dog shows. The proceeds were donated to LOROS (£2,500), the Friends (£1,000) and Carlton PCC (£1,000).

The third Christmas Lights Switch-on event took place at the church and attendees enjoyed a rousing performance from the Carlton Rock Choir followed by light refreshments provided by the Friends of St Andrews.

Moving forward, the eastern section of the churchyard wall has been monitored for structural movement since 2018, and now needs to be rebuilt. Regrettably the tall Austrian pine tree growing near the wall will have to be removed. We are also taking the opportunity to widen the pavement, and are hoping to attract grant funding to offset some of the costs. Unfortunately the free flow of traffic along Main Street will be restricted while the works are in progress. Once again, we would appreciate some help from volunteers to carry out some of the lesser skilled tasks.

Last year the Parish Council held seven ordinary meetings plus one extraordinary meeting to review a planning application for housing and open space off Barton Road. The church was full for this meeting and the public feeling strong in supporting our objections to the proposal. I thank everyone who attended and submitted written comments to the Planning Department which strengthened their decision to refuse the development. Another example of the community pulling together when necessary.

Over the past year we commented on nine planning applications and were represented at seven meetings of other bodies, including a parishes meeting arranged by Dr Luke Evans MP.

A second defibrillator has been installed at The Gate Hangs Well to serve the eastern end of the village, and we thank the landlords for their support and the Borough Council and the Carlton Charity Lands for grants towards the cost.

Finally my congratulations go to Josh Melen for his election to Leicestershire County Council, and my thanks to my fellow Councillors, the army of volunteers and all the organisations and bodies who give their time and energy to keep the village running smoothly.

***S G Tupling Chairman***

**b) Carlton Charity Lands****Awards to young people made since the last Annual meeting**

The Trustees received applications from the following young people and made 9 awards of £300 each.

November 2025 4 awards were made.

March 2026 3 awards were made.

April 2026 2 awards were made.

**Other grants awarded have been awarded to the following**

- 1) £200 to the Carlton Defibrillator Group
- 2) £500 towards the additional defibrillator sited at The Gate Hangs Well

**Finances**

Total awards made since last APC meeting £3400

The Annual rent is £2025.00 received February 2026

Balance at January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2026 was £3075.64

Balance at May 15<sup>th</sup> 2026 £3600.64

**Trustee changes**

Graham Jackson and Chris Brockhurst have or are planning to move from the village so have consequently resigned as Trustees.

Mick Vann, Ross Gartshore, Nicky Morgan and Nick Smith expressed interest in becoming Trustees. After some discussion it was agreed to invite **Ross Gartshore** and **Nick Smith** to become Trustees. The other 2 applicants, whilst it was agreed would have a lot to offer as Trustees, were already fully engaged in village activities and should be thanked for their interest and kept in mind for future vacancies.

***Hazel Davenport***

**c) Carlton Footpath Group**

The Group currently has four members. All public RoW in the Parish are waymarked and free from obstruction.

The waymark post nearest Main St on S77 is in poor condition and LCC RoW have agreed to provide a replacement.

Timber sleeper bridges on S68 and S69 were replaced by LCC RoW. A decayed timber sleeper on S68 was kindly replaced by a concrete sleeper by the landowner.

***C J Peat***

**d) Carlton Gardening Group**

The AGM of the CGG was held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026. The Executive Committee comprises Judith Boston, Jeanette Knappett, Chris Peat (Secretary), Ian Sarson (ex-officio), John Storer, Stuart Tupling & Mick Vann (Chairman).

The Group has 20 members who provided a total of 86.25 man-hours of volunteer labour in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard (42.5 hours), Churchyard and Cemetery (31.25 hrs), and highway verges and RoW (12.5 hrs) during 2025.

The work in the Churchyard and Cemetery included putting up and taking down the Christmas lights (15 hours). Tania & Bill Sharp provided generous refreshments for working parties.

John & Veronica Storer, and Karen Downs looked after the troughs at the eastern end of Main Street and in the CDJO respectively.

The Group had entered the CDJO in the Royal Horticultural Society *It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme 2025* and had been assessed as *Level 4 – Thriving*, with the award of a £10 garden voucher. In 2026 the Group planned to enter the CDJO, churchyard and Little Lane into the scheme.

A display celebrating the tenth anniversary of the CGG had been mounted at the Horticultural & Produce Show. The show had been held in a marquee at the Fete and had attracted 203 visitors.

A pop-up event '*Primrose Sunday*' had been held in Bulls Nook Wood on 6 April and raised £120 in voluntary donations for the FoSACC.

Seven Village Gardens had been opened in aid of the National Gardens Scheme on 1 June 2025. The event had raised £2,317.60 for the NGS, and £421.22 each for the FoSACC and the PCC.

The forward work programme for 2026 can be found on the Gardening Group pages of the PC website.

The following works were carried out during the calendar year 2025

### **Diamond Jubilee Orchard**

The meadow areas had been cut at the end of June, and the wet cuttings removed for composting in a local wood.

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

The northern hedge had been cut by the PC's contractor and sided by the neighbouring landowner.

The two sessile oak (*Q.petraea*) whips were both growing on, but the leading shoot of the one next to the northern hedge had been accidentally cut off during hedge trimming.

The play equipment had been re-painted, with breathable paint kindly donated by a member.

The seats and picnic table had been treated with preservative.

Snowdrops had been transplanted into the western border near to the path.

A hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) at the extreme eastern end of the northern site hedge was growing well.

T55 (*Malus Red sentinel*) had stabilised and the stakes had been removed.

The wide highway verge at the Nailstone Rd end of the site had been mowed by the PCs contractor.

A replacement leg had been fitted to the swings.

Additional playbark had been laid in the Toddlers Play Area.

Plums from the Orchard had been awarded second prize in the Horticultural Show.

The fences between number 7 & 8 had blown over and had been left on the grass in the CDJO with nails sticking up. NCHA had taken no action and the fencing had been made safe and eventually removed by CGG volunteers. The PC had complained to the Chairman of NCHA, so far without any response.

**Churchyard and Cemetery**

Inspection chamber covers had been levelled up.  
Leaning slate headstones had been straightened.  
A trial excavation had shown the depth and structure of the churchyard wall.

**Little Lane**

No works had been carried out.

**Roadside hedges**

The two oak trees and one promoted holly on the east side of Barton Road were healthy and growing on well.  
The oak whip (*Q.petraea*) in the corner of the field next to footpath S47 at Harry's Grave had been watered and was growing on well.  
One of the yellow willow cuttings on the eastern side of Congerstone Road was growing; one had died and had been replaced.

**Carlton Greens**

The pipe under Shackerstone Walk had been repaired by LCC Highways in June.  
The outfall of this pipe along Congerstone Lane had become blocked, leading to more flooding in Shackerstone Walk. The landowner responsible had promised to clean out the ditch, but had not yet done so.

**Other sites**

The elm tree planted at Manor House Farm had been blown crooked, but appeared healthy although it had not put on much growth.

***Mick Vann (Chairman)***

**e) Carlton Geocache**

The new cache was installed in the Diamond Jubilee Orchard on 4 May 2026 and had its first visitor (FTF – First to Find) on the same day.

In the site log book in Little Lane there was 1 entry for 2025 and 4 for 2026, but the front page of the book was missing. The on-line log recorded 11 finds in the year, mostly from family groups.

***Puddlejumper***

**f) Carlton Heritage & Tree Warden****Heritage**

The eastern section of the churchyard retaining wall has a marked bulge, and is gradually

being pushed over by the soil behind it. The wall been monitored since 2018 (Reports 2025-03, 2026-06), and in September it was decided to repair it. A structural engineer advised that the eastern section of the wall needed to be re-built on a new foundation, so the plan is to set the eastern end of the wall back by 640mm to provide a wider and safer footway along Main St. The wall will be taken down by hand by volunteers, and the original bricks and capstones re-used. Drawings, specifications and a Faculty application are in preparation.

The Bosworth Links community archaeological project has continued to investigate local villages with spectacular results. The final dig took place in Congerstone in September 2025, and the results have now been published. The findings from the seven settlements investigated were summarised in a public lecture at the Dixie Grammar School on 19<sup>th</sup> March. Films, reports and further information can be found on the Bosworth Links website.

Major structural works to Manor House Farm have been completed and the farmhouse is now occupied, with internal works and finishes still in progress.

I attended a H&BBC Heritage Forum in the Atkins Building on 29<sup>th</sup> April with Cllrs Arnold and Boston.

### **Trees**

The survey of roadside ash trees was repeated in July 2025 (Report 2025-13). In 2019, 59% of surveyed trees were assessed as healthy. This decreased to a minimum of 32% in 2022, increasing to 42% in 2023, 45% in 2024 and 48% in 2025. Hot dry weather favours the trees, while damp cool weather favours the fungus. During the course of these surveys, 15 trees assessed as showing the first signs of infection have subsequently been assessed as healthy with 13 remaining healthy in 2025. Since the first survey in 2019, 5 badly infected trees have been felled.

One of the two yellow willow (*Salix* sp) cuttings planted next to the brook on the eastern side of the Congerstone Lane/Congerstone Road junction had died and had been replaced. The elm tree at Manor House Farm had blown crooked, but was too firmly rooted to be pulled back straight and appeared to be healthy.

It is unfortunate that works to the churchyard wall will destabilise the tall Austrian pine tree in the churchyard, and this tree will have to be removed.

I helped with tree planting at Poplars Farm, Barton on 27<sup>th</sup> January and attended the Tree Warden Forum at Sutton Bonington on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

**C J Peat**

### **g) Carlton Neighbourhood Watch**

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

83 people are registered and receive monthly e-mail crime updates and alerts. 37 people are registered on the National Carlton NHW page. Being registered as a NHW scheme is useful as you can get a discount with some household insurers.

**2025/26**

During the 12 months April 2025 to March 2026 there were 20 reported crimes in Carlton. This is identical to the previous year. Details are below with previous year's figures in brackets for comparison:

- 9 - violence and/or sexual offence (10)
- 0 - criminal damage and arson (4)
- 2 - burglary (0)
- 1 - vehicle crime (1)
- 3 - other theft (1)
- 2 - public order (2)
- 2 – Anti social behaviour (2)
- 1 – Robbery (0)

Crime was fairly evenly spread around the year with May 2025 the busiest month with 4 reported crimes in Carlton. Vehicle crime remains low but disappointingly burglary appeared this year with 2 reported crimes.

Violence and/or sexual offence is a wide-ranging term covering crime from low level pushing and shoving up to serious rape and most cases of domestic violence. It remains the largest reported crime across Carlton and the wider Bosworth area, accounting for 40% of all reported crime, 906 incidents. This has been the case as long as I have been compiling reported crime reports and is mirrored nationwide.

I am often asked “where was a particular crime in Carlton?” and “what is being done?”. The answer is publicly available on the police.uk website. If you search under Your Area with a Carlton postcode this will show a dropped pin for the approximate location of the reported crime and will indicate whether it is under investigation or no further action. You can search any area and any month.

**Outcome rates** for crime in our wider Bosworth area in the 12 months to March 2026 are below with last year's figures in brackets:

- 29% Investigation complete, no suspect identified, no further action (37%)
- 13% Unable to prosecute suspect (29%)
- 1% Further or formal investigation or action not in the public interest (5%)
- 38% Under investigation (6%)
- 7% Offender dealt with by local resolution/caution/ court result unavailable/action by another organisation/ awaiting court outcome (10%)
- 0% Status update unavailable (2%)
- 12% Other (11%)

I am slightly sceptical about the 2025/26 figures. Just 7% with a clear offender outcome is poor for residents and victims of crime and worse than last year's 10%. But the huge change this year is the “Under Investigation” category which has leapt from 6% to 38% of reported crime. Either there is a genuine shift to pursue offenders and prosecute rather than close crimes without any positive action for victims, or crimes are simply being left logged as “under investigation” to give the illusion of ongoing action. I have no way of knowing which is correct.

We can only hope that Leicestershire Police are committed to investigative work and prosecution rather than keeping crime reports open to make the figures look better.

**Crime not included in the Statistics**

The monthly NHW crime statistics do not paint the full picture. Economic crime in the form of cybercrime, fraud and scamming is a constant issue from organised gangs from UK and abroad. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) suggest that fraud increased by 19% in 2025 with an explosion in digital fraud. Data from UK Finance Annual Fraud Report showed that fraud represents over 40% of reported crime in 2025 with losses of £1.17 billion. We do not know how many Carlton residents have been victims of fraud as the figures are not available.

Fraud or cybercrime can be reported at the newly launched Report Fraud service on 0300 123 2040. Suspicious emails should also be sent to SERS (Suspicious email reporting service) at report@phishing.gov.uk. Suspicious texts can be forwarded to 7726.

**Leicestershire Police**

Neighbourhood Link and Leicestershire Rural Crime are available to all as a text alert service with live updates of local issues – just google Neighbourhood Link and sign up. Market Bosworth Police Facebook page is now defunct and has been subsumed into the Hinckley Police Facebook page which is regularly updated and is a source of local Police news. Police drop-in sessions are regularly held across local villages including The Gate Hangs Well.

**Contacts**

The Beat Team for Market Bosworth, Ratby, Groby and surrounding villages changes regularly and is currently Sgt James Cross, PC Graeme Smith, PC Nik Malbasa, PCSO Blake Sheffield and PCSO Sarah-Louise Needham. The Police and Crime Commissioner elected as a Conservative in 2024 is Rupert Matthews who now represents Reform UK.

In an emergency dial 999, the non-emergency police contact is 101. Further contacts are HBBC ASB Helpline on 01455 255 746 and Report Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

**Rosi Yule      Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator**  
**Tel: 292212    Email: chalkstorm@btopenworld.com**

**h) Carlton Parish Council website**

The *Walking* page was created in September 2023 when QR codes were put up around the village.

<b>Page Title</b>	<b>Page impressions 2023-24</b>	<b>Page impressions 2024-25</b>	<b>Page impressions 2025-26</b>
	1&1 analytics 2.4.23 to 31.3.24	1&1 analytics 1.4.24 to 31.3.25	1&1 analytics 1.4.25 to 31.3.26
Home Page	9226	8126	12953
News	1612	4882	6429
Diary	69	165	510
Meetings & reports	233	174	744
Parish Councillors	104	128	451
Cemetery & Churchyard	121	189	534
Parish organisations	110	142	574
Parish Plan & Appraisal	72	116	468

Council information	175	213	545
Finance	65	119	460
Carlton Gardening Group	96	108	509
Carlton History	102	225	637
Traffic and speed monitoring	76	118	624
Carlton News	114	201	532
St Andrews Community Hub	116	187	456
Accessibility	56	198	427
Carlton Charity Lands	71	163	481
Walking	65	153	502
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11383</b>	<b>15448</b>	<b>27836</b>
<b>Total site visits</b>	<b>11923</b>	<b>15140</b>	<b>27507</b>
<b>Page impressions/visit</b>	<b>1.81</b>	<b>1.83</b>	<b>1.68</b>
<b>Average duration of visit (secs)</b>	<b>16.40</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>27.47</b>

Source of visitors: Europe 6622; N America 7795; Asia 8305; S America 1685; Africa 215; Oceania 72; Unidentified 3373.

Pages of origin: Direct 81.84%; Search engines 5.02%; Social networks 0.07%; Other 13.07%.

Bounce rate 7.44%.

*Parish Clerk*

### **i) Carlton Village Society**

The following Officers are currently in post:

- Paul Davenport – Chairman
- Diana Scott – Secretary
- Adrian Burch – Treasurer
- Mandie Bristlin – Marketing and Communications

### **Key points for 2025 fete**

- Fete was held on Aug 30<sup>th</sup> at the Rectory.
- This new location allowed us to scale up the event considerably from previous years. New events included a dog show and many more attractions and games.
- A total of £9k was raised for the event in total which is a considerable increase on previous years. (An additional £1.4k was raised by the church in the raffle)
- Key to the success was support from local businesses. A total of £3.3k of sponsorship was raised prior to the event itself.
- Card technology was used for the first time (sum-up) which generally worked well.
- This was the first time that the society had run an event of this size and considerable lessons were learnt going forwards, particularly in the areas of marketing, pricing strategy, site layout, and volunteer support and management on the day.

### **Key points for 2026 fete**

- The event will also be held at the Rectory on the 29<sup>th</sup> August .
- Many of the same attractions will be there, but we are adding some additional marquees based on feedback. We will look to maximise the benefits of locating events within the garden area. A dedicated stage will be provided for music and announcements.

- Officers and members of the committee have been updated and there is considerable enthusiasm for the event.
- Current challenges include sourcing music, trying to match the sponsorship success of last year, marquees, and ensuring we have sufficient volunteers on the day.

<b>Income and expenditure account</b>	
	<b>2025</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
Sponsorship	3,313
Carlton fete income	5,772
<b>Total income</b>	<b>9,085</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Carlton fete costs	1,940
Loros	2,500
Friends of St Andrews Church	1,000
Church maintenance (PCC)	1,000
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>6,440</b>
<b>Net income</b>	<b>2,645</b>
<b>Balance sheet</b>	
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash in bank	2,645
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>2,645</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Creditors	0
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>	
Retained funds	2,645
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>2,645</b>

**Adrian Burch**

**j) Carlton Youth Champions**

There had been no activity during the year.

**k) Keep Carlton Tidy Group**

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Litter Pick was held on 22 March 2026. This year 16 adults and two young people participated, compared with 18 and three in 2025, and the volume collected was 1.0 cubic metre.

Food litter and cans were common, and a large number of glass bottles was found, this year on Barton Road. The usual car debris arrived with the flooding – wheel trims, number plates,

and some much larger pieces. New this year were a large and heavy meat cleaver, a sweatshirt, the lower half of a household door, and the insulator from a power line. There was a large side of meat, possibly lamb, in its polythene wrapping, near Barton. A detailed report and a photograph were placed on the website.

Six local tipping incidents were reported during the year:

Outside Northfields:	old barbeque and paraphernalia
Carlton Canal Bridge:	bulky wooden furniture
Congerstone Road:	black bags of rubbish and a large box of carpet pieces
Lount Road:	mixed builders' rubbish
	black bags of rubbish and lino
	black bags of rubbish and 25 car tyres.

We thank the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Clean Neighbourhoods Team for their support of the Litter Pick, and their very prompt and efficient action in dealing with tipping incidents.

We thank all the volunteers, including those who pick during the year as the need arises, and look forward to next year's event.

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