

## Carlton Gate

The text on the information board at Carlton Gate is based on this document, which is in turn developed from the draft in Carlton Parish Council Report 2020-19. This version is more comprehensive, and includes references to sources.

### Carlton

The name *Carlton* derives from the Old English *ceorl (en a) tun* meaning settlement of the free men; *Builton* at the crossroads to the north derives from *abufan tun* meaning above the settlement<sup>1</sup>. Carlton does not appear in Domesday Book – at that time it was a chapelry of Market Bosworth, along with Coton. The earliest documentary references



Ordnance Survey 1" to 1 mile map, first edition and first printing, 1835, courtesy of British Library. © Crown copyright. Reproduced 2020 by Carlton Parish Council under OS licence number 0100061393.

to the village are as Karlintone in a Feet of Fines of 1202, Karleton in an Episcopal Register of 1209-35 and an inquisition dated 1270 when Roger de Quincy Earl of Winton died seised of four knight's fees. There was a church - *capellam de Karletone* – in 1220<sup>1</sup>.



Part of a medieval floor tile, excavated from the south side of the church tower in 2019.

## Carlton Gate and the turnpike

The area around the junction of Main St and Barton Road is known as *Carlton Gate* because it was the location of a toll gate on the Hinckley to Measham turnpike road. This turnpike was constructed after the passing of the Act of 1<sup>st</sup> Authority in 1759-60 (33 Geo.II, c.47)<sup>2</sup>. One gate across the eastern end of Main Street controlled access to the turnpike, while another across Barton Road controlled the traffic along the turnpike and allowed the collection of tolls. The toll booth was situated on what is now a wide grass verge on the north western corner of the junction of Main Street and Barton Road<sup>3</sup>.



Milepost from the Hinckley - Measham turnpike road.

The census of 1841 records the occupation of George Holmes, a local resident, as 'gate-keeper'<sup>4</sup>. A schedule of 1866 records that the local Turnpike Trust was almost out of debt with tolls of £1,250 and debt of £50 at an interest rate of 5%. The road had ceased to be a turnpike by 1872<sup>2</sup>. The only original milepost from this turnpike to survive can be found next to the village nameplate on Bosworth Road<sup>5</sup>.

## Early settlement

The straight road between Carlton Gate and Market Bosworth may have been built by the Romans: there was a Roman villa near to the road at Market Bosworth, and medieval ridge and furrow between the two settlements respects the line of the road. Boundary ditches of Roman age have been excavated at the rear of Hall Terrace in the centre of Carlton<sup>6</sup>. In these early times the Carlton area would have looked to the west, with strong connections with Mancetter and Tamworth, and transport links along the rivers Anker, Thame and Trent<sup>7</sup>. Carlton may have been part of a Celtic multiple estate before the Norman conquest in 1066<sup>8</sup>.

## The Gate Hangs Well

The Gate Hangs Well public house was described as 'newly built' in the sale catalogue for the Bosworth Estate in 1885<sup>4</sup>, and was sympathetically extended in 2019. The original sign in the form of a gate, now preserved inside the pub, bore the words:

*THIS GATE HANGS WELL  
AND HINDERS NONE  
REFRESH AND PAY  
AND CARRY ON*

*CALL AT THE GATE  
AND DRINK OF THE TAP  
DRINK AND BE MERRY  
AND KEEP OFF THE STRAP*

The *strap* was an old razor strop hung behind the bar, on which drinking debts were written.



Jubilee Post with 'Carlton' daffodils and The Gate Hangs Well behind. 2016.

### **Jubilee Post**

Opposite the pub is the Carlton Jubilee Post, erected by a group of volunteers to mark the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and unveiled by the oldest and youngest residents on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2002. The oak post has a decorative lead cap made by Paul Adams, and is inset with ceramic panels made by Ruth Schweining and Judy Taylor. The panels depict Carlton life past and present – for example St Michael's Church before it was gothicised and dedicated to St Andrew, and part of a row of cottages which used to face onto Carlton Green<sup>9</sup>.



Details of panels in the Jubilee Post showing St Michael's Church and a cottage and pump which once fronted onto Carlton Green.



The post is set in a plinth of local Carlton Stone, and is surrounded by 'Carlton' daffodils in the spring. This well-known hardy variety of daffodil is believed to be named after the village, and was first grown in the 1890's and introduced in 1927 by P D Williams, the Cornish 'daffodil king'<sup>10</sup>.



Unveiling of the Golden Jubilee Post by the oldest and youngest resident. June 2002.

## Hoop Hall

Carlton Gate was known as Hoop Hall Gate before the 1950's, and this place name was used in censuses from 1861 to 1901. Hoop Hall was a building on the site of the present pub, and was at least in part a public house managed by the Collington family. Hannah Collington was listed as a publican in 1841, while Samuel Collington, probably her son, was listed as a wheelwright living at Hoop Hall in 1851, and as a publican and wheelwright in 1861. The 1871 census lists Elizabeth Collington as a publican, with her son, also a wheelwright. In small pubs of the day it was common for the woman of the house to run the bar during the day while the man worked at another full time job. The name Hoop Hall might refer to the iron hoops used to tyre cart wheels<sup>3</sup>.

## Carlton Mill

Mill House in Nailstone Road is the oldest remaining building in Carlton Gate. It is partly built of Carlton Stone, and probably dates from at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century. A wind mill named Sparrowble Mill<sup>4</sup> stood in the field across the road, and is marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1835. The underground foundations comprised three brick pillars, so the mill was probably a post-mill. Local field names of Mill Close and Upper Mill Bank date from 1786 and 1849, respectively<sup>1</sup>. A note book has recently come to light which includes notes of the corn being ground at Sparrowble Mill between 1857 and 1869<sup>11</sup>.

Deacon Cotton Grinding					
August 25 <sup>th</sup>	3	Strike	Barley	1	0
29 <sup>th</sup>	3	do	do	1	0
	1	do	Wheat	2	0
Sept 5 <sup>th</sup>	4	do	Barley	1	4
17 <sup>th</sup>	6	do	do	2	0
	1	do	Wheat	...	6
25 <sup>th</sup>	9	do	Barley	3	0
Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>	7	do	do	...	8
2	3	do	Barley	1	0
10 <sup>th</sup>	6	do	do	2	0
	4	do	Wht	2	0
23 <sup>rd</sup>	4	do	Barley	2	0
29 <sup>th</sup>	6	do	do	2	0
	2	do	do	8	8
Nov 9 <sup>th</sup>	6	do	do	2	0
15 <sup>th</sup>	6	do	do	2	0
Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	4	do	do	1	4
24 <sup>th</sup>	3	do	do	1	0
Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup>	4	do	do	1	4
14 <sup>th</sup>	8	Strike	Wht - 20	2	8
Feb 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6	Strike	Wht - 20	2	0
9 <sup>th</sup>	4	Wht	Wht -	1	4
Jan 24 <sup>th</sup>	3	Wht	-	1	0
	3	Wht	-	1	0

Sparroble Mill - page from a notebook listing grain ground.

1 strike was 2 bushels or 16 gallons.

Courtesy of Richard Liddington.

## Diamond Jubilee

The Diamond Jubilee in 2012 was marked by the planting of a sessile oak tree (*Quercus petraea*) near the Jubilee Post by the youngest resident with help from her mother<sup>12</sup>. At this time volunteers were working to create the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard, a small public open space at the edge of the village between Nailstone Road and Barton Road<sup>13</sup>. The fruit trees in the orchard include a Shackerstone Apple, also known as Dumelow's Crab, Dumelow's Seedling or occasionally Normanton Wonder<sup>14</sup>.

Dumelow's Seedling was first cultivated in 1790 by Richard Dummeller, a Shackerstone farmer, and became widely grown locally. It was propagated and sold commercially from 1820 under the name 'Wellington' and was one of the most popular cooking apples in England until Bramley's seedling became widely available in 1856. Richard Dummeller Thompson (1858-1930), whose mother was Ann Dummeller of Shackerstone, farmed at Bufton in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>14</sup>.





Diamond Jubilee oak tree being planted by the youngest resident, with some adult help. 2012.

## Harry's Grave

The Bufton Lane, Lount Road and Nailstone Road crossroads is known locally as Harry's Grave, and marks the north-eastern boundary of the Parish. There is a spring nearby, and the 'grave' part of the name is probably a corruption of the Old English word *græf* meaning a pool in a hollow. Nearby fields are variously listed as Harvey Grove, Harveys Grove, Harveys Grave, Harveys Grave Close, and Harrys Grave Close in local tithe maps. The identity of Harvey has yet to be established<sup>15</sup>.



The Gate Hangs Well with Mill House in the background. c1920. Courtesy of Richard Liddington.

## Carlton Charity Lands

The oldest institution in Carlton is the Carlton Charity Lands, established by gifts of land by Simon Geffrey (or Gessrey) in 1317, Thomas Tymson in 1431, and John Hooe in 1481. The funds were originally used to finance apprenticeships, but are now used to provide grants to help young people with training, equipment and materials at the start of their careers<sup>16</sup>.

## Parish history

In the itinerary of 1280 Carleton, Bosworth, Coton and Shenkerton answered collectively as one vill. Until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Carlton village consisted of four small groups of dwellings at Bufton to the north, Carlton Gate at the eastern end, central Carlton (around the church), and Carlton Green at the western end. Later built development has consolidated into the linear village seen today.

Carlton became a separate civil parish in 1866, and a separate ecclesiastical parish in 1868. In this connection it is interesting that the church building was gothicised by Goddard & Son of Leicester in 1867. This was when the windows were altered, the distinctive saddleback top was added to the tower and the dedication changed from St Michael to St Andrew.



Saint Andrew's Church, 2019.

## Landscape

The local landscape is one of enclosed fields, with nucleated settlements and scattered farmsteads. The names of Eastfields, Westfields, Northfields and Common Farm recall the early open field system of agriculture, and traces of ridge and furrow ploughing are still clearly visible in fields around the village. The process of enclosure and the creation of outlying farmsteads may have begun in Saxon times, but had been completed by 1674: there was no enclosure act for Carlton.

## Population

The population of Carlton, from selected national census data<sup>4</sup>, is tabulated below.

1801	160
1811	219
1851	290
1921	170
1951	193

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C J Peat, November 2020.