

Carlton Gardening Group

Annual Report 2021-22

The AGM was held on 16th 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