

# Carlton Gardening Group

## Annual Report 2024-25

The AGM of the CGG was held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The Executive Committee comprises Graham Jackson, Chris Peat (Secretary), Ian Sarson (ex officio Northfields Liaison Group), Bill Sharp, Stuart Tupling, and Mick Vann (Chairman).

The Group has 20 members who provided a total of 100 man-hours of volunteer labour in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard (20 hours); Churchyard and Cemetery (40 hours); highway verges and RoW (36 hours) and Carlton Green (3 hrs) during 2023. Tania and Bill Sharp kindly provided refreshments for working parties.

The CDJO will be 10 years old this year, and an exhibition is being planned for the Horticultural & Produce Show. The Jubilee Orchard will also be entered into the RHS *It's Your Neighbourhood* Scheme.

The forward work programme for 2025 can be found on the Gardening Group pages of the PC website. The following works were carried out during the calendar year 2024.

### Diamond Jubilee Orchard

The revised mowing regime worked well, with fewer clippings requiring removal and disposal. The meadow areas were 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 replaced and the new bush protected by a metal guard.

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

The northern hedge was cut by the PC's contractor in November.

Tree T37 (Bramley cooking apple). The replacement tree has established well.

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

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

The seats and picnic table were treated with preservative.

A metal drinking trough was installed at the Barton Road entrance and planted with herbs. The trough replaced timber posts which had rotted.

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

A hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) had grown up at the extreme eastern end of the northern site hedge, and had been damaged by the hedge trimmer. This tree has been pruned up for retention as a standard tree.

T53 holly between the electricity sub-station and the amphibian refuge had died.

T55 (*Malus* Red sentinel) had become bent over by wind and weight of fruit, and has been pulled upright and re-staked. This tree might need to be replaced if it does not stabilise.

The wide highway verge at the Nailstone Rd end of the site had become unkempt, and garden waste had been dumped on it. The Parish Council has asked their contractor to mow this area in future.

## **Churchyard and Cemetery**

The old post and wire fencing was removed and disposed of by CDJO members.

A new fence has been installed by a contractor, and set back from the footpath.

Trees overhanging the footpath have been cut back, and the gradient of the path near the kissing gate has been reduced.

Snowdrops have been planted under the weeping birch tree, and cyclamen have been transplanted into the banks along the path.

Rotten parts of the chestnut tree have been moved to a nearby woodland area.

## **Little Lane**

One tree has been felled, and branches overhanging the neighbouring property have been cut back.

## **Roadside hedges**

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

The oak whip (*Q.petraea*) in the corner of the field next to footpath S47 at Harry's Grave has been watered and is growing on.

The two yellow willow cuttings planted on the eastern side of Congerstone Road near the junction with Congerstone Lane have died and have been replaced.

## **Carlton Greens**

The bench on the East Green has been repainted.

The pipe draining the ditch on the eastern side of the West Green has collapsed under Shackerstone Walk, leading to water backing up and flooding the road. The problem was reported to Leics CC Highways in October 2022; repair works have been scheduled for 6 June 2025.

## **Other sites**

The Golden Jubilee Post was treated with tung oil.

The concrete trough at the eastern end of Main St has been planted up, watered and maintained, and the surrounding area of grass verge mowed by a CGG volunteer.

Clumps of 'Carlton' daffodils planted in 2023 have come up again and made good displays in March and April.

The elm tree planted at Manor House Farm is healthy; epicormic shoots have been pruned off to encourage it to develop as a standard tree.

Mick Vann