

CARLTON NEWS

February 2026

Pancake Party

The annual pancake party will be held in St. Andrew's Hub at 7pm on Shrove Tuesday, February 17th. There is always a variety of pancakes to feast on and everyone is welcome. There is no cost but donations to the church are welcome. We do need numbers for catering, so please ring 292542 to let us know that you will be coming.

Pat Lockwood

Spring Clean Litter Pick

The Litter Pick has been an annual event in Carlton since 1992, and the Keep Carlton Tidy Group was founded in 2004. We will be holding our 34th pick on Sunday 22nd March.

Please come and join us in clearing up the litter that has accumulated in the parish and along the roads to neighbouring villages. Grabbers and sacks will be provided, and prizes awarded as usual for the most interesting, most useful, most disgusting and most decorative finds.



We start at 10am at the end of Main Street opposite *The Gate Hangs Well* or on Carlton Green.

If you prefer to help on a different day, or to do a particular stretch by yourself, please let me know - we can provide equipment and arrange for your pickings to be collected. Please however, leave the stretch from The Gate to Bufton and from Carlton Green to Lineage Farm for the pickers on the day.

*Irene Peat, Chairman
Keep Carlton Tidy Group, Tel 290934*

Churchyard Wall

The eastern section of the churchyard wall has a marked bulge and leans over towards the road. The amount of overhang has been measured quarterly since 2018 using a plumb bob suspended from thirteen screws inserted into bricks near the top of the wall at one metre intervals.

These measurements have shown that the gate pillars are stable, but the central part of the bulge – around screw number 6 – has an overhang of 80mm when the ground is dry. When the ground gets wet, this section of wall is pushed over by an additional 20mm, giving an overhang of up to 100mm. Unfortunately, the wall does not return to its dry position, but is being pushed over by about 1mm each year. Details can be found in Report 2025-03 on the Parish Council website (www.carltonpc.co.uk).

The wall has been inspected by a structural engineer, who has advised that the entire wall and eastern pillar need to be rebuilt on new concrete foundations. The pavement at the eastern end of the wall is very narrow, so the Parish Council is proposing to set the new wall back. This will require agreement from Leics County Council Highways Dept.



The Parish Council has decided to carry out the recommended works in two phases. In Phase I the soil behind the wall will be stripped back, the wall taken down by hand and the bricks cleaned for re-use by volunteers. AR Demolition has kindly volunteered to help with this work. In Phase II the new foundations will be laid and the wall re-built by a contractor. This is going to be expensive and will require traffic lights in Main Street while the work is in progress.

The wall is a curtilage structure to the church, which is a Grade II listed building. These works will require a Faculty – an ecclesiastical planning permission - from the church authorities and plans and an application are being prepared.

The tall Austrian pine tree growing near the wall will be seriously impacted by the proposed works and will probably have to be removed.

Parish Clerk

Carlton Charity Lands -New Trustees Required

As two of the current six Trustees are leaving, Carlton Charity Lands are in urgent need of replacements. The Charity distributes the annual rental income from two fields as grants to young people in the Parish to help with the costs of education and self-development.

Meetings are held twice a year to review applications. Trustees also spend a few hours beforehand reviewing the requests. The passage of time should also see the new Trustees become more involved in the administration of the Charity.

If you are able to devote some time to the Charity, and help to continue a process that began in 1317, please contact by email franco@onesti.co.uk andrewjamestee@gmail.com or davenporthazel@gmail.com for more information or contact us directly.

Hazel Davenport

Local Archaeology

Washing finds in the Community Hub, 2022



The Bosworth Links Project began in 2017 with the intention of investigating the early history of Market Bosworth and surrounding villages using archaeological test pits. This had not been attempted before. The project was organised by Market Bosworth Society, and supervised by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Since then test pits have been excavated by volunteers in Market Bosworth, Carlton, Cadeby, Far Coton, Congerstone, Shenton and Shackerstone. Most of the pits have been dug in private gardens, and the project would not have been possible without the enthusiastic support of local residents and landowners.

Mathew Morris of ULAS will present an overview of the archaeology of the project in the Dixie Grammar School Hall at 6.45pm on Thursday 19th March.

Chris Peat

Neighbourhood Watch

There were 3 reported crimes in Carlton in the 3 months September to November 2025. These were 2 violence and/or sexual assaults and 1 other theft.

Several people have expressed surprise that a Carlton NHW exists. It has been going quite a while and if you would like to be included on the monthly NHW circulation giving details of reported crime in Carlton and surrounding villages please email me, Rosi Yule on chalkstorm@btopenworld.com. It's a private list and your email is not made public.

Market Bosworth Beat Team

Our local beat team has changed recently with the loss of PCSO Niko Sidiropoulos to Force HQ. The current team consists of PC 658 Allan Charles, PC 611 Graeme Smith, PCSO 6593 Sarah-Louise Needham, PCSO 6566 Blake Sheffield and Sgt Jarrod Paterson.

The local team have set our policing priorities for 2026 Q1. These are:

*Anti-social behaviour (ASB) in certain villages working with the community and HBBC;
Road safety including speeding, parking and weight restrictions breaches. The spread of complaints means that there will be a general focus across the wider area rather than one place, although patrols will target the most identified locations including vehicle stops and speeding enforcement;
Rural crime, this includes burglary across NH29 Beat and specific rural offences such as hare coursing.*

Crime in Carlton is rare, but to report a crime or suspicious activity call **101** or you can report online. In an emergency, with a crime in progress, **call 999**. If you want to report a crime or suspicious behaviour anonymously you can call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**.

Cyber crime

Advance purchase fraud – where an item is bought and the goods never turn up – is now huge, estimated at £53m loss last year. Criminals mainly use social media platforms and auction websites and concentrate on high volume, low value scams. Please be aware if you are tempted by pop-ups to buy goods online.

For any fraud, scams or cybercrime Action Fraud has now been replaced a new **Report Fraud** service. The number is **0300 123 2040**. You can also report online at reportfraud.police.uk. Many of us receive scam emails, text or WhatsApp messages. You can forward emails to report@phishing.gov.uk, or forward spam text messages to **7726**. For scam WhatsApp simply press Report. This removes scammers from circulation and helps a more vulnerable person.

Rosi Yule
Carlton Neighbourhood Watch, 292212

Joan Llewellyn—100 years young

Joan Llewellyn celebrated her 100th birthday on 20th January with family, friends and neighbours. Joan has two sons - Andrew and John - four grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Joan moved to Carlton in 1976, and at the time was working as an occupational therapist at Nuneaton. Her husband, Ken, was head of the Public Health Service in Nuneaton. Joan and Ken were keen skiers, and Joan still has a metal plate in her leg from a skiing accident. They founded the Leicester Ski Club and were responsible for installing the dry ski slope at Narborough through Leicester City Council.

Joan and Ken skied in many parts of Europe, their favourite being Grindelwald in Switzerland where they were made honorary members.



Joan is a keen artist and founded and ran the Carlton Art Group for many years and there are many examples of her work on her walls at home. She now finds it hard to find the time for painting, but still regularly plays bridge.

Joan received many presents and cards, including a birthday card from King Charles and Queen Camilla and one signed by the whole Welsh Rugby Union Squad – she has been a member and fan for many years, and in the past attended matches at Cardiff Arms Park. Carlton Parish Council presented her with a Christmas rose for her garden.

According to Joan the secret of staying young is to laugh and mix with younger people.
Congratulations and many happy returns!

Chris Peat

Cultivation advice

Clay to sand will make good land,
But sand to clay will never pay.
Lime after lime and no manure
Will make both land and farmer poor.

The saying above was quoted to me in the past by both David Price and Albert Brindley, and it is true of the clay lands around Carlton. The cost of adding sharp sand to clay might be justified in a small garden, but I have found wood ash to be more effective. I thought at first that this rhyme was a quote from Thomas Tusser's *Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry*, published in 1573, but have not found it in this work. It might be of later and local origin.

Chris Peat

Winter in Carlton's Victorian Wilderness

If you look around the countryside that surrounds Carlton, you will see lots of hedged fields and small, geometric patches of woodland. Many of these are game spinneys and fox coverts, created to facilitate fox hunting and game shooting by the Victorians or earlier. Today, these historic, ecologically rich habitats provide food and shelter for our wildlife.

Carlton's spinneys are a haven for some of our favourite native animals like badgers, polecats and foxes. Bird life includes buzzards, tawny owls, jays, robins, blackbirds, song thrushes, blue tits, gold crests, pigeons, wrens, great tits, chaffinches, greenfinches and chiffchaffs.



At this time of year, look out for snowdrops, which flower from January to March. Robins live in our spinneys all year round, but they're one of the only songbirds to sing all through the winter and there are more of them at this time of year because they are joined by robins from Scandinavia and Russia. Muddy soil and snow will also reveal animal tracks, so this is a good time of year to look for signs of our woodland critters!

To read more about Leicestershire's game spinneys and fox coverts, go to: <https://www.ortonacademy.co.uk/post/wildlife-of-a-victorian-woodland> or to see the wildlife highlights of Carlton's spinneys from last year, go to: <https://www.ortonacademy.co.uk/post/highlights-from-a-british-woodland>

in Carlton

The Ramblings of Mick Vann, “The Owl Man”

My interest in owls started around 2016 when I built an owl box for a friend. Since then, I now have 32 boxes installed within a 10-mile radius of Carlton, and another 25 at locations around Leicestershire.

This year has been a terrible year for barn owls’ breeding. In that early hot spring, the new grasses didn’t grow so the voles were short of food and cover. Also, vole populations go up and down a lot naturally, and we are currently on the low curve, so with fewer voles and mice there was less food for owls and so there was little breeding.



I feel very privileged to have a licence to do this sort of work, and when we find young owls and ring and record them, that’s the icing on the cake. If you see a barn owl you are very lucky as they only hunt at dawn and dusk, but if you think you know where barn owls are nesting, please stay away as they are a protected bird and only licensed people like me can approach them, but do let me know and I will investigate as I’m always looking for new sites.

Thanks for reading my ramblings and let’s hope for a better 2026.

Owlman
mick.slwo@gmail.com

Parking Issues

Readers must be getting tired of hearing of the same problems time and time again. We must accept that contractors and visitors are unlikely to read Carlton News; however, there is no excuse for any driver not being familiar with the law.

Pavement parking by both contractors' vehicles and private cars remains a particular blight as any young mum with a push chair or other pedestrians of any age will know.

Contractors have a difficult choice. Parking on the road creates blind spots and blocks traffic where several vehicles are involved at a single site. Some feel they are being helpful by parking on the pavement; however, the law is quite clear:

IT IS AN OFFENCE to drive on a pavement

IT IS AN OFFENCE to block pedestrian access on a pavement.

IT IS AN OFFENCE to cause an obstruction on a road.

Another serious safety issue can arise with vehicles parking without lights after dark near junctions. The Highway Code states that cars, invalid carriages, motorcycles and pedal cycles may be parked without lights on a road (or lay-by) with a speed limit of 30 mph (48 km/h) or less only if they are at least 10 metres (32 feet) away from any junction and close to the kerb as well as facing in the direction of the traffic flow.



Many instances of disregard of the above continue to be seen around the village and especially near the Gate Hangs Well in the evening. It is especially dangerous in misty conditions.

Vehicles parked on the north side Main Street close to the junction near The Gate force overtaking vehicles to be on the wrong side of the road. Any vehicle from Bosworth turning left into Main Street then is met head-on with little time to respond creating a dangerous situation. That 10 metres of extra space can make all the difference.

The majority of road issues around parking boil down to common sense and courtesy for those around us. Sometimes it may mean you have to walk for a few seconds to get to your location. This issue affects all of us, please let's work together to fix it.

Parish Council News

Main Street – the footway outside Manor House Farm has been marked up for repair.

Slippery Roads – are to be treated in February. Please take care and be mindful of other road users. Several horses have slipped and fallen in Main Street near the church.

Congerstone Lane – damaged guard rails have been repaired by Leics CC Highways.

Budget for 2026-7 – can be found on the PC website.

Speed & Traffic monitoring – in October the SID was deployed at the western end of Main St to check west bound vehicles. 17,990 vehicles were counted, an average of 673/day with an average speed of 26.4 mph and an 85th percentile speed of 32.2 mph.

- **in November** the SID checked eastbound vehicles at the same site. 28,561 vehicles were counted, an average of 756/day with an average speed of 20.9mph and an 85th percentile speed of 28.8mph. The latter speed figures are too low because of spurious counts caused by storms.

- **in December** the SID was at the eastern end of Main St checking eastbound vehicles. 23,758 vehicles were counted, an average of 603/day with an average speed of 25.5mph and an 85th percentile speed of 31.5mph. Full reports with charts can be found on the Traffic & Speed Monitoring page of the PC website.

Parish Councillors - *Stuart Tupling* (Chairman) Bufton Lodge, Barton Rd, 290301

Robin Arnold, 53 Main St, 293663

Judith Boston, 64 Main St, 291880

Ian Sarson, 74 Main St, 290733

Mick Vann, 91 Main St, 07944-799106

Clerk - **Chris Peat**, 7 Main St, 290934

E-mail: clerk@carltonpc.co.uk

Website: www.carltonpc.co.uk

CARLTON EDUCATIONAL AND YOUNG PERSONS' GRANTS

These are non means tested grants and available to all young people living in Carlton between the ages of 16 and 23 years of age that meet the criteria below.

Are you studying at university or college?

Are you attending a training course?

Are you being supported with coaching in your studies, sport, music etc?

Are you starting a business?

Have you got fees or expenses to pay?

Would £300 Be A Help To You?

The next meeting is in March 2026 but you can apply at any time by contacting Franco Onesti at the email address below.

Have a look at how Carlton Charity Lands funds can help you.

Email: franco@onesti.co.uk or davenporthazel@gmail.com for all the details and an online application pack.



Christmas Coffee Morning

Thanks to everyone who helped at or supported our coffee morning in December. £396.20 was raised for the running costs of the church.

Pat Lockwood

Christingle Service

It was a pleasure to see so many people in church for our Christingle Service. Many thanks to all the young people and to the musicians, who took part. £270.00 was raised and has been sent to "The Children's Society".

Pat Lockwood



CLEAN WALKING FOR ALL



PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG

Christmas Lights Switch-on

On 14th December, a dry evening, villagers assembled outside church. On the stroke of 6 o'clock the lights were switched on and Carlton's Rock Choir burst into song with 'Ding Dong Merrily on High'. The church was then filled to capacity, by participants enjoying a programme of sing-along carols and Christmas songs led by the Choir, and mulled wine and mince pies served by the Friends.

Thank you to all who came. The generous donations totalled £290, which has been split equally between the Friends of St Andrews Church Carlton and the Bodie Hodges Foundation. Thanks to the Parish Council for organising the event and to the Carlton Gardening Group for installing the illuminations. By popular request, the switch-on will be returning at 6pm on Sunday 13th December 2026 – a date for your diary!

Irene Peat Chair of FoSACC

Carlton Village Fete LOROS Donation

You may remember that last year's August Village Fete was run by the newly formed Carlton Village Society and that part of our aim was to raise funds for LOROS. In September our Society was delighted to present LOROS with a cheque for £2,500 from the money raised.



Thank you to everyone who contributed or attended this wonderful event. We hope to see you all again next year!

Sally Frazer and Paul Davenport Carlton Village Society

Dates for Your Diary

Progressive Whist Drive at The Community Hub, Wednesdays 2 - 4.30pm

Bridge Club at The Gate Hangs Well, Thursdays 10am

Coffee Morning at The Gate Hangs Well - Fridays 11am

February 2026

8 th	Sun	9am	Communion, St Andrew's Church
17 th	Tues	7pm	Pancake Party, Community Hub, St Andrew's Church.
22 nd	Sun	9am	Communion, St Andrew's Church

March 2026

8 th	Sun	9am	Communion, St Andrew's Church
11 th	Wed	7pm	Carlton Parish Council meeting, Community Hub
19 th	Thur	6.45pm	Overview of the Bosworth Links project, Dixie Grammar School Hall
22 nd	Sun	9am	Communion, St Andrew's Church
22 nd	Sun	10am	Spring Clean Litter Pick

April 2026

12 th	Sun	9am	Communion, St Andrew's Church
17 th	Fri		Deadline for contributions to the May edition of Carlton News
26 th	Sun	9am	Communion, St Andrew's Church

May 2026

13 th	Wed	7pm	Annual Parish Meeting, Community Hub followed by Annual Meeting of Carlton Parish Council
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Emergency contact numbers

Dial 999 and ask for Police, Fire or Ambulance if there is immediate danger or a crime is being committed. If a cardiac arrest is suspected the ambulance service will give you the code to access the community defibrillator. Ring 05603-680-268 for a volunteer to bring the community defibrillator to you.

Crimes are best reported on-line at www.leics.police.uk/report-online. The alternative is to ring 101, but be aware that this service can be very slow. Individual officers can be contacted by voicemail by ringing 101 and then quoting their collar number.

Carlton News

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Peter Gannon, 55 Main Street, Carlton, CV13 0BZ

Tel: 01455-290898 Email: p.gannon@btinternet.com

Editor