

Annual reports from parish representatives and organisations**a) Carlton Charity Lands**

The Trustees held two meetings, November 2024 and March 2025, during the period. Seven applications for financial assistance were considered by the six trustees and each applicant received the maximum award of £300, i.e. a total of £2,100. Awards contributed generally to tertiary education expenses, but as in previous years, covered a broad range of activities. Our next meeting is in November 2025.

Carlton Charity Lands continues to support the village defibrillator in the sum of £200 per year. CCL is also prepared to offer financial assistance for a second unit if required.

In December 2024, two Trustees visited our tenant, Friezeland Christmas Tree farm, in order to negotiate a lower price for the village green Christmas tree. While we didn't agree a price reduction, Mr Riley kindly offered a taller tree at the same price. Subsequently, Trustees have agreed to support financially this initiative in 2025.

The financial status of CCL is considered at each Trustee meeting. On 1st April 2024 our cash balance was £5,275. On 31st March 2025 our balance was £5,000. Awards and other contributions amounted to £2,300. Rental income for 2025, received in Q1 2025, was £2,025. Restoration of a balanced income/outgoings was gratifying to see following the somewhat turbulent preceding period.

While the Charity's primary mission is, and will resolutely remain, supporting Carlton's young residents through their development years (16 to 23), Trustees have agreed to broaden their scope to embrace limited support for a wider Carlton constituency related to health, welfare and well-being. A carefully crafted amendment to our charter is currently with the Charity Commission for approval.

I would like to recognise the valuable contributions afforded by fellow Trustees - Hazel Davenport, Ian Sarson, Franco Onesti, Chris Brockhurst & Andy Tee.

Graham Jackson, Chair of Carlton Charity Lands

b) Carlton Footpath Group

All public RoW in the Parish are waymarked and free from obstruction.

The stile on footpath S78 at the western parish boundary has been replaced by a kissing gate, at a cost of £748, partly defrayed by a grant of £400 from H&BBC. In neighbouring parishes a stile on S69 between Carlton and Market Bosworth, and one on S29 in Nailstone have also been replaced by kissing gates with support from the same grant scheme.

Complaints have been received that bridleways, and paths in fields containing livestock become trampled and muddy in wet weather. This is normal in a clay landscape, and landowners have no obligation to prevent such damage. Complaints were received about a horse which had begun to behave aggressively towards walkers, and in this case the landowner took immediate action to exclude the animal from the public RoW.

Concerns are regularly expressed about herds of lively and curious beef cattle, particularly when they are first let out in the Spring. These animals may attack dogs, but are usually wary of humans. Farmers are entitled to graze these animals in fields crossed by public rights of way: dog walkers are advised to keep away, or to let their dog loose if approached.

Regrettably, some dog owners allow their pets to wander all over fields crossed by public RoW, and fail to keep their dogs on leads or under close control when in fields with livestock. Dog fouling remains frequent in spite of numerous exhortations to clean up and the serious harm caused to local livestock by *Toxocara*.

Chris Peat

c) Carlton Gardening Group

The AGM of the CGG was held on 27th 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.

d) Carlton Geocache: Puddlejumper

The new cache has not yet been installed in the Diamond Jubilee Orchard.

There have been 7 entries in the written site log, and 13 in the on-line log. At least 1 visit has been entered in both logs.

On-line comments included: *Really neatly hidden. Not seen like that before so FP added; Good coordinates and an excellent hint led to a quick find. STSL TFTC; Quick find. Nice to rest our legs for a few minutes. TFTC; Cleverly hidden, Tftc; Do like caches that provide resting spots for my old bones. Cheers.* (STSL Means signed the site log; TFTC means thanks for the cache).

e) Carlton Heritage & Tree Warden**Heritage**

The Bosworth Links community archaeological project has continued to investigate local villages with spectacular results. The next dig will be in Congerstone on September 20th & 21st. Films, reports and further information can be found on the Bosworth Links website.

Manor House Farm is a very significant local listed building, and work is in progress to restore it and bring it back into habitable use (planning application 25/00024/LBC). During the course of the works a stone with a carved date of 1634, a witches bottle and possible witches marks have been uncovered and will be conserved. The date of 1634 is more credible than the late 18th century date ascribed to it in the Register of Listed Buildings.

The New House, 39 Main Street is a Victorian dwelling with a date brick of 1886. This building has been declared a Heritage Asset by the Local Planning Authority and an application to demolish it has been refused. Church Cottage, 38 Main St, the former village bakery, has been demolished and a new dwelling is under construction on the site. This dwelling had been significantly altered with the loss of the original ovens and was in poor condition.

Trees

The survey of roadside ash trees was repeated in August 2024 (Report 2024-12). In 2019, 59% of surveyed trees were assessed as healthy. This decreased to a minimum of 32% in 2022, increased to 42% in 2023, and increased again to 45% in 2024. During the course of these surveys, 15 trees assessed as showing the first signs of infection have subsequently been assessed as healthy. Since the previous survey, 2 badly infected trees had been felled.

All recent tree plantings were healthy and growing on, including the two yellow willow (*Salix* sp) trees planted next to the brook on the eastern side of the Congerstone Lane/Congerstone Road junction.

C J Peat

f) Carlton Parish Council website: Clerk

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

	Page impressions 2022-23	Page impressions 2023-24	Page impressions 2024-25
Page Title	1&1 analytics 1.4.22 to 31.3.23	1&1 analytics 2.4.23 to 31.3.24	1&1 analytics 1.4.24 to 31.3.25
Home Page	10296	9226	8126
News	47833	1612	4882
Diary	476	69	165
Meetings & reports	654	233	174
Parish Councillors	339	104	128
Cemetery & Churchyard	285	121	189
Parish organisations	410	110	142
Parish Plan & Appraisal	273	72	116
Council information	348	175	213
Finance	244	65	119
Carlton Gardening Group	220	96	108
Carlton History	585	102	225
Traffic and speed monitoring	189	76	118
Carlton News	446	114	201
St Andrews Community Hub	253	116	187
Accessibility	224	56	198
Carlton Charity Lands	74	71	163
<u>Walking</u>	-	65	153
TOTALS	63149	11383	15448
Total site visits	50375	11923	15140
Page impressions/visit	1.24	1.81	1.83
Average duration of visit (secs)	20.80	16.40	25.4

Source of visitors: Europe 6058; N America 4601; Asia 4528; S America 339; Africa 52; Oceania 60; Unidentified 10.

Pages of origin: Direct 78.61%; Search engines 5.40%; Social networks 0.02%; Other 15.98%.

Bounce rate 7.14%.

Parish Clerk

g) Carlton Village Society

Carlton Village Society has been created primarily for the purpose of running the annual Carlton Villlage Fete. This year the Fete will take place on the 30th August and for the first time it will be held at the Rectory, Congerstone Lane.

Carlton Village Society has been set up as an independent unincorporated group with an appropriate constitution. As well as raising funds to support St Andrews church, it is hoped that there will be sufficient additional monies raised to support some local charities. With that aim in mind, some early sponsorship has already been committed to by local businesses in the form of either money or vouchers. More sophisticated technology will be acquired to support the increasing trend of card transactions at the fete itself as well as cash.

The following Officers are currently in post:

- Paul Davenport – Chairman
- Diana Scott – Secretary
- Adrian Burch – Treasurer
- Sally Frazer – Marketing and Communications

Work is currently underway to design the fete, agree the specific events, plan the field and garden logistics, and launch publicity to attract maximum interest. To this effect three committee meetings have been held to date, run by a group of enthusiastic local people. Volunteers are being sought to help with both the setup and the running of the event itself. There is an update in the recent Carlton newsletter which discusses some of the changes that will take place this year.

Adrian Burch

h) Carlton Youth Champions

There had been no activity during the year.

i) Keep Carlton Tidy Group

The 33rd Annual Litter Pick was held on 16 March 2025. This year 18 adults and three young people participated, the same number as last year, and the volume collected was also similar.

What was unusual was the large number of glass bottles in the ditches and hedgerows, at least six black bags worth, notably from Bosworth Road and Lount Road. There was the usual mix of cans and food wrappings and energy drinks, but no significant tobacco smoking, vaping or drugs paraphernalia.

Car debris also featured again, following the floods and hedgerow accidents, and included front wing pieces, wheel trims and number plates. A detailed report was placed on the website.

As usual we thank the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Clean Neighbourhoods Team for the loan of equipment and for disposing of all the rubbish collected. Their new website now has a dedicated application form for those organising litterpicks and the request was dealt with very efficiently.

We reported six local fly tipping incidents during the year, compared with three the previous year. There were three dumpings on Lount Road – a washing machine, builders rubbish, and a mattress; bulky car remains on Congerstone Lane; and two tyre dumpings at Barton.

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

j) Market Bosworth Country Park parkrun

parkrun is a charity operating in 20 countries offering 5km events on Saturdays. There are currently over 3,500 events worldwide and this number grows every week.

parkrun is a free, weekly, timed 5km run starting at 9am every Saturday morning near the main car park at Market Bosworth Country Park. You can take part at your own speed – run, jog or walk. Everybody is welcome, no matter how fast or slow they are and it is fun for all the family. The normal course is two unequal laps of the country park, including the woodlands and ponds.

Participants need to register once only at www.parkrun.org.uk/register/ and are allocated a barcode to print or save on their phone. This needs to be shown at the finish to get a time. Children must be more than four years old to be timed, and under 11s need to stay within arm's reach of a responsible adult. Participants can bring one dog on a short, hand-held non-extensible lead.

Parkrun is a great way to get regular exercise in the open air. Newbold Verdon and Market Bosworth Medical Practice is registered as a parkrun practice, as are Ibstock and Barlestone surgeries. Medical staff may recommend or prescribe the parkrun or volunteering as an alternative to other treatments. Evidence within parkrun is that this is a significant factor in improving the health of many people.

Parkrun is a great way to be with friends and family on a Saturday morning. It is also a great way to meet new friends and talk to people before, during and after each event. People come for the run or walk and stay for the coffee. The Camperccino coffee van is on site most weeks.

Although parkrun was initially set up to give people a chance to run, parkrun as an organisation now sees the volunteering experience as equally important to running and walking. Research has shown that volunteering has immense mental and physical benefits - experience is not necessary and there is something for everyone. Tasks include setting up the course, timing participants, scanning barcodes and marshalling. So far we have encouraged over 20 volunteers working towards Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Further information is available from the www.parkrun.org.uk/marketbosworthcountrypark and Facebook, or by email from marketbosworthcountrypark@parkrun.com.

parkrun core team