

Carlton Gardening Group

Annual Report 2025-26

The AGM of the CGG was held on 18th March 2026. The Executive Committee comprises Judith Boston, Jeanette Knappett, Chris Peat (Secretary), Ian Sarson (ex-officio), John Storer, Stuart Tupling & Mick Vann (Chairman).

The Group has 20 members who provided a total of 86.25 man-hours of volunteer labour in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard (42.5 hours), Churchyard and Cemetery (31.25 hrs), and highway verges and RoW (12.5 hrs) during 2025.

The work in the Churchyard and Cemetery included putting up and taking down the Christmas lights (15 hours). Tania & Bill Sharp provided generous refreshments for working parties.

John & Veronica Storer, and Karen Downs looked after the troughs at the eastern end of Main Street and in the CDJO respectively.

The Group had entered the CDJO in the Royal Horticultural Society *It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme 2025* and had been assessed as *Level 4 – Thriving*, with the award of a £10 garden voucher. In 2026 the Group planned to enter the CDJO, churchyard and Little Lane into the scheme.

A display celebrating the tenth anniversary of the CGG had been mounted at the Horticultural & Produce Show. The show had been held in a marquee at the Fete and had attracted 203 visitors.

A pop-up event '*Primrose Sunday*' had been held in Bulls Nook Wood on 6 April and raised £120 in voluntary donations for the FoSACC..

Seven Village Gardens had been opened in aid of the National Gardens Scheme on 1 June 2025. The event had raised £2,317.60 for the NGS, and £421.22 each for the FoSACC and the PCC.

The forward work programme for 2026 can be found on the Gardening Group pages of the PC website.

The following works were carried out during the calendar year 2025

Diamond Jubilee Orchard

The meadow areas had been 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 growing on.

The northern hedge had been cut by the PC's contractor and sided by the neighbouring landowner.

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

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

The seats and picnic table had been treated with preservative.

Snowdrops had been transplanted into the western border near to the path.
A hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) at the extreme eastern end of the northern site hedge was growing well.

T55 (*Malus Red sentinel*) had stabilised and the stakes had been removed.

The wide highway verge at the Nailstone Rd end of the site had been mowed by the PCs contractor.

A replacement leg had been fitted to the swings.

Additional playbark had been laid in the Toddlers Play Area.

Plums from the Orchard had been awarded second prize in the Horticultural Show.

The fences between number 7 & 8 had blown over and had been left on the grass in the CDJO with nails sticking up. NCHA had taken no action and the fencing had been made safe and eventually removed by CGG volunteers. The PC had complained to the Chairman of NCHA, so far without any response.

Churchyard and Cemetery

Inspection chamber covers had been levelled up.

Leaning slate headstones had been straightened.

A trial excavation had shown the depth and structure of the churchyard wall.

Little Lane

No works had been carried out.

Roadside hedges

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

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

One of the yellow willow cuttings on the eastern side of Congerstone Road was growing; one had died and had been replaced.

Carlton Greens

The pipe under Shackerstone Walk had been repaired by LCC Highways in June.

The outfall of this pipe along Congerstone Lane had become blocked, leading to more flooding in Shackerstone Walk. The landowner responsible had promised to clean out the ditch, but had not yet done so.

Other sites

The elm tree planted at Manor House Farm had been blown crooked, but appeared healthy although it had not put on much growth.

Mick Vann (Chairman)