

Annual reports from parish representatives and organisations**a) Carlton Charity Lands Report: April 2023 to March 2024**

Carlton Charity Lands' Trustees held two meetings during the period. Thirteen applications for financial assistance were considered. All applications were successful with the majority receiving the maximum grant of £300; in total, almost £4,000. Awards were mostly based on validated receipts for secondary and tertiary education expenses, but not all. A Girl Guide Jamboree in Munich was also supported, indicative of the broad range of applications.

The financial status of CCL is considered at all Trustee meetings. On 1st January 2023, our balance was plus £5,484. On 1st January 2024 our balance was £6,928. The cash increase resulted from negligible applications during 2023. Rental income received in Q1 2023 was £1,800 for calendar 2023. The negotiated escalating rental schedule provided an increase to £2,025 in Q1 2024.

At our January 2024 meeting the Trustees decided to adopt a proactively assertive marketing campaign. Social media and other channels were fully engaged resulting in a significant up-tick in applications, namely 13 year to date. Our next meeting is in November 2024.

While the Charity's primary mission is, and will resolutely remain, supporting Carlton's young residents through their development years (16 to 23), we have made discretionary awards to other Carlton activities, e.g. £200 to help finance Carlton's Defibrillator. We have also agreed to make a modest contribution to the current Church Bells project, were it to be required.

Consequently, the Trustees are actively considering an extension of the Charity's aims to include limited support for a broader Carlton constituency related to health, welfare and well-being.

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

Graham Jackson Chair of Carlton Charity Lands: 8th May 2024

b) Carlton Footpath Group

All public RoW in the Parish are free from obstruction, in good condition and are clearly well-trodden. Eight new waymark posts were kindly provided by LCC RoW and were installed by members of the CGG in 2023.

Overhanging trees and shrubs were cut back from footpath S75 in Little Lane in March by members of the Carlton Gardening Group and a neighbouring landowner. A new sheep fence has been erected in the cemetery field, and has been set back by a foot to widen footpath S68.

A grant of £400 towards the cost (£800) of replacing a stile by a kissing gate at the western parish boundary on footpath S78 has been approved by H&BBC. The gate will be installed shortly. Market Bosworth PC has also been awarded a similar grant and this will be used to replace the stile next to the footbridge over the brook on footpath S69 with a kissing gate. This will create a second stile-free route from Market Bosworth, through Carlton to Barton in the Beans.

The weather has been very wet, and many RoW have been very muddy, particularly where they cross fields grazed by horses. 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 exhortations in Carlton News and an article about the serious harm caused to local livestock by *Toxocara*.

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.

Chris Peat

c) Carlton Gardening Group

The AGM of the Gardening Group was held on 25th March 2024. The Executive Committee comprises Mick Vann (Chairman), Graham Jackson, Bill Sharp, Jeanette Knappett, Ian Sarson (ex officio Northfields Liaison Group) and Chris Peat (Secretary).

The Group has 20 members who provided a total of 127.5 man-hours of volunteer labour in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard (45.5 hours), Churchyard and Cemetery (46 hours), and highway verges and RoW (36.0 hours) during 2023. The work in the Churchyard and Cemetery included putting up and taking down the Christmas lights (18 hours). Tania & Bill Sharp had kindly provided refreshments for working parties.

The Group entered the Royal Horticultural Society *It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme* and was awarded a *Thriving – Level 4* Certificate together with garden centre gift vouchers for £15.

The forward work programme for 2024 can be found on the Gardening Group pages of the PC website. The following works were carried out during the calendar year 2023:

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 wet cuttings removed for composting in a local wood.

The specimen holly at the end of the Barton Rd hedge had been repeatedly cut off by the verge mower and was dead.

The grass strip between the hedge and the path had been mowed and this had improved the appearance of the area. Additional clumps of spring bulbs had been planted in this area, and were making a good show.

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 cut by Group members in February 2023, and then cut by the PC's contractor in November.

Tree T37 (Bramley cooking apple) had blown over due to poor root growth, and had been replaced with a dwarf tree of the same variety.

Surplus soil from behind the churchyard wall had been spread in a low area near to Barton Rd, and planted with bulbs.

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

Additional playbark had been laid in the TPA, and the equipment painted, though the paint supplied by Wicksteed was very watery and the colour faint.

The seats and picnic table had been treated with preservative, and the picnic table had been strengthened with new bolts.

Both timber gateposts at the contractors entrance had rotted and had been replaced with galvanised steel. The slamming post had been concreted into the original concrete base; the massive concrete base for the hanging post had been dug out by Mr R Wyatt with his JCB. The wooden gate was a non-standard size, so the hanging post had not been concreted in to allow for a steel gate to be installed when the wooden gate required replacement.

Churchyard and Cemetery

Concrete slabs had been laid on the western side of the church tower.

Soil had been removed from behind the eastern half of the churchyard retaining wall to reduce the pressure on the wall. The bulge in the wall and movement were being monitored by the PC.

The Coronation of King Charles III had been marked by the planting of an *Amelanchier 'La Paloma'* by Claire Harris who had been a member of the Carlton 1st Brownie Pack which planted trees to mark the Silver Jubilee in 1977. (The *Carpinus* bought for this site had died and had been replaced by the supplier (Bluebell Arboretum, Smisby).

The laurel hedge next to the retaining wall had been thinned with the help of the neighbour to prevent damage to the wall. The neighbour wished the hedge to remain high because it provided a screen.

Little Lane

There had been no significant works in Little Lane during 2023.

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.

The two yellow willow cuttings planted on the eastern side of Congerstone Road near the junction with Congerstone Lane had died and had been replaced by three cuttings which were growing on.

Carlton Green

There had been no work on Carlton Greens.

Other sites

The Golden Jubilee Post had been treated with tung oil.

The concrete trough at the eastern end of Main St had been planted up, watered and maintained, and the surrounding area of grass verge mowed.

Clumps of daffodils (variety '*Carlton*') had been planted in grass verges outside Woodmill in Congerstone Lane, outside 59 and 97 Main St, outside Park View Farm in Bosworth Rd, next to the lime tree on the east side of Bosworth Rd, around the trough planter at the east end of Main St, outside Carlton Gate and Holly Cottage on Barton Rd, and at Harry's Grave.

Mick Vann

d) Carlton Geocache

A new cache is to be installed in the Diamond Jubilee Orchard.

13 visits to the Little Lane geocache were recorded online, with 8 additional visits in the on-site book. Premium members can award 'favourite' points for cool hiding places and interesting or unusual locations – our cache has been awarded 12 points which is very respectable.

Comments from the on-line log: *Wonderful cache placement!! Brilliant swag too. TFTC [Thanks For The Cache]; 😊 Found it 09.Oct.2022 Nice quick find here. Tftc; Nice easy find. Tftc; Found it 22.Oct.2022 Quick find thanks; Found it 20.Nov.2022 Follow the hints; Team SCG out on the hunt again 😊 Thanks for placing these caches for us to enjoy ☺ Love the sentiment of "Little Lane" Have a favourite point; View Log two nosy parkers; Found it 24.Jul.2023 Nice easy find.Tftc; Found it 09.Aug.2023 Very clever hide. TFTC; Found it. Logged as "The Ramsdens" tftc; Nice cache, nice easy one before the hard one 😊 team 07 TFTC; Quick find. Thank you; Out caching with the Saturday cachers - first time for me. Nice to have some good caching company today. Hoping for some decent weather. It's been a bit hit and miss lately. A leafy little lane for a peaceful walk and it must be lovely on a sunny day. The cache was found as per the hint.TFTC.*

Puddlejumper

e) Carlton Heritage & Tree Warden

Heritage

The written report of the Bosworth Links community archaeological dig in Carlton on 10th and 11th September 2022 has been uploaded to the PC website. This dig is part of a wider investigation of the settlements around Market Bosworth – along with other local volunteers I have taken part in digs at Market Bosworth, Far and Near Coton, Cadeby and Shenton. The next dig will be in Congerstone in September. Full details – including films - can be found on the Bosworth Links website.

Trees

The survey of roadside ash trees was repeated in July 2023 (Report 2023-13). The disease had not progressed, probably due to the hot weather and drought during the summer. Wet and cool conditions are believed to favour the fungus while hot and dry conditions appear to shift the balance in favour of the trees. It will be interesting to see what happens in 2024.

The tall Austrian pine in the churchyard was examined after strong winds in December 2023. There was no evidence of movement or heave around the base of the trunk, nor were there any signs of disease such as fungal growth or weeping sap.

All five hedgerow oak trees (including the decapitated tree) were healthy and growing on, as were the elm tree planted next to footpath S69 and the new trees in the churchyard. The three oak whips (*Quercus petraea*) planted to mark the Coronation of King Charles III were growing on, though one in the CDJO was accidentally decapitated during hedgecutting. A member of the Carlton Brownie Pack from 1977 planted an *Amelanchier* 'La Paloma' in the churchyard to mark the Coronation.

The two yellow willow (*Salix* sp) trees planted next to the brook on the eastern side of the Congerstone Lane/Congerstone Road junction to stabilise the bank had died, but had been replaced by three cuttings taken in the autumn which were all growing on. The cuttings had been taken from a hedgerow tree with striking yellow bark on Stoke Road near Hinckley. The variety has not yet been identified – *S. chrysocoma* is a weeping tree.

C J Peat

f) Carlton Parish Council website

The *Carlton Charity Lands* page was created in December 2022; the *Walking* page in September 2023 when QR codes were put up around the village. It would appear that website use has fallen significantly.

Page Title	Page impressions 2021-22 1&1 analytics 1.4.21 to 31.3.22	Page impressions 2022-23 1&1 analytics 1.4.22 to 31.3.23	Page impressions 2023-24 1&1 analytics 1.4.23 to 31.3.24
Home Page	9570	10296	9226
News	5257	47833	1612
Diary	893	476	69
Meetings & reports	681	654	233
Parish Councillors	378	339	104
Cemetery & Churchyard	307	285	121
Parish organisations	370	410	110
Parish Plan & Appraisal	318	273	72
Council information	398	348	175
Finance	256	244	65
Carlton Gardening Group	258	220	96
Carlton History	676	585	102
Traffic and speed monitoring	203	189	76
Carlton News	439	446	114
St Andrews Community Hub	265	253	116
Accessibility	164	224	56
Carlton Charity Lands	-	74	71
Walking	-	-	65
TOTALS	20433		
Total site visits	9007	50375	11923
Page impressions/visit	2.21	1.24	1.81
Average duration of visit (secs)	18.03	20.80	16.40

Source of visitors: Europe 6056; N America 4386; Asia 1869; S America 33; Africa 41; Oceania 55; Unidentified 203.

Pages of origin: Direct 65.96%; Search engines 7.09%; Social networks 0.02%; Other 26.93%. Bounce rate 6.68%.

Parish Clerk

g) Carlton Youth Champions

There had been no activity during the year.

h) Keep Carlton Tidy Group

The 32nd Annual Litter Pick was held on 17 March 2024. 21 people participated, compared with 26 in 2023. The volume of litter (1.62m³) was similar to last year, with the usual haul of cans and bottles – this year beer was more favoured than lager, and plenty of spirits and wine, together with snack wrappings and energy drinks. There was very little tobacco smoking paraphernalia, but the appearance of some vapes. Hauls after the recent floods included the whole front bumper of a car, other car bits, wheel trims, and ten number plates.

This year is the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Keep Carlton Tidy Group, and 12 founder members attended this year, some of whom have a 100% record of turning out, and so some long service prizes were awarded in addition to the usual categories, to thank them for their hard work and support.

We also thank the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Clean Neighbourhoods Team for disposing of all the rubbish collected. Three local fly tipping incidents were reported to HBBC compared with four last year.

Littering has seemed less prolific over the past 12 months. I have personally recorded only 2 black bags, compared with ten last year and 22 the year before. However, I know that several parishioners have done informal picks this year.

Since 2014, litter volumes have about halved overall, but it seems there is still a need for this group. We thank all the volunteers and look forward to next years' event.

Irene Peat Chairman Keep Carlton Tidy Group