

Carlton

Origins.....

Carlton is a linear settlement on a finger of high ground projecting towards the west. This site would have been attractive to Neolithic settlers and farmers, but so far archaeological evidence is limited to a period of Roman occupation in the 1st century. After this, the core of the village has been continuously occupied from late Saxon or early Medieval times.

The name probably derives from the Old English *Ceorlenatun* or 'village of free peasants', and the 'tun' ending is held in common with other villages in the area.

Carlton Stone was once quarried near to the village, and can be seen in The Stone House (26 Main St) and walls fronting Manor House Farm (45 Main St). Church Cottage (38 Main St) was originally the village bakehouse and is built on a plinth of glacial rubble, including Carlton Stone and Charnwood granite. These buildings all probably date from the 16th or early 17th century.

St Andrew's Church

The church building was Gothicised in 1867 by Goddard & Son of Leicester, and this was when the distinctive saddleback top was added to the tower and the dedication was changed from St Michael to St Andrew. The earlier building had a square tower with a pinnacle on each corner, and had been built in 1764 to replace an earlier building which had burned down. Documentary records show that here has been a church on this site since at least 1574.

The church clock was donated to the village in 1937 by the Rector's daughter, who raised the money by selling needlework from door to door. The stained glass window in the aisle is by **Theodora Salusbury**, and inside is the village Millennium Tapestry. The Victorian letter box has been

preserved, and can now be found in the churchyard wall.



Victorian letterbox

Public buildings



Plaque at Carlton School

Carlton School was built in the middle of the village green in 1847 by **Sir Wolstan Dixie**, as attested by a plaque above the door. Just after the first World War a school inspector was critical of the lack of dedicated space for physical education. The Governors replied that the children had their PE lessons on the adjacent village green, and if the grass was wet these lessons took place on the road outside the school. This explanation was accepted, and nothing more was heard of the matter. The school closed in 1969 and is now a private house.

The Gate Hangs Well public house was built around 1900 and is near to the site of a toll gate on the Market Bosworth to Burton on Trent turnpike road. One of the few remaining mileposts from this road can be seen at the southern end of Bosworth Road. This milepost originally stood about 100m further south, but was in an exposed position and was knocked into the ditch and damaged by a snowplough. At that time metal theft was a serious problem, so the milepost was moved to a more sheltered position and set in concrete.



Milepost at Carlton



Golden Jubilee Post

Across the road from The Gate Hangs Well is the Carlton Golden Jubilee Post, erected by the villagers in 2002. Nearby is an oak tree, planted to mark the Diamond Jubilee in 2012. The Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard, which links Barton Rd with Nailstone Rd was developed at the same time.

The Malt Shovel (25 Main St) was the village public house until the mid-20th century, and is now a private house. The Old Post Office (29 Main St) was the village Post Office and general store. The Post Office was withdrawn in 1974, but the shop remained for a further decade. A headstone in the churchyard celebrates the Alcock family who ran it for almost 100 years.



Malt Shovel

Westfields Farm, next to a public footpath to the west of Carlton, is built of Carlton Stone and was managed by the Midland Catholic Land Association for a time in the late 1920's. The aim of this association was to take unemployed Catholic men from industrial districts and train them in mixed farming, after which they would be established on smallholdings of 35-40 acres. Mass was celebrated every day – the bell still hangs above the farmhouse door.

Carlton history is online at: <http://www.carltonpc.co.uk/carltoninformation.php>