



Joan Gibbons

Joan Gibbons was born in Essex in 1902 but moved to Lincolnshire when she was 5 years old. In the rural surroundings of Holton-le-Moor, she soon developed an interest in wildflowers and plants, attending her first Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union (LNU) meeting with her father when she was just 11.

Joan joined the LNU when she was 18, becoming their Botanical Secretary aged 34 and President of the LNU three years later.

Miss Gibbons gave her Presidential Address on 25 November 1939 'Notes on the Lincolnshire Flora' and quoted "I should like to plead with all wild flower lovers not to exterminate rare plants. Do not even pick one flower unless there are at least five others of the same kind in sight."



Joan Gibbons (1902 – 1988)

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Her most significant achievement was writing 'The Flora of Lincolnshire', published in 1975. It was the first flora record of any county in England to be written by a woman. With over 300 pages, it outlines the history of botanical recording in the county, gives descriptions of the geology and habitats, and provides accounts of the status and distribution of every plant species.

"The writing of this Flora has been a hard task for a botanist who feels more at home in the field than in writing. The many hours of research into old records in an attempt to make this as complete as possible have not been as rewarding as the many years spent in field recording" wrote Miss Gibbons in the preface to the book.

Like many botanists, Joan collected specimens of the plants she found. These specimens have been passed to the Natural History Museum, London, as part of the LoveLincsPlants project and now new young botanists are following in Joan's footsteps.



Sir Joseph Banks

Sir Joseph Banks was an explorer, naturalist and botanist. Born in 1743 in the family's London town house, Joseph Banks' ancestral home was the Revesby Estate in Lincolnshire. It was here in Lincolnshire that, as a child, he developed an enquiring mind about the natural world around him.

His passion for botany started at school. He attended Oxford University from 1760 to 1763. Three years later he travelled to Newfoundland and Labrador (Canada) to collect plant specimens, using much the same methods as we use today. That same year, Banks was elected a fellow of the Royal Society.

Aged 25, Banks joined Captain Cook on his expedition to explore the uncharted lands of the South Pacific. Banks collected a huge amount of specimens on his journey, sparking considerable interest across Europe.

Following his voyage, Banks became very influential: he was a trustee of the British Museum, ran the botanic garden at Kew, and was President of the Royal Society until his death in 1820.

And the plants he collected? Many are held in the Natural History Museum's Botany Collection in London. The Collection holds an estimated six million species of mosses, ferns, seed plants and slime moulds from all over the world. This collection is set to be joined by over 3,000 more plant specimens collected in Lincolnshire by LoveLincsPlants.



Sir Joseph Banks

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