



#LoveLincsPlants

Update Report No.7

October 2020 - March 2021

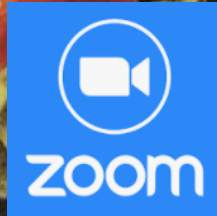
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Herbal medicine is more than just a nice cup of tea! Plants are an important part of modern medicine as well as for our own health and wellbeing.



IAN JACKSON

Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology & Therapeutics
College of Science, University of Lincoln
Medical School



Welcome to our 7th edition of the Love Lincs Plants (LLP) project update report. Learn more about what has been achieved so far, upcoming events and opportunities to get involved in this exciting National Lottery Heritage Fund project (2017-2021). Covid-19 update: All public facing project events, including plant collection continue to be suspended until further notice. For our up to date policy click [here](#)

Great Lives Lectures on Zoom

In response to Covid-19 the project team have adapted to the challenging circumstances, and continue to engage with existing and new participants using digital platforms. In December, we hosted our second Great Lives lecture with former government nature conservation advisor Dr Chris Gibson exploring the adaptations of coastal plants to environmental stresses. In March, University of Lincoln lecturer Ian Jackson engaged with seventy two Zoom attendees on the vital role of plants in herbal medicine providing further evidence on how plants are essential for sustaining human life. Find out more about our final four Great Lives lectures on page 2.

"Thanks again for such a great talk - really looking forward to future ones! Been really useful - I am focusing on Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe dunes NNR for my assessment module at University so it's been great to have this talk right now! Finished Identiplant now & my lovely mum is getting me BSBI membership for Christmas so looking forward to more botanising next year!" (Amy Primavera - 18 to 35 botanist - Dr Gibson lecture feedback)

Final evaluation and legacy planning

We are now in the final phase of the project after gaining an extension from our funders, The National Lottery Heritage Fund until 30th June 2021. To help us take stock and evaluate the management and delivery of the project we have employed **Instar** a Nottingham based art and heritage consultant with expertise in evaluation. Instar are also facilitating the development of a project legacy plan so that key activities and methods of working are embedded into the work of all of our partners. In March, project partners got together on Zoom (bottom right) to highlight where our strengths and weaknesses lie but also to begin to establish partner roles beyond 2021.

As part of the evaluation process we continue to receive support and encouragement from our cohort of 18-35 botanists, receiving several videos (top right) and written accounts describing their experiences and how the project has made a positive impact on their lives. Find out more about their journey on pg.3



Left: Partner thoughts from Legacy planning Jamboard session.



Public engagement



As we all have had to adjust to restrictions in our lives it has been widely reported on how access to nature has made a huge difference to our health and wellbeing. To recognise this, the project has been promoting plants in our neighbourhoods as part of the Trust's [#NatureNearby](#) media campaign (left) but also linking the online world to our historic and contemporary herbarium heritage with specimen examples curated at The [Sir Joseph Banks Centre](#) and at [NHM](#) as part of [#HeritagefromHome](#). Our series of Great Lives lectures have also switched to an online audience with a diverse range of speakers booked for spring 2021. Former Reading MSc student and inspirational young botanist, Joshua Ajowele (bottom left) will be discussing his journey into botany on the 9th April. Buglife's Dr Catherine Jones will be looking at the vital interaction between plants and insects; with Dr Sandra Knapp from the Natural History Museum rounding up the whole series with a conversation about the value of herbaria in modern plant science on 19th May. The project continues to inspire young children in the world of plants, launching a plant themed short poetry [competition](#) based on the traditional Japanese art form of Haiku. Thirty of these punchy poems will be selected to feature in the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trusts' Spring 2021 Lapwings magazine and will be used to raise the profile of the Wildlife Trusts national [30-30-30](#) campaign to recover nature across the country.

Haiku Competition 2021



Daisy, rose, ivy,
Early spring, summer, autumn,
Sustain our insects.



Joshua
Ajowele: MSc
Plant Diversity
Reading Uni.

LOVELINCSPLANTS GREAT LIVES LECTURES

WEDS 17
MARCH

'HERBAL MEDICINE - MORE
THAN JUST A NICE CUP OF
TEA' WITH IAN JENKINS
SENIOR LECTURER AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN

FRI 9
APRIL

'A BOTANICAL JOURNEY - THE
CAREER PATH OF PLANT
SCIENTIST' WITH JOSHUA
AJOWELE MSc BSc & FELIX
SCHOLAR 2019/2020

WEDS 14
APRIL

'PLANTS, INSECTS & PEOPLE'
WITH DR CATHERINE JONES,
POLLINATOR OFFICER AT
BUGLIFE

WEDS 5
MAY

'PLANTS & THE BIRDS' -
HOW PLANTS ADD CONTEXT &
ATMOSPHERE TO MY
PAINTINGS' WITH ARTIST, JOHN
THRELFALL

WEDS 19
MAY

'HISTORIC & CONTEMPORARY
HERBARIA - THEIR RELEVANCE
TO MODERN PLANT SCIENCE'
WITH DR SANDY KNAPP AT THE
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Lincspirational plants art competition, fundraiser and exhibition 2021

As part of our final project exhibition the team have developed the wonderful Lincspirational Plants competition. Linked to our series of thirty Inspirational Plant specimens, artists were invited to submit their original artwork to capture the beauty of these species in various mediums. Over the course of the winter, local and national artists have submitted over 130 pieces of work before the competition closed on the 9th March. These will be compiled to form an on-line exhibition and then auctioned in the autumn to raise money for the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. The top 30 will be included in an exhibition projected onto a number of buildings, launching in October with an evening display at Gibraltar Point National Nature Reserve, followed by Lincoln Boultham Park, Cleethorpes seafront and Tattershall Castle (TBC). In partnership with the Barton Tourism Association we will also exhibiting these works on the Barton-upon-Humber art trail using pop-ups on 26/27th June with a potential exhibition of the thirty winners at the Joseph Wright Hall in the town. Please check [Twitter](#) and [LWT Event page](#) for further information later in the year

Young Botanists: *In their words.*

To date the project has trained over 200 young botanists in plant identification, collection or plant mounting with twenty core 18-35 year old botanists attending several sessions. In this report we have caught up with two botanists who are developing their career in nature conservation.

Bethany Mc Guire, Boston.

What have you gained on personal level from taking part in Love Lincs Plants?

I have gained so much in such a short period of time. Being surrounded by budding botanists and like-minded individuals was really beneficial at helping me grow on a personal but also professional level. It was a great opportunity to get involved in a variety of activities, from presentations to fieldwork, allowing me to work on multiple practical skills but also improve on my personal skills such as confidence, teamwork and communication. I also believe that it has improved my wellbeing, not just during the grassland residential weekend but in the long term. When walking around my local nature hotspots, I don't just look up to appreciate the birds but I look down at the ground, take my time and enjoy the smaller, less noticeable species around me. I take pleasure in learning to identifying them and taking photos to remember them make me happy and I try and encourage others to do the same and also be excited by plants!



Where do you see these new skills and knowledge taking you in the future?

I am currently studying a degree in Environmental Management and enjoying the more ecological and conservation-based modules available as opposed to the sustainability-based modules I thought I would be enjoying originally. After attending the course between my first and second year, it's helped me understand the ecological side of environmental topics better and as a result I want to pursue a career in the conservation sector.

In the future I ideally want to become a Reserve Warden and I hope these new skills and knowledge gained from the project will help me take another few steps towards my goal. Species identification is a really helpful and important skill to have in roles similar to that as it is all about managing the environment. With this project sparking my interest in botany so early on, I have so much more time to learn and grow as a botanist and environmentalist that I hopefully will be able to work in this field when I graduate. I am grateful that this course has provided me with a variety of botanical knowledge and a range of skills to grow within this sector and hopefully I will be able to attend more courses with LoveLincsPlants in the



Richard Doan, Wainfleet.

What new skills & knowledge have you acquired through participating in the project?

The team at Love Lincs plants have been absolutely fantastic at passing on their extensive knowledge throughout all of the excellent training sessions. From a skills perspective for me I really appreciated and enjoyed going through the wild flower keys. Since I started learning botany in 2008 I would literally spend hours trawling through my Paul Sterry photographic wild flower guide. The thought of using of using the Francis Rose wildflower key was always a very daunting prospect. Since the project I have felt comfortable using this guide and this has been a real game changer for me in terms of identifying plants.

An additional skill I have acquired since taking part in the project was feeling more comfortable being able to learn and identify rushes, grasses and sedges. The prospect of tackling these groups of species in the past seemed for me impossible and an absolute mine field. I was also able to gain a better understanding of the ecology associated with a variety of differing habitats. I feel this is very important from a personal and career point of view. In 2019 I was carrying out a survey of Common Spotted Orchids on one of our nature reserves and was able to find and identify several Common Broomrape plants. Upon further investigation it transpired that this was a new record for the reserve and was subsequently entered into the 2020 atlas.

A Conversation with Richard....continued.

Where do you see these new skills and knowledge taking you in the future?

I feel very lucky to be working in the conservation sector and the skills I have obtained throughout these training courses has only reinforced my love for botany and conservation. At work I have recently been given the opportunity to transform a previous grazing pasture field into a wildflower meadow. For this I have been tasked with carrying out a condition assessment of the field at several periods throughout the year recording all the species present ranging from wild flowers to grasses. I have no doubt that the skills I have obtained throughout the project will help me to do this to a high standard.

What have you gained on personal level from taking part in Love Lincs Plants?

It has been fantastic to meet so many like-minded young botanists while taking part in the Love Lincs Plants training courses. On a personal level being able to carry on learning these new skills in my own time has been beneficial to my wellbeing no end; particularly during the 2020 Coronavirus pandemic. The courses have also been really important to me in giving me a real confidence boost and as such I have been able to share my knowledge and new skills with our team of volunteers.

I would like to finish by saying a massive thank you to all the team at Love Lincs Plants and to all the incredible partners who have made the project possible.



Richard testing himself at the 2019 Lincolnshire FISC assessment



To view our first set of project evaluation videos go to the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust [YouTube channel](#) (More videos to be added in summer 2021).

Raised beds and interpretation at Wildlife Trust garden

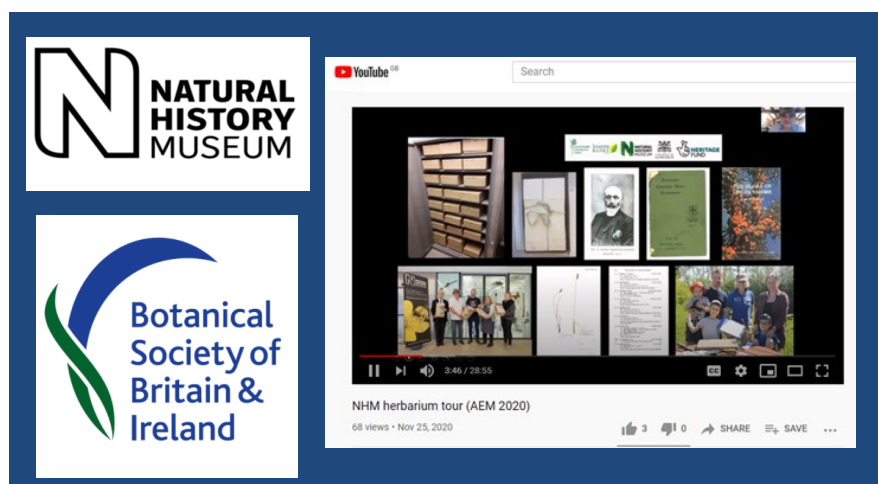
In October we put the final touches to our new habitat demonstration beds at the Wildlife Trust garden at our head office in Horncastle. These two raised brick beds display the typical flora of our Lincolnshire heathlands and limestone grassland; some of the counties rarest habitats. These beds will be used to inspire the next generation of botanists as well conservation habitat managers. In accordance with social distancing measures, the project officer worked with former LLP volunteer and 2019 OU Santander placement student (left), planting local provenance plants such as Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and native grass seed.

Interpretation panels for the wildlife garden and raised beds are currently being drafted and will be installed in May 2021 (bottom left). These will include links to further information so visitors can have a go at recreating these habitats in their own patch.

Other off-season work that has been completed over the period has included clearance of brash within the woodland plot; making way for native ground flora plants; pruning of our traditional laid hedges to promote thicker regrowth for the benefit of local wildlife as well as an early spring meadow cut to control competitive grasses and to allow more light for emerging wildflowers.



News from partners.



6,800 Historic Specimens

by Fred Rumsey (NHM, London)

As with other project partners the pandemic has necessitated changing approaches to engagement and the delivery of our public-offer. Where possible we have sought to develop online engagement and broader accessibility through lectures, workshops and members events streamed and available online. Where opportunities have presented themselves to promote the project and the work of our partners this has been taken. i.e. at the Annual BSBI Exhibition Meeting, (left) where Fred Rumsey gave a virtual tour of the herbarium showcasing some of the projects specimen's and activities. On the day, the AEM attracted 423 attendees (combined total for Zoom and YouTube) and since then, the [NHM herbarium tour video](#) which features the project's work has attracted

a further 173 views. We also continue to communicate with the global herbarium and plant community through our Twitter accounts; selecting species from the historical collection to celebrate seasonal and cultural events such as this Wild Garlic (Ramsons) specimen from Welton High Wood in 1894 (below).

"Our herbarium tours are normally oversubscribed and not everyone gets the chance to see them. But that's not a problem this year, which I think is really great!"

(George Garnett (host) on NHM's Herbarium Zoom Tour (BSBI Exhibition))

Historic Collection:

Due to the challenging circumstances, processing of the historic collection has been suspended since January 2021. To date, assistant project officer Debra Turner has databased a total of 6,800 specimens, of which just over 6,000 have been fully completed, i.e. all imaging and the data accessible online through the [NHM data portal](#). Planning has been made as to the prioritisation of the remainder of the collection to make use of available staff and visitor expertise before Debra returns to work in April.

Contemporary collection:

The complete absence of volunteers, the plant mounting team and many other ancillary and technical support staff had a pronounced effect on possible productivity. With the second national lockdown, following experience gained, it was possible to equip NHM Project Officer Kath Castillo with the necessary materials to continue work on processing and mounting the contemporary Lincolnshire collection from home. She has also been able to work with our data managers and digital team to work on protocols for data capture associated with the taking of molecular vouchers, trialled in the Lincs. project which are now proving useful as the NHM is working on the ambitious Darwin's Tree of Life project which aims to ultimately sequence the genomes of the entire Fauna and Flora of the British Isles. She is also producing a 'How to mount specimens' video for the project's online herbarium knowledge hub that will be launched in summer.

Project legacy:

Our wishes in terms of project legacy, beyond the completion of the historic collection processing and that of a hopefully ongoing supply of contemporary material from our project partners, relate more to our aspirations for how the project can be used to inform how we best deal with "orphan" collections going forwards. The project has allowed us to showcase how we can go about this.



News from partners.

Despite events and activities being severely curtailed by the Covid lockdown, we have still been active and continue to be supported by a small number of volunteers. Part of this activity was a series of training sessions delivered by Lincoln University via zoom over a 2-day period in January. The sessions were extremely relevant to the care and conservation of collections including botanical collections. As well as installing new LLP interpretation into the herbarium room (top right) we have also carried out further development on our datasets including LLP data as we have taken advantage of new IT equipment paid for by Heritage Recovery funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This equipment includes playout devices (bottom right) which will be used as part of our interpretation offer for visitors to the centre, and as part of post project education activities.

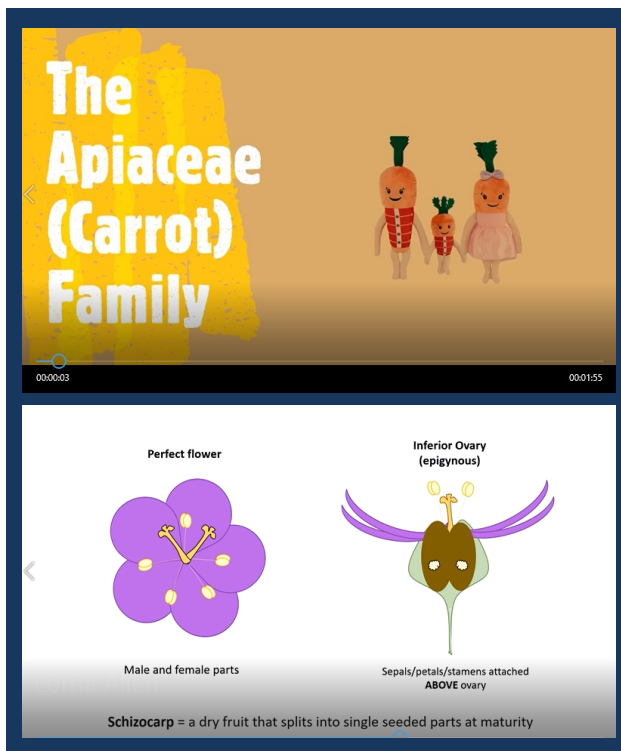
The LLP project has raised the aspirations of the society considerably, and this has resulted in a new natural history and heritage museum being created within the Joseph Banks centre. As mentioned above our Heritage Recovery Grant has enabled us to completely re-purpose our building and is a fantastic example of where one grant project creates others to follow on with the good work. We aim to create a truly unique natural history and science centre in Lincolnshire, something that does not presently exist. As well as our existing botanical collections we will seek to display objects from across the world representing the travels and work of Sir Joseph Banks. Because of the unique nature of the objects, we believe that visitor footfall and associated income streams will go some way to making the society sustainable.

Our plans involve celebrating and exploring the cultures of indigenous people from across the world. Our focus will of course be Australia, New Zealand, and the Indian Pacific region. This ambition will require skills and knowledge that we do not currently have and will therefore necessitate us engaging with a

wide range of sector specialists together with people and cultures from across the world. The centre will also host Horncastle History and Heritage Society and innovative displays created for visitors and locals alike, alongside the town's tourist information centre. The history society will be able to share its collection of Roman artefacts found in Horncastle, as well as historic photographs and records related to the Horse Fair, and local characters like hangman William Marwood.

Sir Joseph Banks Society

by Paul Scott (SJBS Trustee)



University Of Lincoln

By Dr Carl Soulsbury

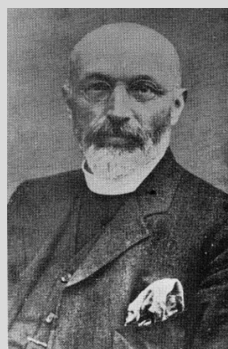
During autumn, sessions were delivered to Level 1 BSc Ecology and Conservation students on plant identification and included support in creating plant family videos (left) In March, this was followed up with a session at Level 3 for Practical Skills in Conservation that was attended by over 40 students from BSc Ecology and Conservation, BSc Biology and BSc Animal Behaviour and Welfare. This session covered plant surveying, plant conservation and legislation. More recently, Dr Ian Jackson from the School of Pharmacy delivered a Great Lives talk on the importance of plants on medicine and for health and wellbeing and was well received by attendees. The university are now looking forward to legacy planning and developing closer links with partners beyond 2021 so that our students can continue to develop their skills..

News from partners.

Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union (LNU)

by Chris Manning

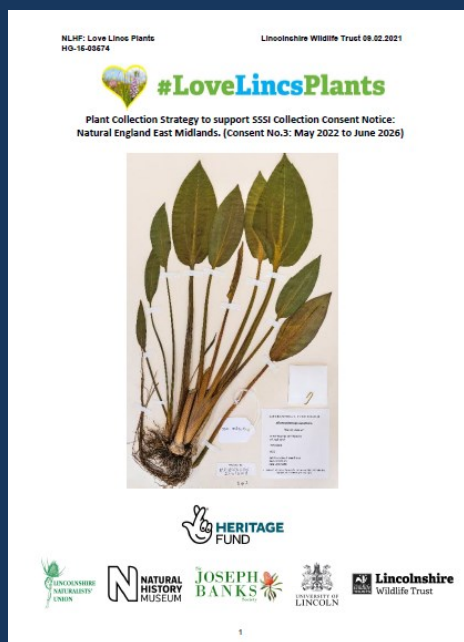
Unfortunately no field work was possible in 2020 due to the Covid restrictions. To make the most of the 2021 collecting season, the Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union has confirmed five field visits from May through to October. If you wish to join us on one of our field visits please visit our [website](#) for details. Government Covid restrictions notwithstanding, we hope to be collecting for the Love Lincs Plants project by the end of the season – our website will be kept up to date on this matter. We are hoping to rebook field visits to Cadney/Howsham and Revesby in 2021 due to their connections to the Rev. Woodruffe-Peacock and Sir Joseph Banks' respectively. We are delighted to announce that Dr Fred Rumsey of the Natural History Museum will be our President in 2022/2023. Fred will be the 101st person to be President and it is an honour for the Union to have such a distinguished scholar as President. Another distinguished botanist, our President elect, Dr Owen Mountford (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology) will be President 2021/22. Owen will give his Presidential address in 2022, probably based in part on the findings of the recently completed Fenland Flora survey. The LNU has looked to develop a joint membership for student members with the Sir Joseph Banks Society. Also, the Union is considering how to make its bursary scheme more attractive to those needing training in identification skills or help in buying identification books.



2021 LNU Field meetings with the NHM project team (TBC): Walking in the footsteps of LNU founding father, Rev. Woodruffe-Peacock (bottom left) at Cadney parish (top). NHM Senior curator Dr Fred Rumsey (bottom right) will be joining the LNU as president in 2022-23.

5 year plant collection permission and The RSPB get involved.

Over the winter the project officer has worked closely with LNU partner, Nick Tribe to refine our collection strategy while drawing up a new consent application to collect plants beyond the formal phase of the project. At the outset of the project a proportion of our 500k grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund was earmarked for developing the contemporary Lincolnshire herbarium into the future. To enable partners and volunteers to continue to collect specimens it is essential that all major landowners continue to be committed to the project by providing landowner permission. In early 2021 our application to collect specimens from a selected list of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within the East Midlands region was approved by Natural England for a further five years until 2026. We were also delighted to gain permission from the RSPB for the first time to collect specimens from their Frampton and Freiston Shore reserves on the coast. Thank you to The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust reserves team, Forestry England and Lincolnshire County Council for their support. This will provide a valuable opportunity to analyse plant genetics from some of our wildest sites in the county and enable future conservation work.



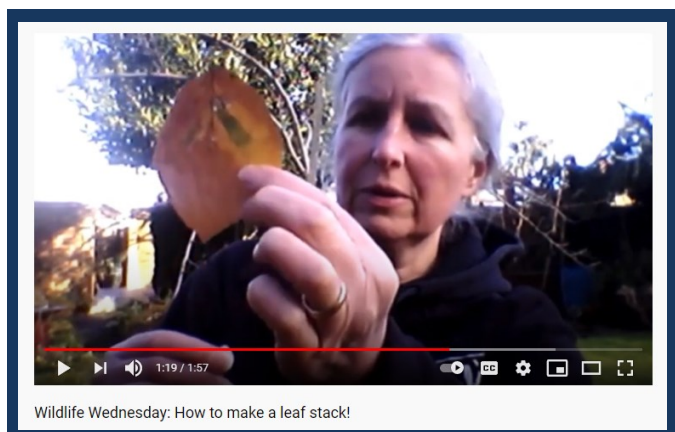
Inspired by Newton

Our 30 Inspirational Plants have now been finalised with only two specimens remaining to be collected. This includes a specimen of Cowslip from Gibraltar Point National Nature Reserve with Barry Wilkinson, former warden and special advisor to the Trust. We are also excited to announce that we have gained permission from the National Trust to collect several specimens from the world renowned 'Newton's Apple Tree' at Woolsthorpe Manor near Grantham. It is under this tree that it is reputed that Isaac Newton saw an apple fall in the late summer of 1666 and which caused him to speculate upon the nature of gravitation. Adding a specimen linked to one of the greatest mathematicians and most influential scientists of all time provides a wonderful opportunity to widen the appeal of the project to a national audience.



Online school education activities

The project team and LWT education staff have continued to develop online resources for schools. This has included a short video about the importance of plants that was emailed to local schools as well as home based activity ideas such as [making a leaf stack](#) (left) as part of the national Wildlife Watch Wildlife Wednesday programme. The education team based at Gibraltar Point NNR continue to reach out to secondary school students, delivering online sand dune survey and career progression sessions to 222 Year 9 pupils at Haven High Academy in Boston as well as a careers opportunity session to 53 further education and HE students at the Grimsby Institute. In response to engagement restrictions the team are currently adapting our existing LLP plant explorer session using live/ downloadable video formats.



2021 events and training *

***(Covid 19 Update: Delivery of all project events and activities are subject to UK Government advice and [LWT policy](#): Further details can be found at <https://www.lincstrust.org.uk/events> and at partner websites. Partner links can be found [here](#).**

- Great Lives Lectures on Zoom: 9th, 14th April and 5th, 19th May. For more information go to [LWT events page](#).
- Herbarium Conference 14th May. Speakers and content TBC.
- Lincspirational Plants Autumn projection (1-3rd Oct and 8-10th Oct): Venues TBC: LWT Gibraltar Point, Boultham Park, Cleethorpes Seafront, Boston, Tattershall Castle and Sir Joseph Banks Society Centre, Horncastle.
- Pop-up art exhibitions, 26/27 June 2021 – art trail and exhibition of 30 Lincspirational Plant winners in Joseph Wright Hall, at Barton on Humber.

Want to find out more? For further information about the events and sessions mentioned in this report follow us on Twitter [@LoveLincsPlants](#). Further project information can be found on the project website [here](#).

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