



Dear Members,

A very warm welcome to this spring online edition. After the long evenings of winter, there is something quietly restorative about this moment in the gardening year: the lengthening days, the first proper warmth on a sheltered wall, our autumn planted bulbs in flower, and the steady unfurling of growth that reminds us, year after year, why gardens matter.

This spring feels particularly “alive” across Lincolnshire, not only in what is coming into flower, but in the amount of thoughtful change taking place in our parks and designed landscapes.

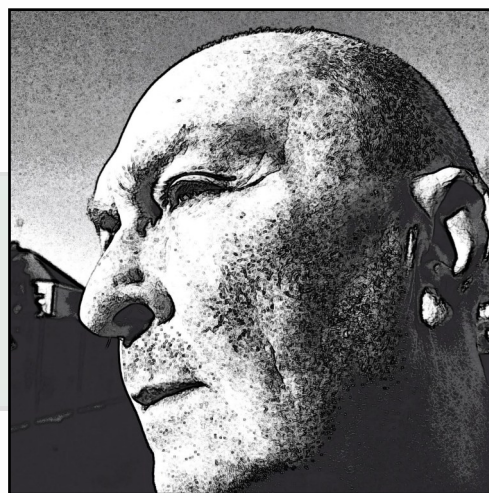
Many of you will have seen that Pier Gardens in Cleethorpes has now been fully closed so that major renovation works can begin, complete with the practical realities of fencing, site access and construction activity, and the promise of occasional opportunities for the public to see progress as the scheme develops. I mention this not because closures are ever convenient, but because they represent something important: a civic decision to invest in a shared green place, and to treat a public garden as a valued part of our inheritance rather than just “nice-to-have”. The heritage of the gardens is recognised and valued.



Spring also brings its own kind of news: not the sudden headline, but the gentle recalibration of seasons that gardeners are often the first to notice. Easton Walled Gardens has openly acknowledged what many of us have been observing for some time, how the year’s timings are shifting, by adding earlier opening days ahead of its 2026 snowdrop season. As part of a 25-year restoration, this 12-acre garden uses early openings in the season to showcase resilience and the changing seasons. It is a small detail with a large implication: our gardens are not static museum pieces; they are living systems, responsive to weather patterns, temperature, soil moisture, and the accumulated effects of recent years. Our stewardship must be just

as responsive, informed by observation and grounded horticultural judgement. Maybe a topic for another Newsletter?

These two stories, restoration on the coast, and shifting seasonal openings inland speak to the same underlying truth: designed landscapes are where heritage, horticulture and community meet. That is precisely why our Trust exists. Lincolnshire Gardens



Trust’s purpose is to help protect, enjoy and enhance the county’s gardens and parks, and to conserve and raise awareness of Lincolnshire’s garden heritage for the future.

Of course, stewardship today also means paying attention to the policy environment. The Gardens Trust has recently raised serious concerns about proposed planning changes that could weaken the protections available to historic parks and gardens, by altering the statutory consultation role that has long helped bring specialist landscape insight into planning decisions. It is a timely reminder that good outcomes do not happen by accident: they are shaped by informed voices, steady advocacy, and the careful accumulation of evidence, exactly the kind of work many of you support, often quietly, through your membership, and attendance at our events.

Finally, in this new Newsletter you will find articles about Spalding’s flower trains and lost allotments in Lincoln, plus, other news and views. We hope you enjoy our content.

The Gardens Trust- National News



Statutory consultation campaign: Consultations have previously been combined with Theatres Trust and Sports England. Views have currently been founded on the idea that Historic England covered the consultation and negated the need for the Gardens Trust as a consultee from the minister of housing. The deadline for objections was 13th January and we're waiting to hear the results of the consultation. The objections to the removal of consultations was well supported by the Fields in Trust as well as other local Gardens Trust groups.

Steffie Shield's, along with other members and trustee responded to the consultation, stating that she was 'horrified by the process'. Heather Slater voiced concern over the 'outsourcing agencies' would have significant impact. The valuable local networks becoming undermined, as chairman Frazer Chapman stated 'local knowledge is key'. In addition to the consultation objections, Frazer also wrote to his local MP The Right Honourable John Hayes CBE MP. Raising his concerns. Elizabeth Bowskill referred to the fact that on a national level, 'they don't use the local parks'. In relation specifically to issues surrounding Belton House.

The hope is that there were enough local Gardens Trusts who voiced their opinions. The response from the housing department was merely an acknowledgement of objections. The aims and objections supported by the Lincolnshire Gardens Trust has always been focused on not blocking developments, but with the focus on supporting and protecting heritage and the sense of place. The results of the consultation are still to be confirmed in terms of dates and outcomes. [at the time of writing]

Jayne Hickling

LGT Visits:

Cressy Hall Gardens - Wednesday 25th March 2026

The Old Vicarage- Holbeach Hum. Tuesday 12th May 2026

Ludney House Farm- Louth. Wednesday 10th June 2026

Battleford Hall- Spalding Tuesday 21st July 2026

Membership.

To members who may be moving in the next 12 months, please do remember to update your postal addresses and/ or email details to ensure that we can send newsletters and updates. Renewals to membership are appreciated, as are new members throughout the year.

**KEEP
STATUTORY
CONSULTATION
WITH THE
GARDENS TRUST
TO PROTECT OUR
HISTORIC PARKS
AND GARDENS**



Was this Paternalism or Altruism?

Private, Non-statutory Allotment Provision – Spike Island (West) Allotment Site in Lincoln – Centred SK 95931 71406

West of the Boultham Curve, hemmed in by railway lines, lies a forgotten patch of Lincoln's working-class past: six hectares of abandoned allotment plots cultivated by men who spent their days in the noise and heat of the Ruston and Hornsby engineering works.

Employers providing allotment plots for their workers in the early to mid-20th century isn't rare. The UK's various railway companies provided allotment sites for their employees throughout the UK, often in the large railway hubs, for example, Peterborough. In Lincoln, the engineering business, Ruston Proctor and, from their 1918 merger, Ruston and Hornsby, provided allotment plots for its workers near their industrial complex along Beever Street, Lincoln. The allotment site we are interested in is named "Spike Island (West)", which historically was the common name for the industrial area around Beever Street and the Ruston Hornsby works (Spike Island). Or, possibly, the allotment site derived its name from a nearby workhouse or the pointed shape of the allotment land? The greater area is now known as New Boultham and is located near the Lincoln University complex.



Spike Island Allotment Site from around 1904 to 1948 (drawing based on OS maps 1904-1948 (National Library of Scotland)) Centred SK 95931 71406

The site covered approximately six hectares and had the potential to host 200-plus plots. The allotment site remained in use from early in the 20th century until around 1948. Studying aerial photographs of the area, access to the allotments appears to have required plot-holders crossing the tracks via an ungated crossing on the Boultham Curve. The engineering company, Ruston Hornsby, and, from the 1930s, Ruston Bucyrus, employed approximately 7,500 workers. So, what prompted the provision of allotment plots for employees? Respectable leisure, health, diet, and

employee stability may have contributed to the creation of this facility. The allotment, as an alternative to the public house for recreation, could be encouraged, and the ability to grow food for the family table helped offset the burdens on working-class budgets (food costs and rent). Was this paternalism or altruism? Probably a combination of the two, controlling, considering and engendering the employee's health and loyalty, both important elements for stable, productive work. Industrial sites that had a foundry and heavy engineering did not operate under the Health and Safety legislation enjoyed today. Pub culture threatened work discipline



Author's Impression of Spike Island Allotment Site, bounded by railway tracks (AI generated)

and safety in heavy industry, risking lateness, accidents, fatigue, and reduced output. Why not offer allotments to your employees as a healthy leisure alternative, with food for the family as a reward?

A recent site visit demonstrated the site's isolation; it remains surrounded by railway lines, and access is unclear. However, the Google Maps aerial view showed the land covered in trees, and from a distance, Silver Birch, a pioneer tree species, dominates the site. Nevertheless, knowledge of the Spike Island (West) Allotment Site illustrates the extent of this now mainly post-industrial area of Lincoln and its link to an important industrial past.

Frazer Chapman

Sources:

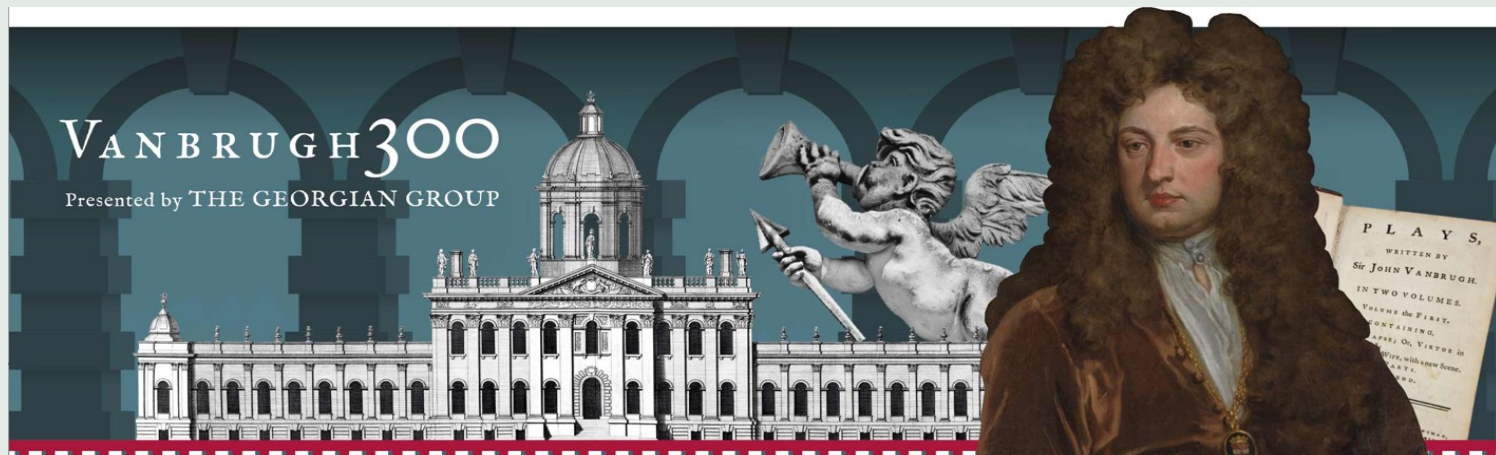
Tann Geoff Lincoln's Allotments: A History (The Survey of Lincoln, 2008) <https://historicensland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/>

Google Maps

Ordnance Survey Maps and the National Library of Scotland <https://www.photrek.co.uk/>

Wikipedia

<https://www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk/content/place-2/lincolnshire-2/>



Vanbrugh 300 Festival Celebrations at Grimsthorpe Castle, the celebrated architect's 'unfinished symphony'

Robert Bertie, 4th Earl of Lindsey, one of Malbrough's generals, was both a distant kinsman of Vanbrugh, and close friend. They travelled together in France and to the Hague. 1711 saw the architect as a signatory of the marriage contract for Robert's son, Peregrine, a happy occasion that may have led the Earl to commission Vanbrugh's associate Stephen Switzer, an apprentice of Royal Gardeners London and Wise, to improve the castle setting. Switzer designed a Wilderness Garden, 'The Oaks', a forest garden plantation with winding walks, to screen the Four-Mile Riding approach. Consequently, on arrival from the Great London Road southwest, important visitors experienced a dramatic, sudden reveal of the castle framed by a double avenue of trees.

When the Hanoverian King George I succeeded to the throne, Vanbrugh was the first citizen to receive a knighthood, and Robert Bertie was created 1st Duke of Ancaster. He asked his friend to draw up plans for upgrading his rural Lincolnshire home to reflect this new status. Vanbrugh selected a high vantage-point at Swinstead Manor, for a similar eye-catcher to the belvedere he built at his Claremont villa in Surrey. His lofty, twin-towered summerhouse, complete with banquet room, enabled arresting, panoramic views of both the Bertie's original family residence and Grimsthorpe Castle, and continues to ornament its landscape park.

Surveys and drawings proposed a radical alteration of north, south, and east or west elevations, but little progress was made. Following the duke's death four years later, his heir determined that the North Front encasement should finally go ahead. Unfortunately, Vanbrugh died before the project was completed. Switzer went on to develop an extensive military-themed, arrow-head bastion garden to the south. Today the North elevation is

VANBRUGH 300 EVENTS in Lincolnshire:

30 April - 30 September 2026 A special Vanbrugh 300 exhibition at Grimsthorpe Castle in the Vanbrugh Hall

15 – 21 June 2026 Vanbrugh 300 Week for Schools in South Kesteven. Pupils will be invited to participate with various activities at Grimsthorpe Castle.

Friday 19 June 2026 6pm at Grimsthorpe Castle **A Talk by Charles Saumarez-Smith** lead expert and the driving force behind the national Vanbrugh festival, whose book *John Vanbrugh, the Drama of Architecture*, is recently published. He will be joined in discussions by **Jeremy Musson**, an English writer, editor and presenter, specialising in British country houses and architecture.

Saturday/Sunday 20/21 June 2026 at Grimsthorpe Castle **Vanbrugh 300 Family Weekend** with story tellers and activities for children.

testament to Vanbrugh's dramatic prowess in Baroque architecture, famously telling the story of Grimsthorpe and the Bertie family military service to the Crown on the skyline in the carved stone Bertie family crest and accompanying sculptures above the balustrade, together with battering rams on the entablature surmounting two magnificent pairs of banded Tuscan columns either side of the hall front.

Steffie Shields

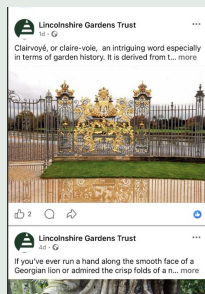
VANBRUGH 300 celebrates the life and legacy of Sir John Vanbrugh (1664 – 1726) across six of his great houses:

Castle Howard, Blenheim Palace, Seaton Delaval Hall, Grimsthorpe Castle, Kimbolton Castle and Stowe House.
Vanbrugh 300 Festival Celebrations at Grimsthorpe Castle, the celebrated architect's 'unfinished symphony'

For more information see <https://grimsthorpe.co.uk>
[Grimsthorpe Castle, Park and Gardens](#) | [A unique Castle in the rural heart of Lincolnshire](#)

Proudly Connecting the future of The Lincolnshire Gardens Trust

Loving and promoting our beautiful gardens and parks of the



past is something we certainly have a passion for. To keep the word alive, we— like many are now getting ourselves more and more visible to the world through the maze of algorithms, shares and active comments. The Lincolnshire Gardens Trust is.. “social”. Not that we weren’t before, but in an online sense. This has enabled us to share more of what is going on in Lincoln-

shire’s parks, gardens and historic houses, as well as links to national campaigns and news from the national Gardens Trust.

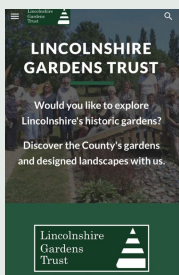
For those more skeptical of the platform Instagram, we do also have a Facebook page, both of which carry our LGT logo. As a committee



we made an active decision to not enter onto the X platform.

As for TikTok— we didn’t really think this was quite for us— but you never know!

Many of you will already be familiar with the current LGT website. This will be undergoing an overhaul over the coming months. We look forward to launching this soon and will certainly keep you up to date.



Lincolnshire Gardens Trust Lapel Pins.

For those of you who came to the first garden visit of 2026 at Cressy Hall House, you may have seen our new Lincolnshire Gardens Trust lapel pins. If you would also like to proudly share the Lincolnshire Gardens Trust and would like to purchase one, these will be available from Elizabeth in person at visits this year for £4. Once the new webpage is launched these will also be available to purchase on line for £4.50 to cover postage.



LGT Grants for Schools.

The Lincolnshire Gardens Trust has been actively promoting our involvement and grants to schools, with the aim to nurture the future of horticulture and a love of nature and outside spaces. One of the key ways in which we’ve found this possible is as a direct line is through the RHS In Bloom projects. The RHS local projects focus elements of towns and village entries on schools and education environments. As such we have been able to promote our work both directly with schools and through the In Blooms projects.

At the end of the last school year we visited a number of primary school who we have supported in the past, to gift grow kits for the students to be used as a part of their curriculum. This was very well received.

We are always ready to look at applications from schools for the grants for schools. Application forms and details can be found on our website, however a copy has been included at the end of this newsletter as well. If you know of a school starting or even currently working on their own growing and gardening projects please do pass on details of how we could support them in their work with children.

Jayne Hickling



THE GARDENS TRUST WALLED GARDEN PROJECT

Historic England have commissioned the Gardens Trust to write an ‘**Introduction to Heritage Assets**’ (IHA) over the next few months to provide a concise architectural history of walled kitchen gardens in England, supporting with future listing and registration enquiries. It will explain the historical purpose, context and development of walled kitchen gardens, and their key features : walls, glasshouses and frames, ancillary and specialised structures and how these changed and developed over time, including wider technological developments. The IHA will refer to current use and how this can help with wider environmental challenges and potential health and wellbeing benefits, for instance small scale local growing, slow food, community involvement etc. You can read more about IHAs at <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/selection-criteria/ih/as/>



The LGT Research team will endeavour to contribute to this project. They are busy refining the list of walled gardens in Lincolnshire, their description and current use where possible, and searching for suitable images. Contact Steffie Shields shieldssb@aol.com if you have any information or images that might help. More to follow...!

Steffie Shields

Lincolnshire Gardens Trust



Discover Lincolnshire's Rich Horticultural History

Explore historic gardens, learn about our horticultural heritage, and help protect *Lincolnshire's* green spaces.

Join Now

www.lincolnshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Lincolnshire Gardens Trust & Lincolnshire Life Photographic Competition 2026

Celebrate the county's gorgeous gardens and great gardeners!

Lincolnshire Life, the county's favourite magazine, in partnership with the Lincolnshire Gardens Trust (**LGT**), has the pleasure of announcing a new initiative, to the annual Lincolnshire Gardens Trust (**LGT**) Photographic Competition, which has run for 30 years!



Second Place Winner: Danny Rollit 'Harpswell Steps'

We are looking for photographers to let their imagination and camera capture outstanding images which portray the best of gardens, gardeners, wildlife and plant life in Lincolnshire. There are six categories to enter:

Gorgeous Gardens! (Gardens open at least once during the year)

My Lincolnshire Garden

Taste of Lincolnshire

Plant Portrait

My favourite Lincolnshire Tree

Schools Category (8 - 18 years of age): Let's Get Out There

As we welcome spring, we invite you to get out and about in our great county with your camera and phone camera and share the results with us. We are looking for thoughtful and imaginative images which highlight the beauty of Lincolnshire gardens and their visitors – both human and animal!



Third Place Winner: Susie Cook 'Where flowers bloom, water sings and

the pelican waits'

Images for Photography Competition winners 2025- Capturing Lincolnshire's Unforgettable Gardens.



First Place Winner: Joanna Heselwood 'Cow Parsley Doddington Hall'

We would also like to share your images with the readers of Lincolnshire Life and LGT members, in print and online. ***Our judging panel will select the most outstanding images to be named winners, with presentations taking place at the LGT AGM in November.***

For Full Terms and conditions and how to enter on pages 14 and 15

Flower Trains and the Fens: railways and the cut flower trade in South Holland



South Holland Daffodil Field (Author's image)

With the Fens recently displaying the bulb fields in all their glory, it's a good time to reflect on the development of the cut flower industry, from extra-garden flowers sold locally to the mass-market availability we know today. For most of the nineteenth century, the extraordinary productivity of this fenland landscape had no reliable way of reaching the people who most wanted fresh-cut flowers. The cut flowers that bloomed in such abundance here, vivid, perishable, and fragile, might wither before they reached the nearest town. Everything changed with the railway.

It was the railway that helped South Holland's flower-growing heritage bloom into a national phenomenon. Between 1850 and 1900, new rail lines rewrote the rules for perishable goods: they shortened journeys, brought markets closer, and, most crucially for the fragile cut flower trade, made overnight deliveries to major urban conurbations a reality. The story of South Holland's cut flowers is entwined with the rail-tracks that carried their precious cargo far beyond the fields where they grew. At the heart of this transformation was Spalding. More than just a fertile flower growing district, Spalding became the beating heart of a logistical revolution: a place where skilled

growers, innovative packaging, bustling station platforms, and the busy rhythms of night-time loading all converged. The town forged strong connections to the great flower markets of London and beyond, turning the fleeting beauty of freshly cut blooms into a thriving, high-volume trade, one that brought the romance and beauty of South Holland's cut flowers to mantelpieces and tables across the nation.

Frazer Chapman



Preparing and packing bunches of daffodils for rail distribution. (AI-generated image)

Cressy Hall House— 2026 Garden Visit Season Open!

Our first garden visit of 2026 was the stunning visit to Cressy Hall House and a journey of love, dating from the previous owners and continued with the most recent custodians, Luka & Kerim.

The welcome to their stunning house and grounds—found the instant love through the carefully crafted topiary yews, planted over 35 years ago from saplings gifted from the love of father to daughter and nurtured in front of the marital home. The love continues and the private home— which is available as a wedding venue and can be privately rented to large groups— has so much more to offer.

The pleached Lyme tree avenue, the wandering peacocks outside of the old walled garden, with its fire-stoke holes and chimneys still positioned to heat the old greenhouse, every turn reveals wonder. The old moat ditch lined with trees to protect against the wind of the fens, and the carpet of lesser celandine leading back to the house... a glorious location and unsurprisingly one used as a backdrop to photo shoots and films.

A real privilege to discover - hidden down a short leafy lane— over looked by ponies—which reveals a secret treasure.

Jayne Hickling



*Images:
Jayne Hickling*



The Cressy Family

The Cressy family history has long had connections with Gosberton, an area known for its brickmaking. Less than two miles south of St Peter and Paul Church, in an isolated fenland situation, a long sweeping gravelled drive approach leads to the impactful, memorable reveal of Cressy Hall. This extraordinary, sophisticated 3-storey late Georgian house (1794, HE Grade II*) has fine brickwork in Flemish bond, and adjacent lower, pedimented pavilions either side. The west-facing wall of one pavilion has a brick inscribed HT1835. Visitors arrive through ornamental ironwork gates and piers (19C) to a turning circle north of the house. A Rococo cartouche, the Cressy family crest, is found over the north front's central window above the Hall entrance. Victorian era archways ornament either end of an east laid brick walk leading to a gravelled terrace overlooking the



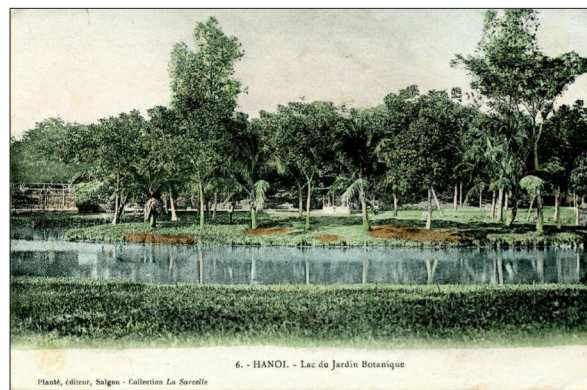
south lawn, edged with low brick wall and stone coping, and stone steps. Stone steps lead up to a Doric front doorway on the south elevation, flanked by stately columns and crowned by a striking fanlight.

Surviving traces of ancient earthworks (Scheduled Monument at TF 224 303) include remnants of a medieval moat with remains of an early medieval moated manor house and a post-medieval garden approximately 70m south of the hall, in their south-east corner. Nearby a 17C house was built facing east on a new site approximately 70m northwest of the moated island. Archaeological evidence indicates a quite ambitious late-17C ornamental water gardens in formal Anglo-Dutch-style including a canal were laid out to the east and south for landowner and Tory MP Sir Henry Heron (1675-1730). However, this house burnt down in 1791. Late 18C landscape garden veteran trees include a Holm Oak west and an Oriental Plane Tree east frame Cressy Hall, plus a brick, curving brick ha-ha typical of the period separates the south lawn from the pasture. Elsewhere, iron wire fencing and a second gateway (19C) bound the house grounds and the south park pasture, with wooded boundaries beyond, c. 9 acres in total, with rural views over fields and dykes beyond. A south-facing stretch of decayed late 18/ early 19C brick hot wall garden and chimney was likely built re-using bricks from the 17C house. In the early 20C, WWI prisoners of war, housed in the barn beyond, may have helped build kitchen garden enclosure, with three further walls built of stucco-faced breeze blocks in between brick piers, with gateways to north and south, and a lean-to greenhouse built along the north wall. In 1990 all these layers of changing landscape and relict features provided then owners, antique dealer and producer of reproduction antique iron garden furniture, Michael Hill and his artist wife Janey with a useful framework for the setting's restoration. Michael had little interest in gardening but gathered 'loads of little healthy seedlings' from a cluster of gnarled 500-year-old yew trees in the grounds of his wife's family home, Cherry Burton House, near Beverley in Yorkshire's East Riding. He potted them up, then after three years, with no design in mind, began by planting two rows on Cressy's south lawn, tracing the curve of the crescent-shaped brick ha-ha, and to give the south garden privacy. The rows were regularly shaved, but only roughly shaped, until the Millennium, when Michael began 'rather spontaneously' to clip the yews into tapering spirals. He started at the tops of the juvenile trees and followed the branching pattern as he worked downwards, an exhilarating but 'very tricky' task. Later he made metal sculptures inspired by many of his inventive yew shapes. Today, the Hills unique late 20C formal gardens mainly to the south and west of the Hall showcase lime allées and surprising eye-catchers. They include a column, pillars and urns, a brick summerhouse and a Gothic seat, and an orchard. Amazing geometric and sculptural topiaries continue to tower on the south lawn and help to screen the old kitchen garden north wall.

Steffie Shields
(Article citation page 19)

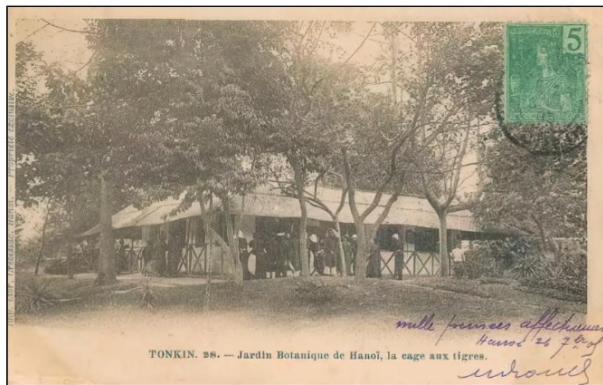
Exploring Bach Thao Park, Hanoi, aka Hanoi Botanical Gardens

Hanoi is a crowded, fascinating, and fast-growing Vietnamese city; unfortunately, it is also heavily polluted by industry and the seven million motorbikes and cars people use to move around the city daily. Consequently, parks, gardens, and other green spaces are essential for people's health, leisure, and recreation. Bach Thao Park, also known as Hanoi Botanical Gardens, is a wonderful oasis of peace within the city. I visited the gardens in January 2025 and explored the grounds' history and contemporary landscape.



Hanoi Botanical Gardens Circa 1902

A Brief History: Bach Thao Park, aka Hanoi Botanical Gardens, is a 10-hectare green space located in the Northwest of the city near the remains of the old Citadel and the site of Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum. Bach Thao means many trees and plants. In the 19th century, Vietnam was a French colony, and the French created the gardens in 1890. Originally named Vuon Thao Moc (Moc; a possible translation is "wood" or "trees"), and initially covering some 33 hectares, the gardens were developed by the French as a research and resource hub to investigate the potential of Vietnam's trees and plants. To make the grounds more attractive for visitors (and presumably generate income), an avenue of cages was built to showcase animals, including tigers.



Hanoi Botanical Gardens Tiger Cage Circa 1900

The parkscape had two lakes for waterfowl and fishing, and cattle seemed to be employed to keep the rough grass down (Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) or similar is used today, and the leaf arisings are used as cattle fodder). A rusticated bridge across a water feature allowed access to an attractive island.



Hanoi Botanical Gardens – Waterfowl and Rusticated Bridge Circa 1900



The gardens suffered severely in the Second World War. The Japanese occupied Vietnam, and the French troops stationed in Hanoi were unable to resist the Japanese invaders. The park's animals were starving, and it became necessary to relocate them elsewhere. The grounds' many significant trees were left to their own devices.

French colonial rule ended in 1954, and the new revolutionary government restored the neglected parkscape, renaming it Bach Thao Park. The new regime also took around two-thirds of the grounds to create the modern, brutalist and stately Ba Dinh Square. This vast square includes the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, the Ho Chi Minh Museum, the One Pillar Pagoda, the Hanoi Flag Tower, and the Presidential Palace.



Lakeview (2025) – Author's image

The Present: The grounds are more of a public park (Bach Thao Park) than a botanical garden, yet they are charming, well used by Hanoi's residents, and home to many magnificent trees. Trees to be found include banyan, palm, coconut, and mahogany trees, as well as the increasingly rare and native Sua tree. However, today, age and the power of tropical storms have rendered many trees unsafe and damaged, and they require substantial support to remain standing.



Banyan Tree and Storm Damaged Banyan Tree (2025) – Author's image

The grounds have several sculptures following a sculpture festival (held several years ago), and this contemporary feature, along with outside gym equipment, tennis courts and the relatively extensive use of bedding plants, underlines the public park atmosphere of this important green space. The park draws many school groups and walkers into the grounds and is a popular exercise space. During my visit, people practised their Tai Chi with fans and used the outside gym equipment.



Tai Chi with Fans (2025) – Author's image

The park has two lakes; the smaller lake has an island with several large dovecotes.



Island Dovecotes (2025) – Author's image

Hanoians appear to be very fond of their colourful bedding displays throughout the city, and Bach Thao Park is no exception. There are extensive displays of begonias, salvias, marigolds, and chrysanthemums.

The bedding plants are often not planted in the ground but densely laid out together in their pots to create the display. I wondered why, but I believe that a hot tropical climate and pollution severely affect the plants. Being in pots means they can easily be moved to nursery holding grounds and refreshed. This enables new plants to be laid out to maintain a



Colourful Planters (2025) – Author's image

consistent display without the need to plant in the soil. Large teams of mainly female gardeners maintain the grounds and keep the bedding displays looking good.



Standing Ground with Poinsettias, Tree Ferns and Bonsai (2025) – Author's image

A large circular man-made mount, Nung Mountain, adjacent to the smaller lake, houses a small temple. The temple is dedicated to a young warrior who fought against foreign invaders during the Ly Dynasty (1009-1225). The temple is immaculately presented, and peace prayers are continually played throughout the temple complex.



The Temple in the Park (2025) – Author's image



The Peacock House 2025 – Author's image

The park has two cages, which are difficult to ignore. A small circular cage near the entrance houses two peacocks, and a large, rundown rectangular cage within the parkscape is home to several very sad-looking monkeys. These are questionable elements of the parkscape that undermine its aesthetic appeal.

Cast-iron railings enclose the grounds, and the large park gates, once a significant feature welcoming visitors, look shabby and ill-cared-for today.



Bach Thau Park Entrance Gates and Railing Pillar Detail (2025) – Author's image



A Brutalist Park Seat (2025) – Author's image

Although the parkscape and infrastructure require attention, Bach Thao Park remains an essential green lung for Hanoi and is a safe, popular place.

Some Soviet-inspired park furniture remains in the park, and I thought this brutalist park bench and base illustrate this point and were worth including! A poignant reminder of the Communist past.

Lincolnshire Gardens Trust and Lincolnshire Life Photographic Competition 2026

Title and Full Name	
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Address Line 2	
Town/ City	
Postcode	
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I understand and agree to the terms and conditions of the competition between the Lincolnshire Gardens Trust and Lincolnshire Life Magazine. I declare that the images that I have submitted are my own and give permission for their publication.

Signed:

Date:

Lincolnshire Gardens Trust & Lincolnshire Life Photographic Competition 2026– Terms & Conditions.

Lincolnshire Life (County Life Ltd) the Lincolnshire Gardens Trust (LGT) and Lincolnshire County Council will not share these images with any third party other than our competition partners and by uploading an image you are certifying that you have the rights to distribute this picture and that it does not invalidate the terms of use (Please see our website or request a hard copy from: Lincolnshire Life, 9 Checkpoint Court, Sadler Road, Lincoln LN6 3PW Tel: 01522 689671

Email: accounts@lincolnshirelife.co.uk).

* **No entry fee.**

* **Name, address and prize category must be clearly labelled, along with the name of the Lincolnshire garden where the photo was taken.**

* **Please note that, for the main prizes, except In My Lincolnshire Garden, the garden must be open to the public at least once in the current year.**

* **Enter as many times as you wish, up to a maximum of 10 photos in total for each category.**

* **Digital entry requirements - Please set *the* quality to maximum and submit high-resolution images at a minimum of 300 dpi. Entries can be sent via WeTransfer.**

* **Entrants must agree to the photo being used for publication by Lincolnshire Life Magazine, Lincolnshire Gardens Trust and Lincolnshire County Council. Full credits will be given.**

* **Consent of the owners of the gardens or people must be obtained before submission to the competition.**

Please send digital entries in jpeg format by email to: studio@lincolnshirelife.co.uk

HOW TO ENTER

Entry Information & Requirements

The 2026 Photographic Competition is open to professionals and non-professionals, and Entries must be emailed as high-resolution jpeg images to:

studio@lincolnshirelife.co.uk. Please include your name, address, and a telephone number. Closing date: September 25th 2026.

By entering the competition, you grant Lincolnshire Life (County Life Ltd) and the Lincolnshire Gardens Trust a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to reproduce your submitted images in print and digital media for the purposes of promoting and reporting on this competition and related LGT activities. Full photographer credit will be given. You retain copyright of your images.

The best pictures will be printed in Lincolnshire Life and there is even a chance they could feature on our cover !

Judging & Prizes

The judging panel will consist of a representative from LGT, Lincolnshire Life and a representative from one of the sponsor businesses.

Judges will be looking for high quality, well composed images which show originality and reflect the chosen category with, where possible, features which reflect unique qualities within Lincolnshire. Images should be original, human created work and AI generated or modified imagery is not acceptable.

The judges decision will be final and not subject to appeal.

Winners will be announced at the Lincolnshire Gardens Trust AGM in November 2026

Prizes donated by Lincolnshire County Council . [Winners will receive framed copies of their winning image.](#)

1. Main Prize: Gorgeous Gardens ! (A Lincolnshire garden open at least once during the year) 1st Prize: £50 2nd Prize: £25 3rd Prize: £10

2. In my Lincolnshire Garden Prize: £25

3. Taste of Lincolnshire Prize: £25 Donated by the Lincolnshire Gardens Trust

4. Plant Portrait Special Prize: A year's subscription to Lincolnshire Life Magazine

5. My Favourite Lincolnshire Tree Prize: £25

6. Schools Category 8-18 years of age: *Let's get out there!* Prize: £25

LINCOLNSHIRE GARDENS TRUST SMALL GRANTS APPLICATION FORM

Please read the information on the website before completing this application.

_____ The school, college, home, or organisation * = required

Address 2*

Post Code*

Name of contact person*

Position*

Name of school, college, home, or organisation*

Address 1*

Phone*

Email*

Name of person in charge (if different from above)*

No. of children / patients

Local Authority*

/ senior citizens *

Details of school, home or organisation*

☐ Local Authority ☐ Grant Maintained ☐ Independent ☐ Rural ☐ Suburban ☐ Inner City

The Project

Is the garden within the grounds?* ☐ Has the owner of the grounds approved the ☐
use of the land as a garden area?*

Is this a* ☐ New work ☐ Extension to an existing garden ☐ Regeneration of an existing

garden Give a concise description of your proposal, including how you intend to involve young

people and/or the community in the work.* (Use a separate piece of paper if you prefer)

What is the project's value to the children / community as a whole?*

LINCOLNSHIRE GARDENS TRUST SMALL GRANTS APPLICATION FORM

In case of a school, how will the area be used across the National Curriculum?*

What role will the students/residents, the staff and the local community play in the planning and implementation of the project?*

What plans are there for the maintenance of the project?*

Specialist help

Do you have specialist help available to develop your plans and advise on materials and costing? (Please give details)*

Time scale

Please outline your schedule for the project.*

LINCOLNSHIRE GARDENS TRUST SMALL GRANTS APPLICATION FORM

Planned costs*

Please list all items separately, indicating cost. Include raw materials, equipment, plants, etc.

		1	£
		2	£
		3	£
		4	£
		5	£
		6	£
		7	£
		8	£
		9	£
		10	£
		11	£
		12	£
		13	£
		14	£
		15	£
		16	£

17 £

TOTAL £

The Grant Requested

What is the total
Lincolnshire Gardens Trust grant that you wish to apply for? (Maximum £300)*

Which numbered items do you wish us to fund?*

Is a plan of the garden area attached? (essential) ☐*
Please show its position in relationship to any buildings

Is a photograph of the garden area enclosed? (optional) ☐

The Committee require a project report on completion to include before (during) and after photographs. Please indicate YES or NO to the following questions.*

☐ YES ☐ NO Lincolnshire Gardens Trust may share information about the school and project on Social Media and in LGT Newsletters/articles for the press.

☐ YES ☐ NO Lincolnshire Gardens Trust may share photographs we have provided on Social Media, LGT Newsletters and articles for the press.

Signatures*

Please note that one of the signatures below must be from the head of the organisation

Name Signature

Position Date

NameSignature

Position

Date

The completed form and attachments should be posted/emailed to:

The Secretary, Lincolnshire Gardens Trust, Elizabeth Bowskill,
3 Sandcliffe Road, Grantham, NG31 8DT

Tel: 07840 240854

Email:

elizabeth_ab@btopenworld.com

Members of the Council of Management of the Lincolnshire Gardens Trust.

General enquires: lgtenquiries1@gmail.com

Chairman and Treasurer:	Frazer Chapman.	frazerchapmanlgt@gmail.com	
Vice-Chair and Research:	Steffie Shields.	shieldssb@aol.com	01400230990
Events & Membership	Elizabeth Bowskill	elizabeth_ab@btopenworld.com	07840240854
Committee	Heather Slater	mrsheatherslater@gmail.com	
Newsletter and Media:	Jayne Hickling	theallotmentcook@hotmail.com	

School's Grant Application Form: [Small Grants 25 2.pdf - Google Drive](#)

Instagram:



@LINCOLNSHIRE_GARDENS_TRUST

Facebook:



Cressy Hall House Artifice reference: Reference: Pevsner p.311 HER MLI86313 Todd Longstaffe-Gowan 'English Garden Eccentrics: Three Hundred Years of Extraordinary Groves, Burrowings, Mountains and Menageries' Healey, RH, Roffe, DR, *Some medieval and later earthworks in South Lincolnshire (1990)*, 80-81 Dixon Hunt, *Journal of Garden History: The Anglo-Dutch Garden in the Age of William and Mary Volume 8 / numbers 2 & 3, April-September 1988* Hunt, John Dixon; Jong, Erik De Country Life Online Article: *The Cressy Hall topiary: 'A miraculously well-kept secret'*

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