

Sir

# JOSEPH BANKS

Society



An introduction to the activities of the Society and behind the scenes work at the Sir Joseph Banks Centre, Horncastle

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Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820), explorer and naturalist, is best known for sailing round the world with Captain Cook on the *Endeavour*. He also helped with the foundation of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. He took a leading role in the development of the Australian colony and the Pacific region. During his 41 years as President of the Royal Society his influence was felt in every discipline of Natural Philosophy. He had a genius for friendship, and he used his vast network of contacts both in this country and abroad to get things done. In Lincolnshire he took a great interest in agriculture, and particularly wool production.. He took an active role in the Lincolnshire Medical Benevolent Society, and in the Horncastle Dispensary. In 1800, in response to years of famine in the county, he commissioned John Rennie to produce a scheme to drain the East, West and Wildmore Fens to increase food production. He held high offices in the county, including as High Sheriff in 1794 and as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Lindsey battalion of the Lincolnshire Militia. He was also made Recorder of Boston in 1808.

## INTERNATIONAL WORK

The Society seeks to foster the study of Sir Joseph and his work overseas, particularly in territories which he visited. We have a long-standing association with The Banks Islands in northern Vanuatu where we have supported education through the Melanesian Mission. The Society has members in Australia, New Zealand, Iceland and Switzerland.

## MEMBERSHIP

The Society offers several membership categories for supporters. As well as individual and joint memberships, we have institutional and student members. Life membership is also offered. Membership details can be found on the website.

## ACTIVITIES

Advancement of education  
Provision of a Natural Sciences museum  
Botanical studies  
Natural sciences research  
Digitisation of specimens and records  
Public events



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**Association of  
Independent  
Museums**

Helping Heritage  
Organisations Prosper

## MUSEUM

Based at the Society's headquarters offices at the Sir Joseph Banks Centre, our fledgling museum aims to showcase the Society's collections and to work in partnership with the Horncastle History & Heritage Society to provide displays about Horncastles's rich historic heritage including its origins as a Roman town.



Joseph Banks Centre  
**Natural Science  
& Local Heritage**



We are creating a truly unique natural history and science centre for Lincolnshire which no longer has its own museum of natural history. Museum displays are based chiefly on our own collections, but we also aim to show objects from across the world which represent the work and travels of Sir Joseph Banks. We intend to explore indigenous peoples and cultures across the world, with a particular focus on Australia, New Zealand and the Indian Pacific region.

## SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

The Museum mounts regular exhibitions with themes associated with Sir Joseph Banks, and also some exhibitions in association with partners including local heritage and history. Forthcoming events include an exhibition of artworks of George Edward Lodge (1860-1954), together with related artefacts, in partnership with the George Edward Lodge Trust. George Lodge was a nationally renowned bird artist who was born and grew up in a village near to the Society's headquarters in Horncastle. In 2023 we will also be marking the 70th anniversary of the last of the famous Horncastle horse fairs, and the 100th anniversary of the death of the extraordinary Lincolnshire botanist, Reverend Adrian Woodruff-Peacock (1858-2023), by displaying his herbarium collection which is being conserved and housed by the Society.

## LEGACIES

Legacies made in the Society's favour have already provided the seed-corn for several major projects. Although we are able to apply for substantial grants from a variety of sources, these almost always require some match-funding as the offers are less than the full cost. Unrestricted funds are therefore particularly valuable, but we also welcome bequests which have conditions as to how the money is to be spent, for which we are always happy to discuss possible projects.

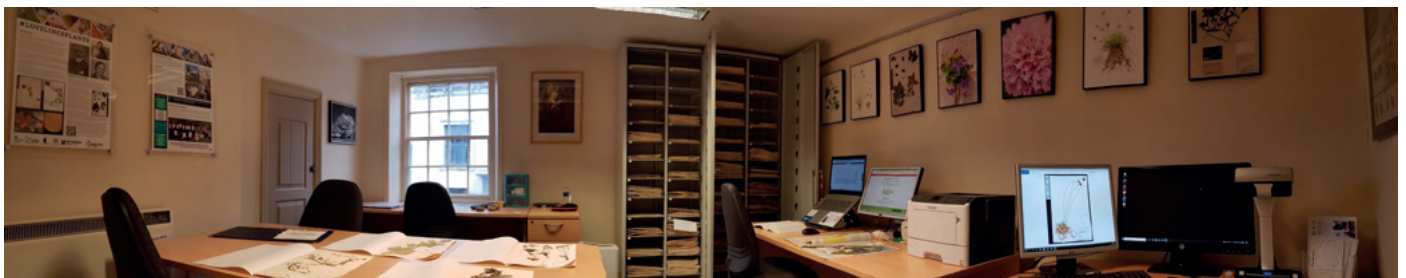


## HERBARIA

The Society safeguards several important collections of preserved plant specimens which are kept in specialised cabinets in our temperature and humidity-controlled herbarium room. Most of the specimens have been digitised and are available for inspection on the Society's website [www.josephbanks.org.uk/collections/botany/llp/](http://www.josephbanks.org.uk/collections/botany/llp/)

### The Lincolnshire Herbarium

The new Lincolnshire Herbarium has been created through the Love Lincs Plants Project funded mainly by the Heritage Lottery Fund. We have worked in partnership with the University of Lincoln, the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, the Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union, and London's Natural History Museum to collect and preserve a representative sample of Lincolnshire's modern flora. Much of the work to collect, identify, log and mount specimens has been carried out by volunteers with professional support by staff of the Wildlife Trust and Natural History Museum. The Society now employs a part-time Herbarium Manager.



### Seaward Herbarium

The Society looks after a collection of over 1000 specimens collected from around the world and donated by Professor Mark Seaward of the University of Bradford.

### The Chandler Collection

The Chandler botanical collection was originally donated to the Spalding Gentlemen's Society by John Chandler (1909-1987) but has recently been transferred into the care of the Sir Joseph Banks Society. We have started work on the cataloguing of this collection. This meticulously documented collection was amassed between the 1950s and 1980s from within a few miles of Chandler's home in Stamford, so as well as Lincolnshire specimens, some come from Rutland, Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire. John Chandler had a great interest in the poet John Clare whose home was in the nearby village of Helpston, so many of the plants were collected at localities associated with his poetry.

## OTHER NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

### Alan & Annette Binding Collection

Approximately 3000 specimens of insects and spiders collected in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.

### Dennis Hill Collection

A small handling herbarium from the area around Gibraltar Point, entomology journals and a photographic slide collection of natural history specimens from around the world. Dennis Hill worked internationally as an entomologist, but his home was in Skegness.



Example of a herbarium specimen  
*Circaea lutetiana*  
Enchanter's Nightshade

## BOTANICAL ART

### May Lane-Claypon

A set of 154 exquisite life-size botanical watercolours by Miss E M Lane-Claypon (1872-1964) (later Mrs Cheales) of Wyberton near Boston were deposited with the Society in 2018. These have all been digitised and can be viewed online. Prints are also available. The artist also produced albums of smaller studies which are being cared for by the Society. Recently her set of watercolour studies of fungi have been found and are being catalogued and scanned.



*Campanula latifolia*



### Dr J T Burgess

A cabinet of 460 postcard-size watercolours by Dr J T Burgess (1879-1915) of Lincolnshire wild-flowers is held by the Society. Each image has been scanned and has been identified by expert botanists. Dr Burgess was a GP based in Spilbsy.



*Lamium maculatum*



*Potentilla anserina*





## THE SIR JOSEPH BANKS TRIBUTE GARDEN

Situated at the rear of the Sir Joseph Banks Centre, the Tribute Garden was created by the Society in 2009. It provides a rich source of botanical inspiration and a tranquil oasis in the centre of the market town of Horncastle.



Sir Joseph Banks was first and foremost a botanist, and the Tribute Garden illustrates his search for plants throughout the world. Banks collected many plants himself on the voyage of the Endeavour. After his return in 1771 he encouraged other collectors such as Francis Masson in South Africa and the Duncan brothers in China among many others. Their specimens formed the foundation of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. All the plants in the Tribute Garden have some direct association with Banks. Information and interpretation about the plants is available on site and also on the Society's website where all the plants are illustrated and described.

The plants in the garden are labelled with English names, country of origin and a QR code which provides a link to the detailed information.



## DIGITISATION

It is the Society's practice to digitise images and data for as much of its collections as possible, and to make the information publicly available for research purposes. Herbarium specimens are routinely scanned and the images added to our online data bank accessed through our website. All of the May Lane-Claypon and Dr J T Burgess botanical watercolours are also available online.

## LIBRARY & ARCHIVE

The Society reference library consists of several hundred books including some rare and valuable items that focus on the life and work of Sir Joseph Banks and other Lincolnshire explorers. The library has been catalogued and can be searched using the online tool at [www.joseph-banks.org.uk/library/](http://www.joseph-banks.org.uk/library/). The archives include several important collections received by gift and legacy. A recent acquisition, grant-aided by the Friends of National Libraries is the Holbeach and Whaplode Allotments books. These rare and important books date back to 1819 and record all of the land holdings of Sir Joseph Banks in the south of the county.



### The David Robinson Collection

David Norman Robinson OBE (1927-1917) was a former President of the Society and a prolific writer and contributor to a great range of intellectual pursuits in Lincolnshire. His collection includes research notes about the life of Sir Joseph Banks, and a unique collection of Lincolnshire geological specimens which have been digitised and can be viewed online.

## COLLECTION CARE AND CONSERVATION

The trustees of the Society are creating a team of volunteers to undertake collection care house-keeping tasks. This requires the development of specialist skills and techniques. Volunteers work under the guidance of the collections manager and his team of lead volunteers. Appropriate training and support is provided. It is a requirement that each volunteer completes relevant training sessions; some of these are in-house, others on-line. There are also opportunities to gain wider knowledge and meet like-minded colleagues by attending network meetings and specific workshops held within the county.

## VOLUNTEERING

The Sir Joseph Banks Museum and Natural Science Centre would not exist without its volunteers. All volunteers are valued because they are willing to contribute time, effort and skills to support our organisation. Some also take responsibility for important areas such as the herbarium, the reference library and specific collections.

We offer a wide range of activities, some but not all requiring some specialist training. When appropriate this is provided as part of our induction programme. Some activities may be time specific, such as helping promote the museum at a local show, organising a pre-exhibition viewing evening; others will involve a longer term regular time commitment including recording specimens on our database and greeting visitors on their arrival. Below are some activities that need volunteers.

Archiving  
Collections Management  
Conservation  
Digitisation  
Education & Outreach

Front of House  
Garden Care  
Imaging  
Mapping  
Museum Development

Technical Services  
3D Printing  
Building maintenance  
Event management  
and support

In addition volunteers contribute to the general affairs of the Society, including production and distribution of a twice-yearly Magazine, a digital Newsletter, finance, membership and charity administration.



## EDUCATION

As a key element of our engagement with the local community we continually develop our Education & Outreach offering. Our Education Officer has provided workshops for KS1/KS2 students, both in local schools and at the centre. At the other end of the scale we have a number of University of Lincoln MA students undertaking conservation work on our collections.

Perhaps the best way to illustrate our involvement is to give a 'snapshot' of our young people's engagement:

- **KS1/KS2** – Workshops, both in school and at the centre
- **KS3** – Providing space at the centre for students to display their art work, offering work experience placements, conducting 'dummy' interviews
- **KS4** – offering volunteer opportunities for students engaged in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.
- **Undergraduate** – A number of BA Film Studies students on placement with us to support our Film/Social Media efforts.
- **Postgraduate** – University of Lincoln students engaged in various heritage Masters degrees.

We have identified the need to prioritise Education and family learning within our forward plan. We need volunteers to support the development and delivery of activities across all five sectors. We therefore welcome enquiries from interested persons.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Website

As well as providing general information about the Society and its activities the website is a rich resource for research. Our policy of making digitised records freely available means that images of large parts of our collections are accessible online. Scans of all the new Lincolnshire Herbarium specimens together with associated scientific data have been uploaded, and we are constantly working to add other collections. Images of all the Lane-Clayton and Burgess botanical watercolours can be seen together with photographs and background information about the plants in the Tribute Garden.

### Social media

The Society's presence on social media is maintained by volunteers who make posts about current projects and other news.

### Digital Newsletter

Anyone can sign up on the website to receive our digital Newsletter which is sent out to some 600 email addresses with news of the Society's work and forthcoming events.

### Magazine

A 16-page colour Magazine is produced for members twice a year. Each issue contains articles relating to Sir Joseph together with book reviews, news and in-depth accounts of some of our activities. Digital copies can be viewed on a special portal at <https://www.joseph-banks.org.uk/supportus/#magrack>. Issues dating back to the foundation of the Society in 2007 are available.



## PATRONS



Rt Hon Lord Waldegrave  
of North Hill



Sir David  
Attenborough OM

The Society is fortunate in having the support of two Patrons who are well known in the field of natural sciences and studies of Sir Joseph Banks. Baron Waldegrave of North Hill is a former Cabinet Minister and is now Provost of Eton College. Sir David Attenborough is well known for his natural history broadcasts and was formerly Controller of BBC2 television.

## MANAGEMENT

The work of the Society is overseen by a board of eight trustees who generally meet bi-monthly (or more frequently when necessary). The trustees ensure that the Society fulfils its charitable and other legal obligations and have put in place a range of management policies which can be examined on our website. Volunteers (including trustees) are appointed to oversee aspects of our work, with posts ranging from IT, education and herbarium management to administration and finance.

## CONSTITUTION

The Society was founded in 2007 as an unincorporated organisation. In 2022 the trustees decided that in order to allow for future expansion the Society should become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This was set up in April 2022 with a new charity number, and has now fully taken over the identity and functions of the historic Society. The constitution has the principal object to advance education for the public benefit in the life and work of Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820) in particular but not exclusively by providing a museum and in such other ways as the trustees see fit. The full text of the constitution and certificate of registration may be found on the Society's website [www.joseph-banks.org.uk](http://www.joseph-banks.org.uk).

The Society's Trustees are:

Paul Scott (Chairman and Collections Manager)  
Stuart Crooks (Vice-Chairman)  
David Douglas (Treasurer)  
Jacqueline Goodall (Secretary)  
Trevor Olsson  
Ken Richard  
Heather Slater (Magazine Editor)  
Bob Wayne

The Society's Chairman, Paul Scott lives in Horncastle and is an expert lecturer on the life and work of Sir Joseph Banks. He has a business management background and was formerly Director of the National Enterprise Network and Director of the Enterprise Agency for Grimsby and North East Lincolnshire.



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