

## Report

### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 15 MAY 1993

Three papers were presented at the Annual General Meeting held at the Conference Hall, Lincolnshire College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Riseholme, Lincoln on 15 May 1993, two in the morning and one in the evening. The theme of the morning's papers was Sir Joseph Banks, 1993 being the 250th Anniversary of his birth, the theme of the evening paper being 'Nature Conservation', the papers thus linking up with the outdoor programme on Saturday afternoon and the Sunday field excursions.

Mr Harold B. Carter, F.R.S.E., F.L.S., eminent author on Sir Joseph Banks and in charge of the Banks Archive project at the British Museum and the Royal Society, first spoke on *Banks as a British botanist*. He enlarged on some of the Banks Lincolnshire and British record sources, regretting that much had been lost, and outlined Banks' Welsh itinerary with connections to New South Wales and also his Lincolnshire and Derbyshire background. Mr Carter illustrated his very scholarly address with slides of herbarium specimens and drawings – these were of particular interest as they had been collected and collated from a large number of sources during his phenomenal study of Banksian papers.

Mr David N. Robinson M.Sc., Hon. Secretary for the Lincolnshire Trust for Nature Conservation, next gave his address on *Sir Joseph Banks – the Lincolnshire connection*. Mr Robinson, himself a native of Horncastle and very much an expert on the Lincolnshire scene, illustrated his talk with both mounted display panels and slides. His very detailed account of the childhood environment of the young Joseph and his family at Revesby Abbey together with activities in later years on his Lincolnshire estates and with Lincolnshire agriculture – particularly fen drainage – was both entertaining and significant. This was ingeniously illustrated with slides of old Revesby and Horncastle, modern and old litho illustrations of fenland and also by slides of the portraits now at the Usher Gallery in Lincoln and at the museum in Boston.

The two papers were complementary and gave a much appreciated sketch of the activities of this celebrated botanist.

After the A.G.M. and lunch, two coach parties with 75 people travelled down through Lincoln to the R.S.N.C.'s headquarters at Waterside South on the River Witham where the river flows through the celebrated Lincoln Gap. Here B.S.B.I. members were welcomed by the Chief Executive, Mr Tim Cordy (Dr Perring's successor at R.S.N.C.), Mr Tim Sands and the R.S.N.C. Executive Committee whose meetings had been relocated from London to Lincoln for this event.

A sparkling elderflower champagne and cake reception was attended by over 100, the cake being decorated splendidly with the logos of both the R.S.N.C. and B.S.B.I., with a conservation theme throughout. The newly elected President, Dr Franklyn Perring, ceremoniously cut the cake and replied on behalf of the Society to Mr Cordy's welcome. Dr Perring applauded the co-operation of the two groups in the past and looked forward to future links between them.

Two very adventurous coach drivers then proceeded to drive the party up the steep route to the Cathedral area, belying the usual vision of flat Lincolnshire. Here at the Lawn Visitor Centre the party was welcomed by Mr Glyn Stocker, Lincoln city landscape architect and designer of the Sir Joseph Banks Conservatory and the John Dauber garden. Designed to contain representative plants found on the journeys of Sir Joseph and subsequent collectors from Kew, these projects are part of the City of Lincoln's plan to commemorate one of Lincolnshire's great sons. Many plants are still to go in and both Kew and Chelsea Physic Garden are contributing relevant material. Mr Stocker led the group through the conservatory and then out to the garden – still in glorious May sunshine, with views down to the Trent Valley, of the Cathedral and of Lincoln City.

After the conference dinner Mr A. E. Smith, M.A., O.B.E., Chairman of the Lincolnshire Trust

for Nature Conservation, took up the conservation theme with an illustrated address on *Nature in Lincolnshire*. This was a masterly resumé, with links to national policy and the original vision and formation of County Nature Reserves to which Ted Smith's contribution was highly significant. As Ted Smith had preceded Dr Perring at R.S.N.C. for many years the evening aptly rounded off the mood of the meeting and was also preparatory to the Sunday excursions.

Two book displays together with sales tables were arranged in the conference hall by Dr and Mrs Perring of B.S.B.I. Publications and Mr and Mrs Jon Atkins of Summerfield Books. These were much appreciated by members throughout the day.

## FIELD EXCURSION HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE A.G.M.

CENTRAL LINCOLNSHIRE NATURE RESERVES, N. Lincs (v.c. 54), 16 MAY 1993

About 60 members met at the Forestry Commission car-park at Chambers Wood, Langton by Wragby. The woods are part of the Bardney Forest ancient Small-leaved Lime woodlands S.S.S.I., now covered by a Forestry Nature Reserve Agreement between the Forestry Commission, English Nature and the Lincs. Trust. These have been worked extensively in the woodland surveys done by Dr George Peterken. The party was split up into groups led by Pat DeLap (Forestry Commission Officer), Keith Stephenson, a B.S.B.I. member and local Langton farmer, and I. Weston. A route was taken through Great Scrubbs Wood, Little Scrubbs Meadow (Lincs. Trust Reserve) and Little Scrubbs Wood. Many stages in the coppice management were observed. Notable of course were *Tilia cordata* (Small-leaved Lime) and *Sorbus torminalis* (Wild Service-tree) but there was also a very large *Tilia platyphyllos* (Large-leaved Lime). Both *Crataegus monogyna* (Hawthorn) and *C. laevigata* (Midland Hawthorn) together with hybrid material were seen with many other woodland plants. In the meadow *Orchis morio* (Green-winged Orchid), *Serratula tinctoria* (Saw-wort), swarms of violets – of hybrid origin? – and surprisingly *Molinia caerulea* (Purple Moor-grass) – uncommon in TF/1.7.

The party then proceeded in cars via Horncastle Market Square, which has the town house of Sir Joseph Banks, to the luncheon venue on the village green at Revesby. David Robinson met the party and pointed out features of note including the old and new Revesby Abbey sites and the Sir Joseph Banks almshouses. Despite a rush to the afternoon venue – the Moor Farm S.S.S.I. Lincs. Trust Reserve – all arrived on time. 54 members met here. Again the party split up into a number of groups led by Ted Smith and Mr Terry Bailey, the Reserve Warden, another by Lincs. B.S.B.I. members Ms R. Nickerson, Miss J. Knibb and Mrs R. Everatt, and one by I. Weston. The reserve includes a lowland raised *Sphagnum* bog, a nationally scarce habitat unique to Lincolnshire, with wet and dry heaths, acid marsh and birch and oak woodlands.

*Teesdalia nudicaulis* (Shepherd's Cress) was at its most prolific for years and dominant over a large area of dry heath. *Ornithopus perpusillus* (Bird's-foot), *Cerastium arvense* (Field Mouse-ear), *Rumex acetosella* subsp. *acetosella* (Sheep's Sorrel) and *Scleranthus annuus* (Annual Knawel) were noted, as were extensive swards of *Ceratocarpus claviculata* (Climbing Corydalis), dominating ground cover in the woodland. On the wet heath field *Montia fontana* (Blinks) was plentiful (not a common local plant) and *Ophioglossum vulgatum* (Adder's-tongue) and *Pedicularis sylvatica* (Lousewort) were amongst the sward. *Eriophorum angustifolium* (Common Cottongrass) had a dominant spot in the meadow. Mr Clive Jermy recorded *Dryopteris* × *deweveri* (*D. carthusiana* × *D. expansa*) – a new record for us.

Time overtook us here and only a handful of members embarked on a hasty visit to the adjacent Kirkby Moor Reserve to see fine swards of *Viola palustris* (Marsh Violet) in full flower in the marshy area – a plant seldom seen flowering well in Lincolnshire.

Thanks are due to the Principal and catering staff of the Agricultural College, the Chief Executive and staff of the R.S.N.C. and Lincoln City officers. Special thanks are also due to our generous guest speakers with their extra Sunday involvement – to B.S.B.I. member Mrs Thelma Brown for

hospitality, to Mr Harold and Dr Mary Carter, and to Lincs. B.S.B.I. members for their support before and during the A.G.M. weekend.

IRENE WESTON

[The above Report arrived too late for it to be incorporated with the main Report of the A.G.M. in *Watsonia* 20(1) – Ed.]