



COMMUNITY GARDEN VISITS – MAY 2026

Our first outdoor meeting of the summer programme took some of our members to two of Uphill Lincoln's community gardens: The John Dawber Garden at The Lawn and Liquorice Park between Carline Road and Yarborough Road, overlooking West Common.

The guided walks were led by the Volunteer Coordinators who were warm, welcoming, passionate and so knowledgeable about the gardens they have in recent years brought back to life.

THE JOHN DAWBER GARDEN

Lynn, our guide for the afternoon and the Chair of the Dawber Garden Community Trust, told us of the fascinating history of the Roman burial site now known as The Lawn on which the Dawber Garden sits. It is well worth researching. From a small kitchen garden feeding the patients of the Lincoln Asylum Hospital, its story features the names of two prominent Lincoln men- a brewer and a plant hunter, John Dawber and Sir Joseph Banks - and hundreds of plants donated from Kew Gardens.

Despite such a glorious and promising beginning, over the years the garden had become derelict until the local residents formed the Dawber Garden Community Trust in 2022, leasing the site from the council and taking on responsibility for its development and maintenance.

If you haven't been in the garden in recent years, a visit is due! Be prepared to be amazed by the transformation Lynn and her growing band of volunteers have achieved. Glorious flower beds, informally planted but carefully maintained, with stand-out specimens and thoughtful planting schemes, literally buzzing with feeding insects; maturing trees providing structure and shade as well as protection for visiting birds; tranquil areas where the movement of water provides humans with the opportunity for peace and reflection and wildlife a place of safety to breed and feed; mounds and willow arches promising childhood adventures: this secret walled garden offers a reflective and restorative space to its visitors and volunteers alike.

Watch out for news of a wildlife meadow being created alongside the existing garden, of opportunities to volunteer your skills to ensure the garden continues to thrive and of the activities being planned for the summer. Follow the Dawber Garden Community Trust on Facebook

Heather Frier

LIQUORICE PARK

A small group of us enjoyed a fascinating tour of Liquorice Park on 11th May, led by Alison our enthusiastic and knowledgeable guide.

The park is nestled on the hillside of Lincoln's West End and is a living example of how urban spaces can support sustainability and biodiversity. Much of its 4.5-acre landscape is intentionally left semi-wild, creating valuable habitats for birds, insects and native plants in the middle of the city.

Amongst all the fruit trees, soft-fruits, shrubs and meadow areas we did of course find liquorice plants. (Liquorice root from the Park was one of the original botanicals to be used in the distillation of Lincoln dry gin.)

The park also demonstrates sustainability in a social sense. Volunteers help maintain wildlife habitats, tend the herb garden and organise seasonal events ranging from summer fetes (28th June this year) to open-air performances. The park also has close links with various charitable organisations including The Network – a Lincolnshire based charity that aims to help 16 – 24 yr olds achieve their potential and access the support they need. Young people get the chance to connect with nature whilst working alongside and connecting with like-minded individuals, which helps build their confidence.

Liquorice Park is proof that even relatively small green spaces can make a lasting environmental difference.

Hopefully, you are now inspired to go and take a look for yourself; just one recommendation - do wear "sensible" shoes!

Julie Guest