unskilled, were employed in gardening. Perhaps the somewhat lesser skilled can on occasion be picked out. The livery companies often used their beadle or other officer for general maintenance, and brought in the professional gardener as necessary. The Carpenters, for example, paid the beadle's wife *7s* p.a. for her role in maintenance from 1546.[99] The clerk of the Company of Barber-Surgeons also had the duties of maintenance of their garden in Monkwell Street. In 1555 in addition to his salary of £4 p.a. he was awarded *6s 4d* yearly 'for waxe pennes and ynke and for trymmynge of the garden'. He would be fined 'if the garden be not well trymmed and made clene, weeded and swept at all times'.[100] Some of the skilled can also be identified, both by name and by place of work, and these are listed in the *Appendix*. In three instances, the gardener may be seen working in partnership or with a servant. In the Grocers' garden in 1443-44, *W*illiam Harlingregge was paid 'for a woman weeding', and in the Bridge House garden in 1537-38, William Hugwet and his wife were both employed, as were Henry Myles and his servant.[101]

The Gardeners defined their craft in 1605. It included 'gardening, planting, grafting, setting, sowing, cutting, arbouring, rocking, mounting, covering, fencing, and removing of plants, herbs, seeds, fruits, stocks, sets and of contriving the conveyances to the same belonging'.[102] Their definition is amply supported by the variety of tasks performed by the Gardeners of later medieval London in creating and maintaining gardens. ***(fig. 24)*** The Gardeners of London appear as increasingly professional tradesmen and craftsmen, in demand both for their goods and for their services. They served earls, barons, bishops and citizens and provided not only produce for their personal and market needs, but also a garden environment in which those they served could have recreation for themselves and their families and friends.

99. *Records of the Carpenters Company*, *op. cit.*, 4, p.2.
100. S. Young, *Annals of the Barber-Surgeons* (London, 1890), p.289; Lobel, *op. cit.*, p.65.
101. See also the Appendix to Christianson, 'The London gardener: a Tudor Age Profile', *op. cit.*, pp.25-2, and *ibid.* p.25, for the marriage of Hewett.
102. Gardeners Company Petition as to Livery and Proofs, 1910, Guildhall Library MS 3396, The Gardeners Company 1, Copy Letters Patent, 18 September 1605, paragraphs 1, 2.

Lincoln's Inn Fields Part II: The management of the gardens in the twentieth century

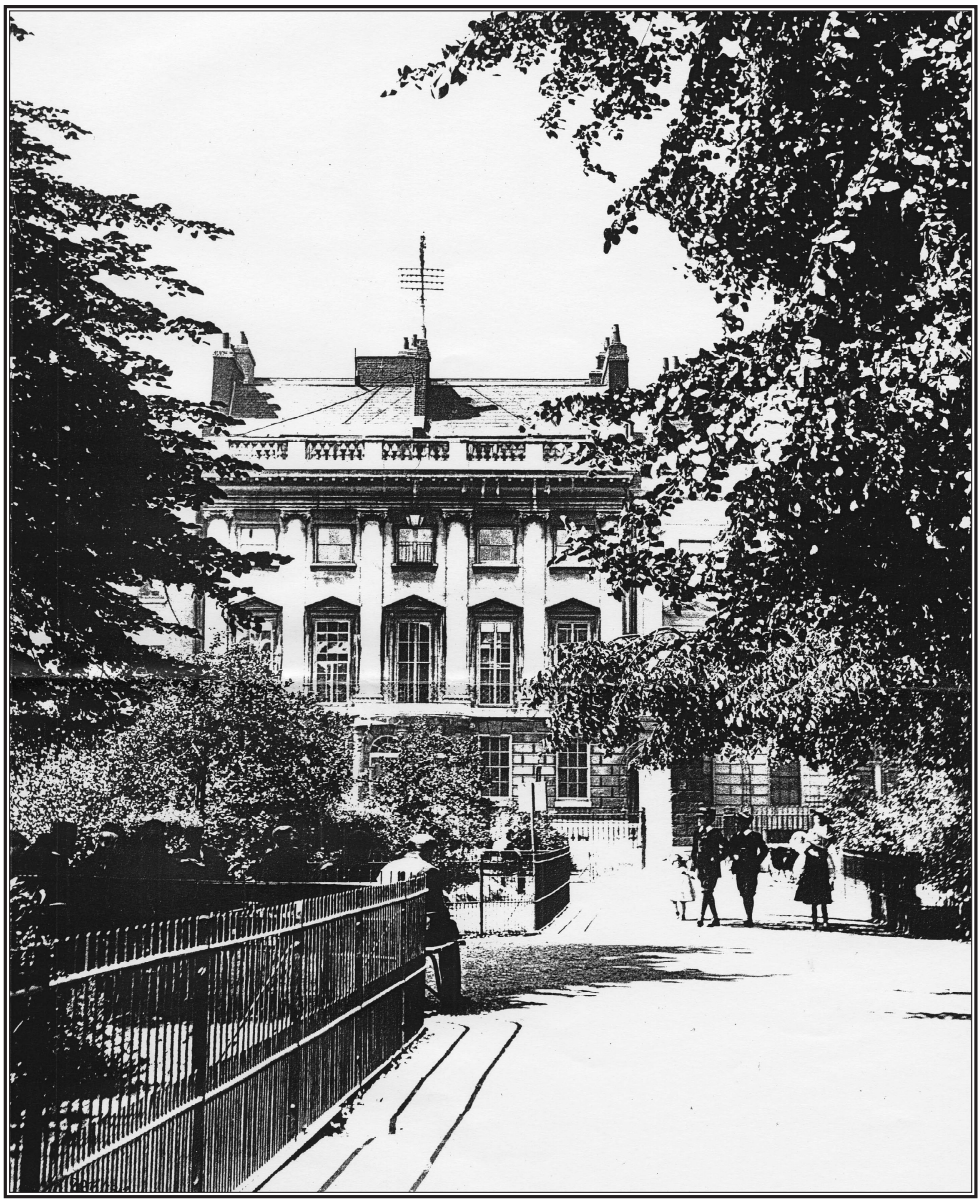
By Susan Palmer

In a previous article[1] I traced the history of the largest garden square in London, which covers some 7 1/4 acres, and its development from Fields to the garden we know today. In this article I will attempt to give an overview of its management in the twentieth century and the early years of the present century.[2]

After a long public campaign for the opening up of the Lincoln's Inn Fields garden for everyone to enjoy, on *4th* May 1894 a Bill empowering the London County Council (LCC) to take over the management of Lincoln's Inn Fields was passed unopposed in the House of Commons, and on *23rd* February 1895 the garden was officially opened to the public in a ceremony presided over by the Chairman of the LCC, Sir John Hutton.[3]

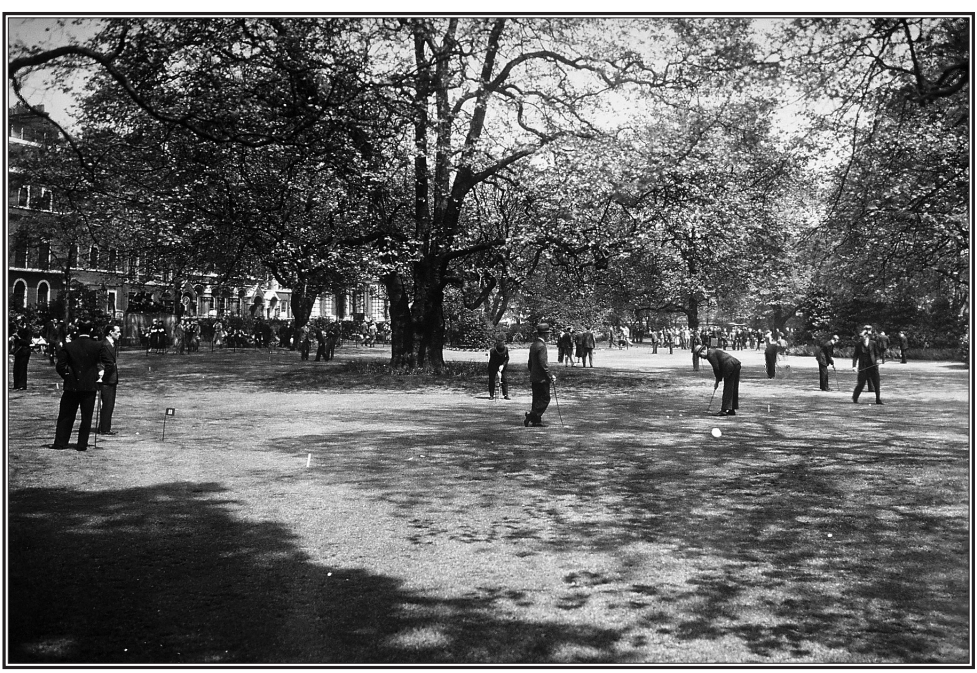
In the spring of 1895, Colonel John Sexby, the Chief Officer of the LCC Parks Department, wrote a detailed report on the works needed at Lincoln's Inn Fields 'in order to properly fit the place for the use of the public', whilst preserving 'as far as possible the beauty of the gardens'.[4] One of his principal concerns was the damage to the grass caused by the opening ceremony and likely to be repeated by businessmen who liked 'to use the fields as a thoroughfare, getting a glimpse of sylvan beauty during business avocations' and 'the teaming population of children who will use the place so largely, especially at holiday times'. His recommendation was a series of internal fences and gates around each of the grass areas to allow them to be shut off when they needed to rest. ***(fig. 25)*** Despite the LCC's benevolent concern for the many local children, their use of the grass areas and the damage they caused remained an issue for many years and the Minutes reveal that the grass was out of bounds to them for long periods.

1. 'From Fields to Gardens: The Management of Lincoln's Inn Fields in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries', *The London Gardener*, Vol.10 (2005).
2. The main sources for this article are the Minutes and Presented Papers of the London County Council and various sub-committees, together with the extensive photograph collection covering all facets of the LCC's work, all held at the London Metropolitan Archives.
3. See *The London Gardener*, Vol. 10, *op. cit.*, fig.14, p.26 for a view of the gardens in 1895.
4. LCC/MIN/8822, Presented Papers April-May 1895, No.76.



25. View in the gardens, 1912
(By kind permission of Garden Court Chambers)





26. The Tennis Courts, May 1935
(Courtesy City of London, London Metropolitan Archives)

27. The Putting Green, May 1935
(Courtesy City of London, London Metropolitan Archives)

Sexby's survey also revealed that the paths, 'with the exception of one portion along the south side, are of the poorest description, merely a slight skin of gravel without any proper foundation and with no proper system of drainage'. Works were immediately put in hand to remedy this and in 1898 the decision was taken to pave with tar the central space around the shelter and the adjacent portions of the footpaths leading up to it.

Sexby also recommended that the central shelter be used as a bandstand. Some small structural alterations were made to the roof to facilitate this,[5] and by 1897 an LCC publication on the *Parks, Gardens, Recreation Grounds and Open Spaces of London* was able to report:

> …The playing of a band is, by the terms of the Act which secure the square, prohibited before 1 o'clock on Sundays, 6 o'clock on ordinary week days and 3 o'clock on Saturdays. After an experiment in 1895 it was deemed desirable to supply a band here for one day a week, and Friday has been selected as a suitable day … Sunday bands are to be tried in 1897.

These band concerts proved extremely popular, although they were not without their teething troubles: the Minutes for *23rd* July 1897 record that 'The Chief Officer is to give instructions for modification of the programme of music performed at Lincoln's Inn Fields before 7.00 pm so as to remove the cause of Messrs Hasties[6] complaint of nuisance from the bass drum.' A few years later in 1901 it was reported that a letter had been received from the Revd J.J.H. Pennington of St. Clement Danes, complaining that 'the Sunday band concerts at Lincoln's Inn Fields during the hours of divine service have been the cause of nearly emptying his church'.[7]

Sexby next turned his attention to the planting, observing that:

> The shrubberies require renovation and facing up with evergreens of which there are none at present in the gardens. A few young trees should be planted in suitable positions, as provision should be gradually made for replacing the fine old trees as they decay.

In May 1895 he was able to report that 'Messrs James Carter and Co.[8] have suggested that instead of the floral decorations taking the form of carpet bedding, it should be confined to the formation of herbaceous borders, consisting of hardy annual and perennial plants, which if properly arranged and managed would form a considerable variety of floral embellishment extending over the greater part of the year', and that they 'accompanied this suggestion with the generous offer to present the Council with the necessary seeds for the purpose'.[9] The variety of trees seems to have remained as it had been earlier in the century, with mentions in the early LCC Minutes of plane trees, catalpas, lime, horse-chestnut, elm and poplar trees. The lilacs in the shrubberies were gradually replaced with other shrubs such as golden privet. In 1905 ivy plants were introduced into the border around the central shelter (by now known as the bandstand)[10] and the following year eight small rockeries to contain 'ferns and other suitable plants' such as irises were introduced into these ivy beds.[11] The ivy plants and many of the shrubs used were supplied by the LCC's nursery at Avery Hill. The gardening staff consisted initially of a foreman and three labourers. They were supported by a constable to maintain order and compliance with the LCC bye-laws, until in 1903, in common with other LCC parks, the constable's uniform was abandoned in favour of a keeper's uniform and the Keeper's duties, in addition to patrolling, included assisting in maintaining tidiness and good appearance.[12]

Perhaps inevitably there seems to have been an uneasy tension, at least in the early years, between different social groups of people using the Fields. Early entries in the 'Occurrence Book', which was kept for all LCC-managed parks, reveal some unpleasant incidents: on *12th* July 1895 a man was assaulted in Lincoln's Inn Fields by a group of men and women 'owing to his supposed indecent conduct with little girls'; on *20th* June 1896 a man attempted suicide by drinking methylated spirits; on *15th* September 1897 the shed belonging to the Works department was broken into and tools stolen, an act for which the

5. See *The London Gardener, Vol. 10, op. cit.*, pp.26-27 for details of the central shelter.
6. LCC/MIN/8761, 23 July 1897, No.96; Messrs Hastie was a firm of solicitors at 65 Lincoln's Inn Fields.
7. LCC/MIN/8763, 26 July 1901, No.237.
8. Seed merchants, then at 97 High Holborn.
9. LCC/MIN/8822, Presented Papers April-May 1895, 3 May 1895, No.21.
10. LCC/MIN/8765, 3 November 1905, No.43.
11. LCC/MIN/8765, 24 May 1906.
12. G. Gibbon and R.W. Bell, *The History of the London County Council 1889-1939* (Macmillan and Co., 1939), pp.508-09. In the 1930s the Park Keeper was an ex-soldier, gassed in World War I and therefore needing a job outdoors. He and his family lived in a flat in No.14 Lincoln's Inn Fields where his wife acted as housekeeper to Upperton and Perkins, the firm of solicitors that occupied the rest of the building. Verbal communication from his two daughters, 2003.

perpetrator was subsequently sentenced to 18 months hard labour; on 22*nd* April 1898 the body of a newly-born male child was found and handed to the police, and in October 1898 several people were fined under the bye-laws – Ellen Reardon for being drunk and assaulting a constable, J. Clark for being drunk and disorderly and using obscene language, and Walter Reeves and Betram Honeycomb for gambling.[13] Writing in July 1896 to Colonel Sexby to thank him for organising the placing of chairs for the band concert the previous Friday, W. R. Gould of Lambs Conduit Street adds:

> I would like to make another suggestion, that is that chairs be let out during the day. On my rounds I notice, especially during the middle of the day, a great many Solicitors' Clerks passing a part of their dinner time there, and yet not caring to sit on the ordinary seats on account of the class of people who occupy the seats early in the morning.[14]

During the twentieth century in particular, parks came to be seen as suitable places for commemorative statues and other memorials. An early act of the LCC was the insertion in 1897 of a brass plaque in the floor of the central shelter (by now being used as a bandstand) commemorating an incident in the earlier history of the Fields, with the wording: 'On this spot was beheaded William, Lord Russell, a lover of constitutional liberty, 21*st* July A.D. 1683'.[15] In 1912, following her death the previous year, permission was given for the erection of a memorial to Margaret Macdonald, wife of James Ramsay Macdonald, the Labour leader and statesman and future Prime Minister. The couple had lived at 3 Lincoln's Inn Fields since their marriage in 1896. The memorial, which can be seen on the north side of the garden, was unveiled on 19*th* December 1914 by her youngest daughter, after a speech by Sir Laurence Gomme, Clerk of the LCC, and a dedication by Professor Gilbert Murray. The bronze statue by Richard Goulden, mounted on a bench of grey Scottish granite and ship's teak, reflects Margaret Macdonald's social work in Hoxton and elsewhere, and shows her kneeling and holding out her arms to nine little children.

Another local benefactor was commemorated some years later when in 1928 permission was granted to the Newspaper Proprietors' Association for the erection of a memorial to Lord Hambledon, who had died earlier that year. As with the Margaret Macdonald memorial, great care was taken to approve the site and design of the monument, and an amusing passage in the Minutes for 25*th* October 1929 notes that a letter had been received from HM Office of Works consenting to the erection at the north-east corner 'provided that tall growing shrubs and low trees be planted behind it, so as to ensure that the memorial as seen from any direction will not be silhouetted against any part of the public urinal just outside the gardens'.[16] The inscription on the Portland stone pedestal, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens,[17] attests to Lord Hambledon's interest in the welfare of the area: 'William Frederick Danvers Smith 2*nd* Viscount Hambledon. Born 1868. Died 1928. Head of the firm of W.H. Smith and Son. Member of Parliament for the Strand Division 1891-1910. Chairman of King's College Hospital. A public-spirited, unselfish gentleman.'[18]

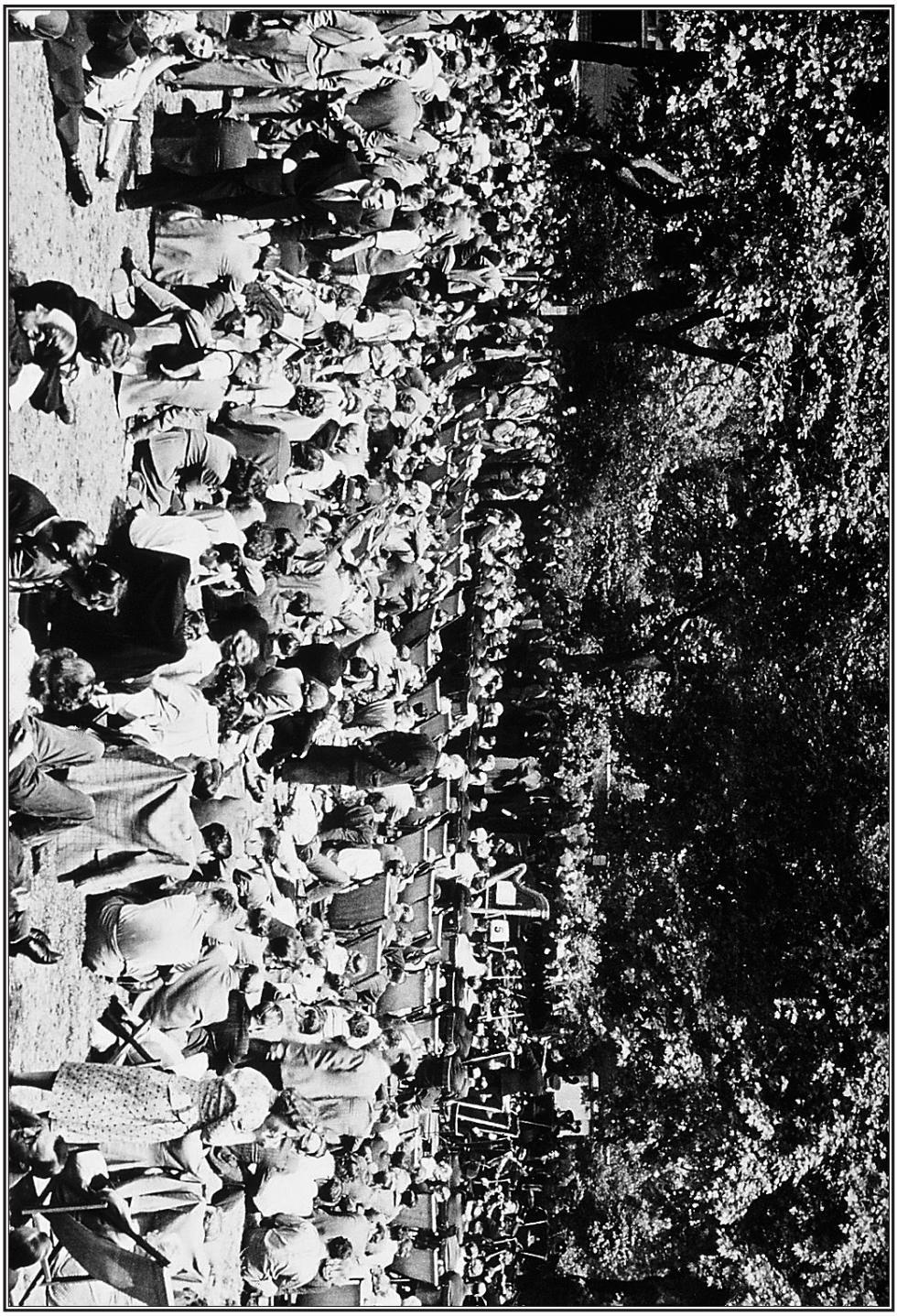
In 1930, however, the LCC refused permission to the Ebenezer Howard International Memorial Committee for the erection of their proposed memorial in Lincoln's Inn Fields, stating that 'though they were not unfavourably disposed to the memorial, it was undesirable to erect any further structures as memorials in Lincoln's Inn Fields', and further opining that 'stone seats are unsuitable for public parks'.[19]

The memorials in the Fields were, nevertheless, augmented in 1977 by the erection of a memorial to John Hunter on the south-west side. The bronze bust, by N. F. Boonham, sits on a stone plinth bearing a plaque with the inscription:

13. LCC/MIN/8761, 12 July 1895, No.32; 10 July 1896, No.90; 8 October 1897, Nos.134-135; LCC/MIN/8762, 22 April 1898, No.169; 7 October 1898, No.130.
14. LCC/MIN/8827, Presented Papers July-October 1896, 9 October 1896, No.132.
15. See *The London Gardener*, Vol.10, *op. cit.*, p.12, f.n.3.
16. LCC/MIN/8780, 25 October 1929.
17. The bronze bust by Arthur G. Walker disappeared at some point in the late 1960s.
18. The headquarters and distribution centre of W.H. Smith were in a building off Carey Street until the 1970s. King's College Hospital was in Portugal Street until 1913.
19. LCC/MIN/8781, 5 December 1930.



28. The maple tree planting ceremony, *17th* January 1945
(Courtesy Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre)



29. Crowds listening to a band, *16th* July 1951
(Courtesy City of London, London Metropolitan Archives)

…Bust of John Hunter 1728-93, founder of scientific surgery…Gift of the President and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, 1977, to record their appreciation of the pleasure and satisfaction that the College's long association with Lincoln's Inn Fields (since 1796) has given to successive generations of fellows, members, students and staff, and to mark the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II, Visitor and Hon. Fellow of the RCS.

Sports facilities were provided in a number of LCC-run parks, but on *17th* May 1895 the LCC took a decision that 'lawn tennis was not to be allowed in Lincoln's Inn Fields'.[20] There is evidence that tennis had been played informally in the Fields when it was still run by the Trustees of Lincoln's Inn Fields for the residents,[21] and this was a very unpopular decision, which resulted in a number of appeals for reconsideration of the decision. Not until *14th* June 1918 did the LCC relent and resolve to provide two lawn tennis courts.[22] ***(fig. 26)*** The range of sports was soon extended when, in 1923, two basket-ball pitches were marked out[23] and the following year an 18-hole putting green was formed.[24] ***(fig. 27)*** It is not clear when the long-standing practice of playing netball in the Fields began; presumably it developed from the provision of basketball.

In 1934 the appearance of a long-standing feature of the Fields was considerably altered when the central rain shelter was re-roofed, converting James Wild's Moorish pavilion[25] into a structure indistinguishable at first sight from the standard LCC-pattern bandstand. At the same time, the four shrubberies at each corner of the structure were removed and the tar-paved area extended right up to it.

More dramatic changes were wrought in the appearance of the gardens during World War II. In 1940 an underground tank for emergency water supplies was constructed and subsequently an underground air raid shelter.[26]

In January 1941 the fencing and gates enclosing Lincoln's Inn Fields were removed.[27] Although the ostensible reason for this was the government's wartime scrap metal drive, a report by the Chief Officer of the Parks Department to the LCC Parks Committee dated *19th* November 1940 suggests that it was also partly 'to improve the amenities of the open space'. He continues:

> As an experiment the gates giving access to the Fields have been kept open at night for the past 5 or 6 weeks and I have now received a letter from the Commissioner of Police stating that in the light of the experience gained in this period he considers that there is no case for the retention of the boundary railings and gates.[28]

The social life of the Fields was considerably enlivened during the war by the presence of the Headquarters of the Royal Canadian Air Force Overseas at No. 20 Lincoln's Inn Fields. At the end of the war they presented their ensign to Holborn Borough Council as a mark of 'their great pride in their residence in the borough during the war of liberation' and in a reciprocal gesture Holborn Borough Council obtained permission from the LCC to plant a maple tree in Lincoln's Inn Fields. The tree, a gift from the Mayor and citizens of Ottawa, was flown over in an RCAF bomber and planted on a site opposite No. 20 Lincoln's Inn Fields on *17th* January 1945 in a grand ceremony. ***(fig. 28)*** The footpath adjacent to the garden on the north side was also renamed Canada Walk.[29]

During the war, under emergency legislation, lunchtime band concerts had been introduced and there was much support for their continuance after the war. Despite the fact that this was technically against the 1894 Act governing the Fields, there seems to have been general agreement, after consultation with Lincoln's Inn and others, to permit these to take place, within certain agreed limits.[30] ***Fig. 29*** shows just how popular these

20. LCC/MIN/8761, 17 May 1895, No.96.
21. Minutes of the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, 4 March 1884, City of London, Guildhall Library MS 11,097, Vol. 1.
22. LCC/MIN/8771, 14 June 1918. These were hard surface courts.
23. LCC/MIN/8774, 19 December 1923; there was a stipulation that the players 'wear india-rubber shoes'.
24. A round cost *3d*, including the use of a putter and ball.
25. See *The London Gardener*, Vol.10, *op. cit.*, pp.26-27.
26. I have not so far been able to find a photograph of Lincoln's Inn Fields during this period. Despite speaking to several people who remember using the shelter, I have not been able to ascertain its exact location or form. The water tank was removed in November 1949, but the shelter site was not reinstated until 1955, the LCC having agreed compensation with the Home Office at the end of 1953. The plan referred to in LCC/MIN/9030, 6 November 1953, is no longer among the LCC records at the LMA.
27. These railings, subject, of course, to periodic replacement of some of the rails, had protected the Fields since their erection by the original Trustees of Lincoln's Inn Fields in 1735 – see *The London Gardener*, Vol.10, *op. cit.*, p.12.
28. Minutes of the LCC Parks Committee, 22 January 1941, No.7. With the benefit of hindsight this was to prove a very costly mistake.
29. The current granite memorial commemorating the wartime presence of the RCAF dates from 1998. It was unveiled on 14 May by the Mayor of Camden and the Canadian Prime Minister, Jean-Luc Chrétien, in an equally grand ceremony complete with a fly-past of Tornado jets.
30. The ban on amplification was strictly abided by.

lunchtime concerts proved. By 1959, when the photograph in ***fig. 30*** was taken, the central rain shelter was no longer being used for bands. Instead a temporary bandstand was erected each spring, 'as legal restrictions do not permit the building of a permanent stage'. A charge of 6*d* was made for the twice-weekly concerts and in addition 'the standard charge of 6d for the use of a deckchair in the parks applies when these are used for entertainments'. In 1959 free children's shows were introduced for the first time. ***(fig. 31)***

In 1970, management of Lincoln's Inn Fields passed from the Greater London Council (successor in 1965 to the LCC) to the new London Borough of Camden.[31]

1975 saw a dramatic improvement in the appearance of the Fields when the garden was extended on the north side to take in Canada Walk, thus removing a large area of unsightly car-parking bays.[32] ***(figs. 32 & 33)***

Fig. 34 shows the great devastation wrought in the Fields by the hurricane of 14*th* October 1987. The following year the Lincoln's Inn Fields Association (LIFA) was formed from representatives of organisations and businesses around the square to work to restore it to its former glory.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s the unwiseness of the LCC's 1941 decision to remove the boundary railings and gates became apparent as more and more homeless people began to congregate and to sleep in Lincoln's Inn Fields.[33] The situation reached crisis point in early 1992 when the cardboard city at Waterloo was closed and as many as 150 people a night were sleeping in the Fields in makeshift tents and rough shelters known as 'bashes'. It was a very unpleasant time, with sympathy for the homeless conflicting with great concern over the loss of the amenity of the Fields, not to speak of the sanitary problem and the frequent fires that got out of control. The small café was forced to close and boarded up, and the seats were removed from the central shelter to stop people sleeping on them. In the spring of 1992 the LIFA coordinated a movement to take Camden to court unless something was done, and in the end it was agreed that the Fields should be closed for a period of time whilst Camden strengthened the bye-laws, which would make it incumbent on the police to move rough sleepers on.

The homeless were gradually found places to go, and on 15*th* March 1993 high temporary fencing was erected and the Fields closed off. In the event, the changing of the bye-laws took rather longer than anticipated, but it was in many ways a good thing, since it gave the landscape, once the cleaning up had been done, a good chance to regenerate.[34] Meanwhile the LIFA and the Camden Business Partnership had been busy raising some £71,000 towards the erection once more of railings around the Fields that could be locked at night. It was too expensive to copy the original ones exactly, so a compromise, without the stone plinth, was designed to match them as far as possible. Canada Walk, landscaped in 1975, was included with the enclosed area.

The Fields reopened in August 1994 and Camden staff worked hard to replant and refurbish the garden. However, by the late 1990s another threat loomed. Camden Council began the practice of erecting large marquees on part of the grass for several weeks, to be hired out for corporate entertaining, to the detriment of the grass and the disturbance of the inhabitants and users of the square. In the early 2000s this escalated and the structures became more substantial, housing things like dodgem cars and other attractions. Ironically, just at the moment when it was most needed, the LIFA became moribund and was wound up, partly because of retirements and promotions amongst its stalwarts, but also because of the unnecessarily complex way in which it had been constituted.

Towards the end of 2003 a determined campaign by a few individuals resulted in Camden Council accepting that what they were doing was illegal under the terms of the 1894 *Act* governing the management of the Fields. However, in 2005 the Council inserted a clause into the draft London Local Authorities Bill that would have had the effect

31. The London Borough of Camden was formed from the Metropolitan Boroughs of Holborn, Hampstead and St Pancras in 1965. A file on the transfer of Lincoln's Inn Fields to the London Borough of Camden, GLC/RA/A1/02/40, contains notes of officer-level discussions on the transfer, and detailed notes about the sports facilities and entertainments programme at Lincoln's Inn Fields, and about the legal restrictions under the 1894 *Act*.

32. I am grateful to Lester May for drawing these to my attention and supplying me with copies.

33. Two of them were in fact killed in the 1987 hurricane.

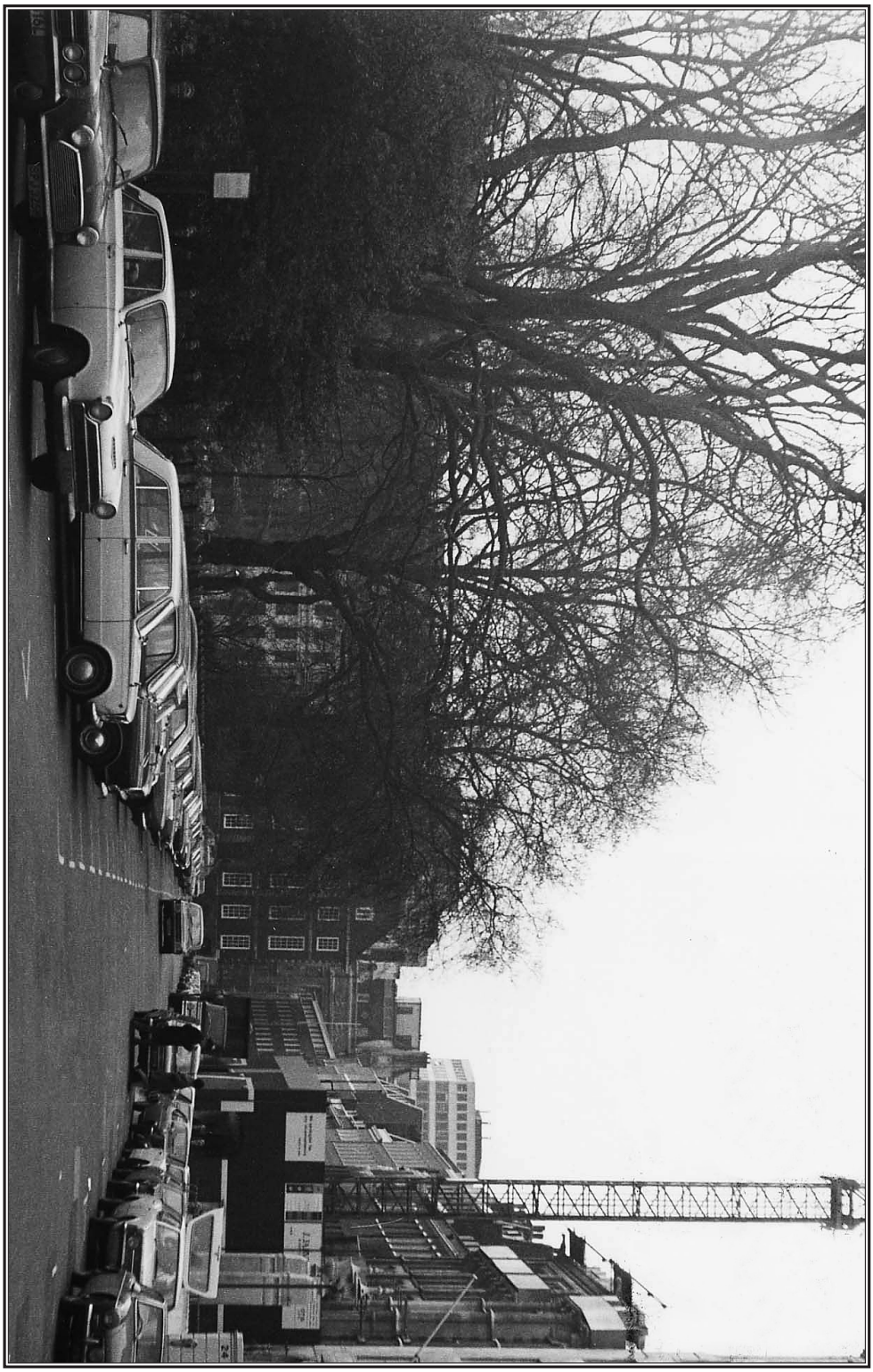
34. I still remember the pleasure of seeing a buzzard there for the first time.





30. A band in the temporary bandstand, July 1959
(Courtesy City of London, London Metropolitan Archives)

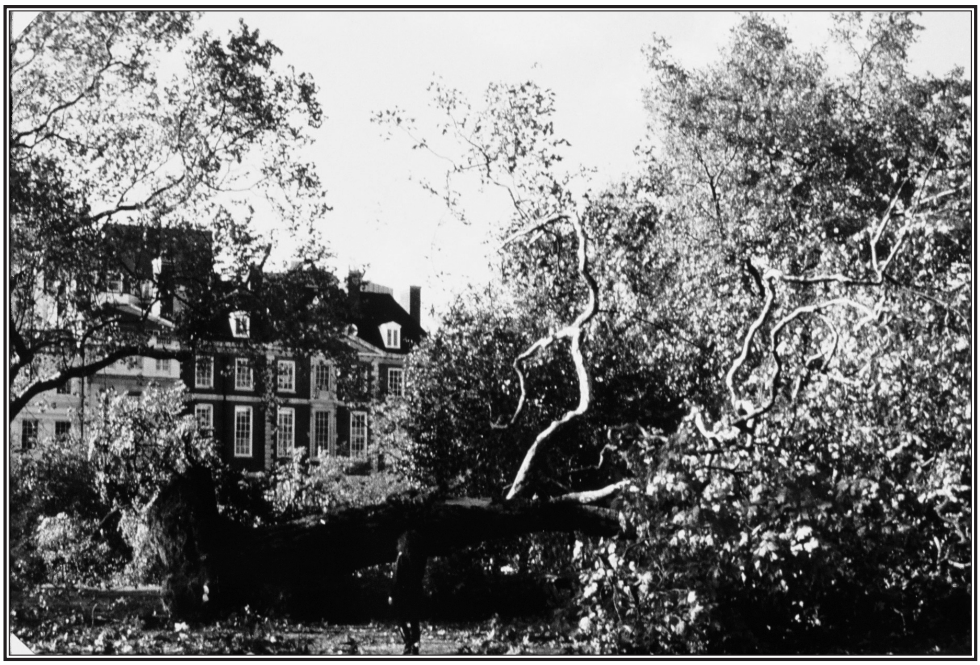
31. The children's entertainer, Wal Mayne, September 1959
(Courtesy City of London, London Metropolitan Archives)



32. The north side of Lincoln's Inn Fields before the improvements, 1975
(Courtesy London Borough of Camden)



33. The north side of Lincoln's Inn Fields after the improvements, 1975
(Courtesy London Borough of Camden)



34. Devastation caused by the hurricane of *14th* October 1987
(Courtesy the Trustees of Sir John Soane's Museum)

of altering the 1894 *Act* to make this corporate hire possible for a certain number of weeks in the year. Various frontagers got together and petitioned the House of Lords, where the clause was examined before a Select Committee and eventually thrown out.[35]

As a direct result of this, on 31*st* July 2006 a body known as the Friends of Lincoln's Inn Fields was formed to work to safeguard the future of this historic public open space and to work with Camden Council and other bodies such as English Heritage to enhance and improve Lincoln's Inn Fields as it moves forward into the third century of its managed existence.[36]

J. Gibson's 'Short Account of several Gardens near London' of 1691: a note on the author

By Sally Jeffery

In *The London Gardener* 2004-05, Eileen Harris examined the group of London gardens that were viewed in December 1691 by a certain J. Gibson, and described in January 1691/2. The account was published in *Archaeologia* in 1796.[1] She explained Gibson's purpose and put the account in context. The identity of Gibson has not previously been established, but it is now possible to say more on this subject, and this note is offered as a sequel to Dr. Harris's article.

Archaeologia is the journal of the Society of Antiquaries, and the text of Gibson's account was taken from a manuscript then in the possession of the Rev. Dr. Anthony Hamilton, Vice President of the Society. It was initially read to the Society on 3*rd* July 1794, and the Minute Book of the Society of Antiquaries for that date[2] gives further details:

> Sir John Gibson, we are informed, of Weddrake in Yorkshire, whose name appears to the Paper with his friend Sir William Hursler passed a whole summer in visits to the several Gardens in England & Scotland.

It goes on to summarise the contents of Gibson's text. The account ends with thanks to the Rev. Dr. Hamilton 'for this curious & obliging communication'.

As well as conjuring up a fascinating image of two Yorkshire gentlemen touring the country in the summer of 1691, and then visiting London, this document indicates an identity for Gibson, and introduces his friend. However, it raises some questions, even as it answers others. Gibson's 'Short Account', although written early in 1691/2, was not presented to the Antiquaries by Hamilton until 1794, and was only published two years later, so there is a gap of over 100 years between the two. Hamilton's knowledge of the details may not have been very accurate, and some clerical errors may have crept in as well.

Weddrake in Yorkshire seems not to exist. The minute writer could perhaps have meant Wheldrake, but the seat of the Gibsons was not there. There was, however, a family of Gibsons at Welburn Hall, in Welburn or Welborne, near Kirkdale, in the North Riding of Yorkshire, and they did in fact own land briefly at Wheldrake.[3] Welburn Hall survives, though with extensive later changes by the architect Walter Brierley, of the York practice Demaine & Brierley, after a fire of 1890. Brierley's work added to the size of the house and changed the main entrance from south to north, but left the Jacobean wing more or less undisturbed. There was a further fire in 1931, but the damage was mostly to the interior.[4] The garden was also redesigned by Brierley, but some indication of the seventeenth-century arrangement can be seen and a pretty summerhouse from that period survives.[5]

There is another difficulty. The minutes mention 'Sir John Gibson', but the published text is signed 'J.Gibson'. Records show that there were three Sir John Gibsons living at Welburn Hall in the seventeenth century, but the last one died in 1665, too early to have written the 'Short Account'. He was succeeded by his son John (1630-1711), who had no

35. The transcript of the proceedings before the Committee is available on the internet at: http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldobclla0405.htm.
36. For details of FLIF and how to become a member see its website: www.flif.org.

1. *Archaeologia: or Miscellaneous Tracts relating to antiquity*, vol.xii (1796), pp.181-192.
2. Society of Antiquaries Minute Book, vol.xxv, pp.207-212.
3. *Victoria County History, County of York East Riding*, vol. 3 (1976), p.14.
4. Arthur Nevill Cooper, *The Curiosities of East Yorkshire* (c.1920), p.28; Walter Brierley's drawings are in the Atkinson Brierley Collection at the Borthwick Institute for Archives, University of York; Nikolaus Pevsner, *The Buildings of England. Yorkshire The North Riding* (Penguin, 1966), entry for Welburn Hall; the repairs were by Edward Priestley Cooper.
5. Pevsner, *op. cit.*, entry for Welburn Hall; some of Brierley's drawings show the layout of the grounds before his work started.