



by Lucy Williams

EASTON WALLED GARDENS

Just seven miles south of Grantham, just off the A1, stands a delicate springtime pleasure, once praised by former US president Franklin D. Roosevelt as 'A dream of Nirvana'. This refers to the Easton Walled Gardens, a loved garden attraction situated amongst nearly 12 acres of valley land, once being attached to the now-demolished Easton Hall.

The historical gardens now date back over 400 years, with restoration beginning in 2001 by the Cholmeley family, who have owned the estate since. The Easton Walled Gardens officially reopened to the public in 2001, functioning as a renowned year-round attraction. From mid-February until Christmastime, Easton offers both its Walled Gardens and Courtyard open to visitors, with the Courtyard offering family-run home-made stores, and a coffee room that serves locally-roasted coffee. During its open season, Easton Walled Gardens offers visitors a rich range of seasonal planting and wildlife, including the Cedar

Meadow, the Terraces and Rose Meadows, and the bug-and-bird-friendly long grasses. Visitors are encouraged and able to admire the snowdrops that bloom in early spring, and the famed sweet peas that bloom from late June to July during the brighter summer. Sweet peas, despite being a British summer delicacy, originate within the Mediterranean and were sent over to the British Isles during the 17th century. Due to this, they are blossoms that thrive in the sun, making their flowering season of the summer a perfect time to visit the Easton Walled Gardens. All season round, the two acres of meadows and the garden

hold flourishing wild orchids, roses and daffodils, making the grounds a diverse floral attraction all season round, with the addition of birds such as kingfishers, wrens, little egrets and more decorating the estate all year.

The Easton gardens are a key feature and treasure of the Lincolnshire countryside, being regarded as amongst the finest in the UK. Gardens such as these that offer various exposures to the beauty of British wildlife, are beginning to blossom and flourish as we enter the spring, and so are surely a destined place to visit.

