

ON THE TOWN... Events round-up

If music be the food of love...

Spellbound local members and friends raised over £2,000 with the help of guest speaker **Tasmin Little OBE** at annual dinner.

OVER seventy guests enjoyed a once-in-a-lifetime night at **Lincoln College** with **Tasmin Little**, surely one of the ESU's most glittering alumni, and guest-speaker at the annual November dinner. When longstanding friend **Lord Cormack** invited her, Tasmin jumped at the chance to give something back to the ESU in thanks for the music scholarship which took her to Banff's famous summer music programme early in her studies, a turning point leading to a succession of teachers and events — including playing in front of 40,000 at the Proms in the Park and an OBE.

Tasmin spoke about how important being able to communicate well had been to her professionally: *"It makes you more adaptable and resourceful it helps with sponsors as well as working with conductors and fellow musicians to build rapport."*

With her precious 18th century *Guadagnini violin*, Tasmin merrily glided between playing and explaining

techniques and materials. Those of us lacking in-depth knowledge came away a little wiser and very much in love, with both the violin and with the player.

Lincoln College's staff and students took on the whole enterprise of planning, sourcing, cooking and presenting the delicious dinner. Michael Graydon said *"We've had so many great comments about the food – our thanks to everyone involved. Well done! And thank you to all our committee – especially **Camilla**, and **Kelly** for co-ordinating a wonderful evening, and to Lord Cormack for bringing our star speaker."* With the help of sponsors **Langleys Solicitors**, the evening raised £2,000 to fund the ESU's local programmes, schools.



RETURNING to one of the county's finest stately homes, **Doddington Hall**, for a private view of its fascinating *Summer of Ceramics Exhibition* (left), guests enjoyed **Claire and James Birch's** insights into historic family pieces and the work of leading international and local contemporary ceramicists. The event raised sufficient funds to back another local school's *Discover Your Voice* programme.

In September, the branch supported the **Lincoln Book Festival** opening night with **First Story** and children's fiction writer **Melvin Burgess**. Congratulations to the LBF's dedicated organisers. The heady mix of well-known writers and poets combined with people of all ages able to have their voices heard chimed well with the ESU's own ethos.

Newsletter sponsored by Carlbom Shipping



NEWSLETTER — WINTER 2019

2019 has been a good year for the Lincolnshire Branch. We have held some very successful events, most recently at **Lincoln College** with the internationally renowned violinist **Tasmin Little** as our speaker whose talk contained some breathtaking musical illustrations.

We have continued our work in bringing 'Oracy' (listening and speaking) to schools in our County in more deprived areas as part of the **ESU Discover Debating** programme. We have arranged coaching assistance in debating, and held 'Performing Shakespeare' heats from which a pupil at **Lincoln Minster** school went on to be placed equal first in the national finals in London. A great achievement.

Our newsletters have been well received, and our pages of the ESU Dartmouth House website are updated by our information expert **Stephanie Thorne**. Ideas are very welcome: please contact her via Hon Sec **Kelly Bevers** at kelly.bevers@carlbom.co.uk.

Your committee remains determined to increase our Oracy footprint across the

County, and we are well positioned to achieve this in 2020. Do please let us know if your local primary or secondary school might be interested in our programme which is already making a difference to thousands of children in our nation and across the world. We look to have a record number of entrants for the **Public Speaking Competition** with heats scheduled for January and the regional final in March. Lincolnshire has a good record in this prestigious competition. Do come and support it, details will be on the website in early January.

Finally, in thanking you for your support in 2019, may I ask you to help increase our membership numbers by talking about the important work we're doing and its benefit to the future prospects of so many young people in our rural County? I suggest in charitable activity terms there is nothing more important than to help those in our deprived areas realise their talents and make a success of their lives. That is what the ESU is doing and it deserves our enthusiastic support.

My best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Sir Michael Graydon,
Chairman,
The ESU Lincolnshire



ESU Lincolnshire c/o Committee Hon Secretary **Kelly Bevers**
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DR TONY WOOD, Deputy Chairman of the English-Speaking Union, (*pictured below*) is becoming a regular pillar of the ESU's programme for promoting oracy in Lincolnshire schools. He reported back after his recent visit.



"I was very pleased to receive an invitation from your chairman to help the branch develop its public

speaking initiative in primary schools. It is so important to the future well-being and career success of young people to build self-confidence and help them acquire the essential presentational skills to speak in front of others. The best place for this is in the primary sector when children are the most receptive to learn.

"My two visits to Lincolnshire – to **East Ravendale School**, and then most recently to **Ling Moor Primary Academy** – consisted of a whole day workshop with a class of year 5 pupils plus teachers from several local schools. During the day, the

children and teachers worked together in groups on various practical speaking and listening activities, designed to be fun whilst simultaneously developing the skills of public speaking. Every pupil had to make presentations to their group and to the class throughout the day.

"The children were an absolute delight and the teachers extremely supportive and enthusiastic. This bodes well for the further development of public speaking in Lincolnshire schools. May I wish the branch every success."



'I enjoyed the debates because you got to interact with your team and have some really good conversations.'

Lucas



COMPETITION DIARY FOR THE NEW YEAR

ONCE again **Caroline Childs** is spearheading competitions, enthused by a growing uptake and additional support to new entrants. *"This is the first year that we'll have nine teams taking part in the **PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION**,"* she explains as she gathers judges, timekeepers and ancillary support plus liaising with the ESU's Education team's **Matthew Christmas** and **Antonia Coleman-Harvey**. The branch final on 29th January at **Lincoln University** will send the winners to Leeds for the regional final on 7 March. This year's

entries include **De Aston School**, **Market Rasen**, **Queen Elizabeth's High School**, **Gainsborough**, **Caistor Grammar School**, **Carre's Grammar School**, **Sleaford**, **Newark Academy**, and **The Priory Pembroke Academy**, **Cherry Willingham**.

The **PERFORMING SHAKESPEARE** competition kicks off in January and February leading up to June's Grand Final in Stratford-upon-Avon.

I N A C T I O N

The ESU Lincolnshire's resident expert, **Jenny Wheeldon**, education consultant and leader, reports from the classroom on programmes driven and funded by the local branch.

WE are delighted to report a really exciting year where both primary and secondary schools are embracing what we have on offer.

Dr Tony Wood (a champion of primary age children learning debating skills and author of *Speak Listen and Learn*) came to Lincolnshire to work with a group of pupils from **East Ravendale**. He spent a day with the class teacher and pupils, putting the children through their paces until they were ready to enter into a debate at the end of the day.

It was a fantastic day and really nice to see all pupils involved and contributing to whole class discussions.' **Mr Sharpe**

We replicated this training day with a further six primary schools who are part of The LSST training hub. The day was held at **Ling Moor** in North Hykeham. We had a delightful class of Year 5 (ie 9 & 10-year old) children whose teachers sat with them on tables named after countries.

Tony soon put the children through their paces: what was so impressive was that those pupils not so confident at the start of the day found something through the guided activities to spark a passion and interest that enabled them to become quite eloquent by the end of the day's debating. I think even the class teacher was surprised at the progress that the children had made in just one day.

We plan to hold a debating competition in July with all six schools participating which will showcase their talents!

Thank you to **Donna Cavill** for coordinating the day and to **Ling Moor** for hosting and, of course, **Tony Wood** for sharing his talents and inspiring another set of teachers to embrace debating in the classroom.

Using the Tony Wood model seems to us the very best way of ensuring that debating becomes embedded in the classroom. We are already planning another session in the new year with another set of schools.

Also in planning is a day for 11 & 12 year olds (Year 7&8 at secondary) with humanity teachers. This takes the pressure off English teachers to run debating clubs and ensures that debating skills are used in the wider context and across a range of subjects.

We also have planned a ***Discover Your Voice*** training session for about eight senior schools. The session will be run in the new year and the trainer provided by the ESU's specialist education and debate teams. This will be with a view to engage more schools with the Schools' Mace, public speaking and debating competitions.

It feels that the drive and energy needed to put debating on the agenda is finally gathering momentum and we are really making a difference to our local primary and secondary schools — by providing top quality support in a variety of ways. Thank you for continuing with your donations and support which allow us to work with so many schools.

'It was fun because we all got chance to speak out loud to the group.' **Holly**

POSTCARD FROM CATO—THE ESU JOHN ROBERTS & CARBOLM TRAVEL AWARD WINNER

SO I am now in my last weeks of my internship - time flies when you're having fun... The last few weeks I worked on several projects, one of those projects was to make a box that functions as a storage box as well as a mount for the exhibition. The pictures show a special natural phenomena, in 1908 a meteor hit the earth somewhere in Siberia and lit up the entire sky, these photos were taken at 23.30 in the evening.



Last week I had a workshop in paper making, outside of Göteborg is a paper mill where they make their own paper the old fashioned way, and my mentor Martin arranged for me to have a tour there.

And as for exploring the country, I went to Stockholm for the weekend a couple of weeks ago, I spent my Halloween in the biggest amusement park in Scandinavia which is Liseberg right here in Göteborg, and I continue to explore lots and lots of nature parks and areas in the neighbourhood.

Kind regards, Cato van Breugel

