

PRIMARY CARE

Keeping a sharp focus on the nascent plans to grow oracy programmes, in particular *Discover Debating*, in primary schools, **Jenny Wheeldon** is working with other regions of the ESU to share knowledge, experience and passion.



SADLY, it has been another difficult start with schools under pressure from staffing shortages, bubbles bursting and pupils needing support in catching up on the curriculum areas missed.

We know the benefits of being able to communicate well, not only in closing the gap in terms of academic achievement but also in supporting pupils in the language of resolving conflict by presenting coherent arguments. We also know that good language skills support pupils with their mental health and well-being.

Having been in contact with the Bedfordshire Branch of the ESU, who have a thriving Primary School Debating Society and have kindly shared their training materials, I feel more confident that we can persuade our local schools to

participate via Zoom. This would effectively overcome many of the hurdles our small rural primary schools face, with few staff doing many tasks and being reluctant to travel long distances at the end of a busy school day to compete in debates with other schools. There is, of course, the additional threat of transmitting or catching Covid!

A meeting is planned with the Lincolnshire Teaching School later in January to try to re-engage with the primary schools who initially participated in debating training in February 2020, by offering refresher training and competitions in the summer term via Zoom.

We hope to have more news soon.

NEW TRICKS AT 60

News of The ESU Churchill Public Speaking Competition from Stephanie Thorne

ENJOYING its 60th birthday, the branch ran five competitions in the East Midlands for the largest such competition in England and Wales, encompassing Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire and Rutland as well as Lincolnshire.

Meeting, albeit virtually, children and teachers from a wider area provided stimulating discussion despite technical challenges and last minute changes. Concurrently, new volunteers from across the country and varied backgrounds enhanced the experience while greater links with other ESU branches brought shared knowledge, camaraderie and SOS support and offers further opportunities going forward. With each event needing an MC, Time Keeper, three judges and a Zoom host, to generously give up time, we are grateful to our experienced Lincolnshire team **Caroline Bingham, Julian Free, Giles Walter, Camilla Carlbom-Flinn, John Raine, Rachel Burch, Mike Graydon and Rosie Burke** and, from further afield, we were delighted to be joined by experienced and new volunteers **Ellen Punter, Grace Cameron, Roey Paige, Prof Rosemary Sage, Glenys Stirk, Katherine Hannah and Nick Thorne**.

In the run-up to March's Regional Final, early February will see Round Two Area Final competitions also now to be held on-line. We look forward to welcoming back teams from Caistor Grammar, Lincoln Minster and Stamford as well as Nottingham High School, Loughborough Grammar, Repton, English Martyrs' Catholic School, Oundle and Belper.

Newsletter kindly sponsored by Carlbom Shipping



NEWSLETTER — JANUARY 2022



Guest Speaker Lord George Robertson, at 2021's Autumn Dinner with Mike Graydon and Camilla Carlbom-Flinn

Dear friends and fellow members,

Happy 2022 and welcome to a long overdue update on the activities of the branch over the last year. While many of the usual school programmes have been kept in abeyance, the ESU has been using the opportunity to adapt and design for the future.

Schools competitions continued, earning no small amount of gratitude from schools hungry for opportunities, while our committee endeavoured to offer interesting events, for members and supporters, both out and about and from the comfort of home as world events allowed. Although fund-raising ability was hindered, we were

grateful to see valuable support through continued membership, donations and time. It has also been encouraging to see volunteers step forward to offer their services, from linguistics professors to ESU travel grant alumni.

Study after study highlight growing disparity in educational, and hence life, opportunities so thank you for supporting our work in bringing essential skills to those who could most benefit.

With very best wishes to you all,

Sir Michael Graydon,
Chairman,
ESU Lincolnshire

THE ESU LINCOLNSHIRE COMMITTEE IN 2022

Chairman	Sir Michael Graydon Dartmouth House/University Liaison
Deputy Chairs	Camilla Carlbom-Flinn - Events Giles Walter - Scholarships, Youth, Membership
Hon Secretary	Kelly Bevers
Hon Treasurer	Jonathan Burch
	<i>Supported by</i>
John Raine -	International Links and Annual Plan
Lillian Read -	Youth Member
Stephanie Thorne	Website, PR, local competition liaison
Jenny Wheeldon	Education, Oracy, Safeguarding



We welcome two new members to the Committee **Julian Free** and **Terry McTernan** with **Steve Willshaw** co-opted for his special advice. All three have supported and worked with the ESU and bring us a greater depth of expertise across the secondary and tertiary education sectors and have strong links across the region. **Caroline Childs** has stepped down from the Committee but we are delighted (and mightily relieved) that she will be Advisor to the Public Speaking and Performing Shakespeare competitions. We say goodbye to **Rachel Burch** but hope her competition timekeeping skills and enjoyable company will continue to grace us.

ESU Lincolnshire c/o Committee Hon Secretary **Kelly Bevers**
Email kelly.bevers@carlbom.co.uk - Telephone 01469 571387
www.esu.org/branches/lincoln-lincolnshire

A GRAND UNLOCKING

JUNE saw the first post-lockdown outing for many, with old and new friends gathering at Doddington Hall once again thanks to the kind hospitality of **Claire and James Birch**.

James (pictured left) shared a privileged peek of his newly acquired collection of uniforms with a host of accompanying histories and items revealing extraordinary and disappearing craftsmanship.

Anthony Jarvis introduced his new and growing collection of wagons charting a history of rural life and Claire introduced a new exhibition of Lincolnshire artists working in a variety of media.

And, if that wasn't too much stimulation, then, of course, there was the oasis of joyous chatter between friends sustained by drinks organised by **Giles and Fiona Walter** and **Mike and Liz Graydon** in the warm sunshine.



ZOOMING IN

FOLLOWING positive responses to our Zoom events in 2020, our continued series of intimate evenings at home and varied fireside chats, kept us going through some of the more challenging times during the year. Huge thanks are due to our guest speakers and conversationalists who were willing to be questioned by **John Raine** and **Mike Graydon** and our audience, and thanks too to **Team Camilla** and **Kelly** for co-ordinating.

In January, Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Lincoln **Julian Free** outlined the

future of Lincoln going forward and the role of the University in the mix.

Bringing Fijian light to a chilly February, **Professor Toby Wilkinson** dialled in from his current tenure to discuss his recent book *A World Beneath the Sands* and the curious career of an Egyptologist.

Daily delights and challenges of running special and unique historic buildings were brought to life by **Ann Kenrick OBE**, Chief Executive and Master of **The Charterhouse** and first female Master in the almshouse's 400-year history, and **James Birch** who, with his wife Claire, runs her family home, **Doddington Hall**.

DEFENCE MATTERS



OUR security and that of our allies, past, present and future, and the importance of leadership were highlighted by guest speaker **Lord George Robertson**, former Secretary of State for Defence of the UK and former Secretary General of NATO, recounting vivid personal recollections, of COP26, Vladimir Putin, and Westminster to our November dinner guests. **Lincoln College's** staff and students (pictured right with Lord Robertson) ensured a flawless welcome and service during the evening - the ESU Committee is hugely grateful to them for helping make the 2021 dinner a most enjoyable reality.

OPEN BOOK (FESTIVAL)

WE were delighted to sponsor the return of Lincoln Book Festival and enjoy an insight into psychological thriller writer **Philippa East's** creative process in developing her novel *Safe and Sound*. Philippa East **Camilla Carlbon-Flinn** (left) and **Giles Walter** (right) joined Lincoln Book Festival's impresario **Jill Hughes** and skilled interviewer **Tim Rideout**.



& NEXT

The Committee is busy planning 2022 events.

29th March—An Evening with one of the country's foremost educationalists **Sir Jon Coles** will kick off the year's **Zoom** evenings to keep in touch and keep stimulated when we don't want to venture too far.

We will be in touch shortly when we have events for your diary. Meanwhile, find us at www.esu.org/branches/lincoln

In May **Sir Roderic Lyne KBE CMG** (*in action on right*), Ambassador of Great Britain to the Russian Federation 2000 to 2004, brought a global perspective and gave us an insight into his extraordinary career,

December's chat about Westminster between three longstanding friends and ESU supporters was given greater heft by the wealth of personal experience across the political spectrum of **Viscount Hailsham**, **Baroness Hogg** and **Lord Cormack**. The current state of **Westminster**, political accountability and democracy was given context and a longer view than much media coverage allows.

