



## POWER OF WORDS

### SHAKESPEAREAN VICTORY

**BRAVO!** Lincoln Minster School student **Gabriel Quelvog** (pictured right) was joint winner of this year's **ESU Performing Shakespeare Competition**, for his passage from *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Along with fellow finalists **Market Rasen** students **Charlie Newland-Shepperd** and **Alicia Meredith** from **De Aston School** (who performed an extract from *Macbeth*), Gabriel was among 20 performances selected from regional heats for June's Grand Final in London.

The Area Final (pictured above), organised by the Lincolnshire Branch at Lincoln Minster School in April, was part of the 7th year of this pioneering competition designed to boost 11 to 14 year olds' enthusiasm for and

understanding of Shakespeare's plays through speaking and listening. Lead Organiser **Matthew Christmas** said, "Each year we see so many young people discovering the magic of these speeches."

Shakespeare plays an important part in the National Curriculum and so many teachers and students across England and Wales value the ESU's help in discovering their voices through Shakespeare's words.



## LESSON TIME

**PRIMARY** schools' oracy programme *Discover Your Voice* finished in **Isaac Newton**, Grantham, and **Hartsholme**, Lincoln, with three new schools in the pipelines: part of the **Healing Academy Trust**, they are **Hartsholme Academy**, **St Giles Academy** and **Woodlands Academy**.

The branch is delighted to announce **Anna Clark** successfully completed the mentor training programme in June and we hope she will bring her extensive experience teaching and working in education to the county's DYV programme.

As AGM attendees witnessed first hand, **East Ravendale Primary School** training from DYV expert **Dr Tony Wood** has been received enthusiastically. The branch is looking to roll out this approach of training the school's own teachers to deliver the oracy programme. In conjunction with the ESU's joint initiative with fellow organisations Rooted in Reading and First Story as **The Language for Life Alliance**, the branch plans to set up similar workshops across more Lincolnshire schools in the Autumn.



**ST HUGH'S** School, Woodhall Spa, invited the ESU Lincolnshire to judge its annual *Elocution Competition*. **Stephanie Thorne** had the privilege of watching a host of brave youngsters stretching their public speaking muscles: "I was impressed with how well they coped with nerves, even at a young age, and how they supported and respected each other's endeavours."

Schools interested in joining the **ESU Churchill Public Speaking Competition** or **The ESU Schools' Mace** can find out more on our website at [www.esu.org/competitions](http://www.esu.org/competitions) or, if it seems too daunting, email us directly to see how we can help.



## NEWSLETTER — SUMMER 2019



**WELCOME** to Newsletter 3 hot from the engine of our Branch post AGM. This year we took a different turn with the Committee being most happily upstaged by vibrant presentations from our scholars as well as live-action oracy with the dynamic children of **East Ravendale**. We were all infected with their passion and excitement.

My thanks to our presiding President **Toby Dennis**, to **Jonathan** for unravelling our finances so positively, to **Giles, Jenny** and **Caroline** for how we spent the money, and to all our committee who helped ensure speakers and members turned up and could enjoy most welcome drinks and nibbles before heading out into the night feeling assured that we had indeed done some good.

On behalf of the whole Branch, I would like to thank **William Day** who steps down from the Committee after many years contributing to our work, in particular to the travel awards. Otherwise the Committee continues as is.

Do read the latest on our education programmes—especially the fine achievement of students from **Lincoln**

**Minster** and **De Aston** in the **Performing Shakespeare Competition**. We were delighted both for them and their teachers.

We enjoyed our return to the **International Bomber Command Centre** for our second Spring lunch, this time joined by guest speaker **Lord Bernard Hogan-Howe** who lived up to the strong ticket demand his name had generated and gave us a useful reminder of where our work fits in the bigger social picture. The revised membership scheme promises to back our aims to make a real difference to life prospects of local children, many of whom have been left behind through rural isolation and a poverty of ideas and aspiration

Looking ahead to next month, an evening at **Doddington** with Summer drinks with ceramics, and Autumn dinner with one of the country's best known violinists, we hope to see you soon.

Sir Michael Graydon,

*Chairman, The ESU Lincolnshire*

### EVENTS

Tickets for ESU events from Hon Secretary Mrs **Kelly Bevers**—see below.



### Summer of Ceramics at Doddington Hall

**Tuesday 6th August '19**  
by kind permission of **Mr & Mrs J Birch**  
Drinks at 6pm followed by a private tour of gardens and exhibition. Tickets £10.

### Lincoln Book Festival

**Monday 23 September '19**  
The ESU is sponsoring the Festival launch with author **Melvin Burgess**.



### Annual Dinner with Tasmin Little OBE

**15 November '19**  
Black-tie dinner at Lincoln College with the world-famous classical violinist as guest speaker. Further details to follow.



# The ESU for You

This month we celebrate the contribution made by **Jenny Worth** to the ESU in Lincolnshire.



Appointed as a Vice President of the Branch in 2018, **Jenny Worth** brings a wealth of knowledge of primary schools to the ESU.

Originally from South Lincolnshire, Jenny trained as a primary school teacher and also served as a magistrate

for many years so she is well placed to understand the ESU's mission.

Jenny has remained embedded in the schools sector

through her work as a Governor of **University Academy Holbeach**, **Holbeach Primary Academy** and **Holbeach Bank Academy** as well as having been a member of the **Lincolnshire Education Trust**.

Many members may know Jenny better as the wife of the sorely missed **Tony Worth**, Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire from 2008 to 2015 and long-serving President of the ESU's Lincolnshire Branch, who died in 2017. Married for 53 years, together they took a keen interest in all the activities of the organisation. "I was delighted to be asked to become a Vice President and I am particularly interested in the work of the ESU in schools," Jenny explained.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING CLEAR with lunch guest Lord Hogan-Howe

"TRY to be as clear as possible in what you say and mean," advised Yorkshireman **Lord Bernard Hogan-Howe**, bringing gravitas and insight to an obligingly sunny Spring lunch at Lincoln's **International Bomber Command Centre** in May.

Guests eagerly listened to tales of an illustrious career in London's Metropolitan and Liverpool's Merseyside Police Forces and counter terrorism. Lord Hogan-Howe brought to life the causes and effects of crime, for victims and perpetrators, and how hard it can be to escape an ever escalating cycle of criminal behaviour without a reasonable level of education or basic communication skills. His speech served as a timely



reminder of the ESU's own work. Equipping people with the ability to express themselves and listen to others can be a path to better things and is part of that same universe as crime prevention: the development of personal skills and confidence are key to breaking the cycle of excluding young people from school and society. Lord Hogan-Howe (above with John Raine) was delighted to forge a link with the ESU and be back in a county of which he had many happy memories from early days training in Caythorpe and Fulbeck.

Thanks to the support of sponsors **Brewin Dolphin** and **Langleys Solicitors** and the generosity of our guests, the event raised over £1,400 for local oracy projects.



THIS July's **Annual General Meeting** showed what fun can be had when a group of exciting school children are injected into the mix.

**Giles Walter** presented school leaver **Lillian Read** (pictured right) with her well-deserved grant for her year with an educational project in India and a **John Roberts Travel Grant 2018** winner and **2018 Travel Scholar** told us about their adventures working in Bali and Borneo.

The finale took us all back to our early days with a demonstration of *Discover Your Voice* in action with children from **East Ravendale Primary School**.

Serious matters of the evening were covered too. **Jonathan Burch** gave a detailed account of the branch's current finances showing the branch to be

well placed to fund more projects in the county. **Jenny Wheeldon** and **Caroline Childs** explained how, where and why the money was being spent and brought the competitions and educational programmes to life.

The ESU would like to say a big thank you to community arts project **Mansions of the Future**, especially to **Rachel Long** and **Colette Griffin**, for such a stimulating venue.



## OUR FINANCIAL TIMES - 2019 Report from Hon Treasurer Jonathan Burch

**CELEBRATIONS** of the ESU's 100th birthday gave fundraising renewed vigour: the Centenary Education Appeal raised nearly £3,638 once Gift Aid was added and the Centenary Dinner £2,651 – notably more than our usual annual event.

The branch holds several scholarship funds including the **ESU John Roberts Travel Award** and the **ESU Carlbom Travel Award** as well as the Travel Grant.

As described in previous newsletters, £1,100 supported travel awards for school leavers, and awards to university students from the ESU John Roberts Scholarship Fund amounted to £5,140. Together these represent a substantial, albeit ring-fenced, pot and we have shifted our strategy to give fewer but larger amounts, so our support will make a meaningful difference whilst pursuing the founding principles of the ESU.

In the 2018-19 year, we spent £260 on the new *Discover Your Voice* initiative to notable success and, as this gathers momentum, we plan to invest in new schools as well as to keep in touch with those who have been through the

programme to ensure oracy becomes part of the very fabric of these schools' own cultures. In the short term, we are well set to support more primary schools through *DYV* as well as popular ongoing programmes such as *Performing Shakespeare* and the *Public Speaking* competition with solid income bolstered by the new **Michael Graydon Oracy Fund**.

Our challenge will be to maintain income generation to feed our growing ambitions for effecting real improvements in communication skills amongst some of the more deprived children in our wider communities, thereby improving their life prospects, through direct appeals for cash as well as through running fun events people will queue up to come to.

The new membership structure recently announced by Dartmouth House, along with the organisation revisiting where it targets its activity, promises additional support for our rural and often relatively isolated schools.

It should be noted that we continue to be heavily reliant on, *and oh so grateful to*, our Committee who volunteer substantial amounts of their time in various aspects of our branch activities—the value of this is clearly not captured in a financial statement.