

## Chair's Report given at the Annual General Meeting 11 May 2019

First of all, a sincere thank you goes to everyone here for attending today and supporting us. You are all immensely welcome and I hope you will enjoy the event.

We are pleased to have as our speaker this afternoon one of our own committee members, Elena Salas Ramirez, who will be talking about the new Spanish GCSE examination, most specifically the Edexcel one, and will also discuss the other exam boards and their requirements for achieving each grade. She will cover the four skills with a focus on the speaking exam requirements. Thank you Elena for agreeing to speak to us.

As always, our very grateful thanks go to the Chief Executive and the staff of CIOL for their support and our annual grant - the Lincolnshire Society would not be able to continue without this financial help.

Our sincere thanks also go to Valerie Hope and the Wig & Mitre for kindly hosting our events throughout the year.

Today, Adam Ramsey is stepping down as our Treasurer - he became one of our Committee Members in 2010 and has been our Treasurer since 2015. We are immensely grateful to him for his work and support during this time. I should also like to thank very sincerely our Secretary, Helen Burlefinger, and our Committee Members, Madeleine Cox, Kasia Cox, Elena Salas-Ramirez, Dennis Weir and John Whittaker, for their support and help during the past year.

Our AGM and Twenty Year Anniversary Celebration last year were held here at the Wig & Mitre, Lincoln, on Saturday 28 April. This special event was very well attended and we were delighted to welcome Ann Carlisle, the Chief Executive of CIOL, who joined us for the celebration, proposed a toast to the Society and gave us an update on the Institute. It was also a pleasure to welcome Stephen Eden, formerly Head of Publicity and Membership of the Institute of Linguists, who attended the Inaugural Meeting of the Lincolnshire Society on 22 June 1998, and Dr Gershom Knight, who was Chairman of the first Lincolnshire and Humberside Regional Society, which ran from 1988 until 1991. Our speaker, Frances Parkes, a voice coach for 15 years, gave a very interesting talk entitled 'Max Your Voice'.

On Saturday 24 November last year, at the Wig & Mitre, Dr Barry Ardley, Senior Lecturer in Marketing at the Lincoln International Business School, University of Lincoln, gave a fascinating talk entitled 'The Lincoln Magna Carta: Interpreting a Memory of the World'. In his talk, Barry described Magna Carta's origins and development, appearance, content and interpretations, its status and influence in the world, and the marketing associated with it. Dr Ardley pointed out that 'from a linguistic perspective, there are many implications flowing from the fact that the Magna Carta was written in Latin and the King - who could not write - and the barons, spoke French. The peasants, who were illiterate, spoke English.' He said that Lincoln's copy of Magna Carta is owned by Lincoln Cathedral and is one of only four copies to survive from 1215; following many travels over the years, it is now housed with Lincoln's Charta of the Forest in the state-of-the-art subterranean Magna Carta vault, which was built as part of the 22 million pound project on Lincoln Castle that took place between 2011 and 2015. Barry concluded by saying that a 'medieval political settlement, signed in a muddy field on a small island' has been transformed 'into something

that is held to have very great significance today'. The event was very well attended, with time for networking and discussion, as well as for eating a delicious lunch. We were able to enjoy Lincoln's Christmas lights and decorations as we left the venue, as well as admiring the golden light on the Cathedral.

The Lincolnshire Society welcomed Deborah Butler, CIOL's Communications and Marketing Manager, to its networking lunch in a snow-dusted Lincoln on Saturday 2 February, 2019. Debbie came to talk about CIOL's Mentoring Programme and how members can get involved either as a mentor or a mentee. She explained that the programme had been set up as a result of interest shown by members during CIOL surveys in joining a mentoring scheme. As well as describing in some detail the Mentoring Platform and how to use this free service provided by volunteers, Debbie explained that the word 'mentor' was acquired from the literature of ancient Greece; in Homer's 'The Odyssey', Odysseus entrusted his son, Telemachus, to his old and trusted friend, Mentor, when he went on his travels. The speaker told members that you are never too old to become a mentor and that it is possible to be both a mentor and a mentee; the scheme brings great benefit to both. She added a wise quote attributed to Winston Churchill: "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." Drawing her talk to a close, after describing some recommendations which mentors should follow and mentioning some of the key skills required, such as the ability to listen, to build trust, and to be positive and encourage mentees, Debbie listed four qualities required by a good mentor - commitment, courage, curiosity and compassion. A discussion followed and sincere thanks were expressed to Deborah for her stimulating, interesting and informative talk.

Now to general CIOL news. Following changes to CIOL rules, there will be no requirement for Divisions, Societies and Networks to hold a formal AGM in future, so this will most probably be our last AGM. A succession planning document detailing how long committee members can serve has been implemented. Under the current governance Rules, which came into effect in 2016 for divisions, societies and networks, all members serving on CIOL's boards and committees are eligible to serve a maximum elected term of 3 years plus a further consecutive 3 years (so a total of six), after which time a three year break is required. For existing divisional, society and network committee members, terms of office prior to 2016 will not count towards the new 3+3. The succession planning document should therefore identify where current serving committee members are under the 3+3 rule. A copy of the Lincolnshire Society Succession Document is available on the table here for everyone to read.

As vacancies on divisional, society and network committees are identified, these will be advertised to all members (in the case of divisions) and in the geographical location the network or society serves. The vacancies will be promoted through CIOL's various channels (direct email, website, CIOL newsletter, social media, etc.). In addition, potential new appointees can also be identified or put forward by members of the current divisional, society or network committee, or by members of the division, society or network.

The appointee would be required to complete an online form, which would ask for key skills and relevant experience, and for a statement on why they wish to join the committee. The application would initially be checked by the Head of Membership, and then discussed and agreed with the Committee before the appointment is offered to the applicant. If it was felt necessary, a Skype meeting with the applicant would be arranged, especially if we have

more interest than places available. It would be stressed that standing for appointment does not necessarily mean the applicant will automatically join the committee, the decision will be based on what skills the Committee already has and what skills it potentially needs in order to fulfil its objectives. It is anticipated that the new appointment system will be implemented from September 2019.

We are always glad to receive any suggestions for topics for future talks, so please let us know your ideas.

Please tell us if you are not happy for your photograph to be taken and used on CIOL's website.

Thank you all again for coming today - as I always say, without you there would be no Lincolnshire Society.

Candia Hillier DipTrans MCIL  
11 May 2019

## Future Events

**23 November 2019 12 noon - 4 p.m.**

**Wig & Mitre, 30 Steep Hill, Lincoln LN2 1TL (Tel.: 01522 535190)**

**Networking Lunch and Talk by Ian Smith entitled 'Shakespeare into Europe: Translation from Bottom up'.**

The talk 'Shakespeare into Europe: Translation from Bottom up' traces the surprising and, sometimes, circuitous routes by which the plays of Shakespeare became known in other countries and permeated European and world literature. We start from the earliest, most rudimentary renderings to arrive at those translations, which have become the accepted, authoritative standard used for stage productions today.

Ian was born in South Yorkshire but made in Exeter, Freiburg-im-Breisgau and Leeds where he studied German and Music, Germanistik and Anglo-German Literary Relations respectively. After a brief dalliance with the world of commerce, he returned to education and taught languages for most of his career at a Lincolnshire grammar school before retiring to pursue varied linguistic and literary pursuits.

**8 February 2020 12 noon - 4 p.m.**

**Wig & Mitre, Steep Hill, Lincoln LN2 1TL (Tel.: 01522 535190)**

**Networking Lunch and Talk by Gareth Godley: The practical role of languages in a pan European business**

Gareth Godley, Site Manager (Axxgro Foods) at Florette UK & Ireland Ltd in Scunthorpe, will give us fascinating insights into his experience of learning a language as an adult to facilitate communications with colleagues in both France and England. He will also

highlight the main difficulties a company faces in dealing with their language needs and outline some of their successful strategies for recruitment and training.