



## 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 Coxstitute. 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 Gershon 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

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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.**



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