

**Contents:**

1. A Message from the AOTM / Lincolnshire Open Studios Chairman.
2. Welcome to Two New Members.
3. 'Textile Lincs' Show at Grantham Museum Gallery - Preview Invite.
4. AOTM / Lincolnshire Open Studios Future Business Plan.

**1. A Message from the AOTM / Lincolnshire Open Studios Chairman:**

Welcome to 2010. On behalf of myself and members of the Steering Group, we wish all our members a happy and prosperous New Year. Much has happened within our organisation during the past two years and more is still to come. I have therefore listed below important points regarding our present and future development:

- 1) We now have a website to be proud of, which, incidentally, is still subject to further improvement and development.
- 2) Exciting exhibitions, events, opportunities and workshops will be taking place throughout the year within the individual cluster groups which now constitute the geographical frame work of 'Art on the Map'. We will keep you posted as and when through the regular monthly newsletter that is emailed to all members.
- 3) A five year strategic business plan is currently being structured under the guidance of Angela Porter from the *Lincolnshire Co-operative Development Agency*. Eventually we will be organising a consultation event for all members in order to inform and promote further discussion regarding the way forward for *Art on the Map*.
- 4) We are working closely and are part of the national *Association of Open Studios*; being receptive and taking on board other good ideas and 'modus operandi' from other similar organisations throughout the Country.
- 5) We have representation on the 'Lincolnshire 1' sub group;  
<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/section.asp?sectiontype=fileattachment&catid=19773&docid=67719> exploring arts development and our possible participation in the 'Cultural Olympiad';  
[http://www.culture.gov.uk/what\\_we\\_do/2012\\_olympic\\_games\\_and\\_paralympic\\_games/3430.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/2012_olympic_games_and_paralympic_games/3430.aspx)
- 6) We are also looking at other methods of attracting visitors to our Open Studios, such as: 'Arts treasure trails' and organised art tours within societies and affiliated groups (e.g.: *Women's Institutes, University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age*, members of the *Round Table* etc.). If you know of any such group/society who would be interested in taking part, please let me know.
- 7) We are proud to have one of the most affordable membership fees in the country and we will do all we can to generate maximum publicity within our budget. We will have to review the situation, especially in consideration of the restrictions in funding now imposed by certain of our District Councils. Any future increase in fees will be kept minimal.
- 8) *Art on the Map* is now completely run and organised by volunteers and though we are striving to work on your behalf in the best possible manner, there is only a limited amount of available time in order for us to participate in this work. Many of the Steering Group are also committed to the hard task of running their own business. We urgently need HELP! - especially with regard to marketing and publicity. We appeal for any member possessing artistic and design skills to

volunteer much needed assistance in this field, Please contact; [boboakes@teachblacksmithing.com](mailto:boboakes@teachblacksmithing.com) if you can help in this manner, though be it how small.

Once again I wish you all health and prosperity through out the coming year and may we fully embrace any exciting opportunities which come our way. Kind Regards, Bob.

## 2. Welcome to Two New Members:

We are delighted to welcome two new members who both joined us last November, which now brings our current AOTM membership for this year to 96. Mike Finney is a painter from Welton (in the West Lindsey Cluster Group area) and Kaoru Shimada is a painter in the Lincoln Cluster Group. We are pleased to see works from both new members in the current AOTM West Lindsey Exhibition, at the Forge Arts gallery in Hackthorn. This exhibition is still running (until 10th January) so please take a look if you are able to between this Wednesday and Sunday.

## 3. 'Textile Lincs' Show at Grantham Museum Gallery - Preview Invite:

AOTM member Moira West is also a member of 'Textile Lincs' who have an exhibition 'Renew, Regenerate, Reinvent' taking place at Grantham Museum Gallery. Moira has extended an invitation to all AOTM members to the preview held at **11am on Saturday, 30th January**.

*Textile Lincs* is a group with a thriving and active membership of dedicated textile enthusiasts working to professional standards. Members participate in group textile exhibitions, seminars, workshops and hold monthly meetings at the Hub, National Centre for Craft & Design, Sleaford, where the interaction between members is aimed at improving textile skills within the group.

The current touring exhibition *Renew, Regenerate, Reinvent* can be seen at Grantham Museum Gallery from 30 January – 26 March (details on 01476 568783) and at the Sam Scorer Gallery, Lincoln from 5 – 18 April 2010. .

## 4. AOTM / Lincolnshire Open Studios Future Business Plan:

Apologies – this article has had to be withdrawn.

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That's all the news for this month, but I sincerely hope that more members will become involved in this very important stage of our organisation's history. For example, as AOTM covers such a huge area, I personally think it would be healthier for AOTM to mail out to each member résumés of candidates for elections taking place on all positions in the Steering Group at the 2010 AGM and enable a postal ballot, rather than base election solely on who can make it to the AGM. This is my personal opinion and would only be feasible if more members both want to express opinion and, more importantly, want to become involved in the decision-making processes. What do you think?

*Happy New Year* to all members.

Please send your news for next month's issue to the Newsletter Editor: [graham@forgearts.co.uk](mailto:graham@forgearts.co.uk)