



LINCOLNSHIRE SOLUTIONS

As debates about the economic role of artists in the creative industries roll on, substantial funding has been secured in Lincolnshire to support artists. The Creative Solutions Initiative will launch in September and run for two years. The end game is to support artists there to increase their profile region-

ally, nationally and internationally, leading to greater economic stability.

Funded by the European Regional Development Fund and Lincolnshire County Council, CSI's central aim is to accelerate growth of the creative industries. As a result there will be grants available for all forms of arts activity, as well as for the creation of public art and artists wanting to put on cultural festivals.

The UK has a huge range of cultural festivals, but it has not as yet

been generally acknowledged that many are led by artists. Beacon is one of the first festivals in Lincolnshire to receive funding through CSI, acting as a 'test case' for the funds. Piloted in 2004, Beacon's mission is 'art>travel>site', and events provide an opportunity for artists to work in rural and heritage sites across the county such as the Bass Maltings in Sleaford.

As with so many funds, there are a range of stipulations that artists and

groups need to meet to be successful in getting CSI funds; and Beacon was chosen in the first batch partly because of its ambitions for creating a project that was both locally relevant and exciting, as well as considering in practical terms how to get people to go to the sites – the Beacon Coach Excursions.

For information on artists' events across Lincolnshire in September to support applications to the funds contact rachel.hoyles@lincolnshire.gov.uk www.beaconartproject.com