

Press Release

23rd April 2016

“New £20 banknote revealed by Mark Carney”

The Turner Contemporary gallery in Margate was the setting for a formal dinner yesterday evening when Bank of England Governor Mark Carney revealed the design of the new £20 banknote that features an image of J.M.W. Turner. Selected on the recommendation of the Banknote Character Advisory Committee from a list of 29,701 nominations covering 590 people, the choice of the UK’s favourite artist received the full endorsement of the Governor with the words: “Turner is perhaps the single most influential British artist of all time. His work was transformative, bridging the classical and modern worlds. His influence spanned his lifetime and is still apparent today.” He noted with some significance that “... his work will now feature on another 2 billion works of art – our new £20 notes.”



Bank of England Governor reveals the design of the new £20 banknote”

Chamber members who attended the recent conference organised by Dover District Chamber of Commerce will recall being shown the new polymer £5 note by Victoria Cleland, Chief Cashier of the Bank of England whose signature appears on all new banknotes. Welcoming the choice of Turner, she admitted that the selection process had opened her eyes to “the sheer breadth of talent” in British creative arts.

After the dinner, art critic and TV presenter Andrew Graham-Dixon gave an inspiring and authoritative account of the genius of Turner, “the singular most original British artist of all time” who “is to British art what Darwin is to British science and what Churchill is to British politics”. He stated unambiguously that Turner ignited inspirational fires that warmed the British artistic body after a prolonged spell in the cold. Printed on the banknote are the words “Light is therefore colour” which is a quotation from a lecture by Turner in 1818.

Also speaking at the launch was the celebrated artist Tracey Emin who was delighted with the choice of Turner whom she described as “a wild maverick” who loved her home town of Margate.

Chamber Chief Executive David Foley asked if any other of the artists nominated would be used in future banknotes. Mark Carney pointed out that any of the recommended nominations would have been a worthy representative of British Visual Arts. Other candidates on the short list included William Hogarth, Josiah Wedgwood, Alfred Hitchcock and Dame Barbara Hepworth.

[385 words]

Information

District Chamber of Commerce was established in 1850 and gives business support to the private and voluntary sector in Dover, Deal, Sandwich and Shepway. Thanet & East Kent Chamber provides business support to firms in Ramsgate, Margate, Deal, Broadstairs, Manston, Sandwich, Birchington, Hersden and elsewhere in East Kent.

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