

President's Notes April 2013

Flower Parade 2013.

The last Parade will take place on Saturday 4th May and I urge everyone in South Holland to come into town and line the route to show their support for all those taking part and also to get what will be the last photographs of the unique float structures that have helped make our Parade such a worldwide success since it started back in the 1950s.

Unfortunately, for the first time in it's history, it looks as though there will be no tulip heads available to decorate the floats. As I am sure you are all aware, the late cold weather has meant that spring has been delayed and even daffodils are only just coming into full bloom. However, the Parade theme this year is "Let's Celebrate" and all the floats will be made ready to join the Parade, even though they may be decorated in new and different ways, which will certainly make them even more worth seeing. All those involved in planning this last Parade and all the children and other participants want you to be there to cheer them on their way, so hopefully the town won't disappoint them.

Peoples Parade 2014

When it became obvious that there would be no money available to support future Flower Parades from the District or County Councils, the Chamber organised a meeting of current and prospective stakeholders and John Hayes, MP was kind enough to chair it. Chamber members were concerned that South Holland was losing the one great opportunity it has had for the last 55 years to showcase and celebrate the best of our area, with nothing planned to take its place.

It has now been agreed that we should hold an open meeting in the South Holland Centre theatre on Saturday 18th May at 11.00am (doors open 10:30am), to share ideas about possible new events to replace the Flower Parade and also listen to any other suggestions. Currently there is a proposal that we should organise a "Peoples' Parade" on a Sunday in July, with organisations and clubs creating their own floats – these could be as modest as a decorated wheel-barrow or a trailer with entertainers and displays. The event would give all participants the opportunity to promote their organisation or club. During the following week there could be various events organised such as Jazz and Folk evenings to Fruit and Veg mosaic and sculpture displays. The following weekend would be a Food Festival to showcase local products and producers. This could therefore become a week long South Holland Food, Flower & Arts Festival.

It is hoped that local organisations and clubs eg. Schools, Scouts, Guides, Cadets, Lions, Rotary, WI etc. plus the local churches will send representatives. Free tickets for the meeting are available now from the box office at the South Holland Centre. Please obtain a ticket as the theatre has a maximum capacity that cannot be exceeded. We are grateful to Cllr Angela Newton for funding the cost of the theatre for this meeting which John Hayes, MP will chair.

Bunting again!

Spalding town centre will be brightened again throughout the summer by festive bunting. The bunting will go up in time for this years Flower Parade and will stay up until mid-September. Hopefully this will make the town look bright and welcoming throughout the summer for both residents and visitors.