

President's Notes – December 2013

As we approach the end of the year it is timely to reflect on the last few months and focus on what's coming up next year.

The Christmas lights were installed two weeks earlier this year in the town centre and the riverbank looks great with the tulips. The Christmas Festival was well organised by Tulip Radio for the Chamber of Commerce. The town was "buzzing" with activities on the Sunday and the finale' with Santa, Inca Honnor the Flower Queen ably supported by John Hayes and his family arriving in a horse drawn carriage to switch on the lights was the best yet. The crowd grew as the afternoon progressed and the surprise fireworks finished the day off superbly.

Our first Enterprise and Awards day in November was extremely well supported by local businesses and we had two excellent speakers to inform and entertain them. Jamie Cooper from Network Rail informed delegates of the £280m GNGE Upgrade project and Ursula Lidbetter, Chair of the Lincolnshire Co-operative, shared details of her various roles as chair of Business in the Community East Midlands, Lincoln Business Improvement District, Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (L.E.P). Judging the Award winners was extremely challenging and the judges felt that they needed to commend a number of companies entered as well as deciding on category winners. The quality of entries to the awards demonstrated that business is alive and well in South Holland.

We are delighted that the Town Forum has endorsed Chambers application from Springfields s106 monies for a Town Centre Manager. This will now be referred to the SHDC Cabinet at their next meeting in January and we look forward to this important post co-ordinating the town centre's activities.

The New Year will undoubtedly bring new challenges which I'm confident the Chamber Council members will rise to and I would like to thank them all for their support and contribution during the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a merry Christmas and a prosperous and profitable New Year.