

A Busy month

Chamber have enjoyed a busy month. At the beginning of the month we had our first **Presidents Lunch** with two excellent speakers. Major John Mayo from Headquarters 7 Infantry Brigade. He made us aware of the benefits of having Service personnel and veterans as employees. He successfully achieved this with a most illuminating talk. Claire Rayner a business mentor and Retail Consultant provided current statistics on high street trading and challenged retailers to open their businesses when their customers wanted to come and shop and break away from the conventional, Monday to Saturday, 9am to 5pm.

This was followed by our **AGM** with speaker Richard Davies, Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport & IT at Lincolnshire County Council. His talk was on "Connecting Lincolnshire" and made us aware of the challenges faced by the Council with a diminishing budget and the need to ensure value for money.

Finally the **Pride Awards** which Chamber were delighted to support. A special thank you to Jan Whitbourn from Tulip Radio for organising a fanatic event and congratulations to all the winners.

LARGE NUMBER OF VISITORS EXPECTED AT FOOD FESTIVAL

The Spalding and South Holland Festival of Food and Drink will take place on the 29th & 30th August in the car parks surrounding the SHDC offices in Priory Road, an ideal location because it will bring the many visitors expected to the centre of the town. With almost 40 food stalls, a real ale bar, traditional ciders, a fun fair and other activities for the children on offer, it has the makings of a great day out for the family. Ticket price is set at £3 for adults and under 16s are allowed in free (provided they are accompanied by a paying adult), therefore a visit to the food festival represents excellent value for money.

As well as the food stalls, Local Celebrity Chef, Rachel Green will be demonstrating some of her favourite dishes using local produce and she will be assisting some of the local chef talent to show off their skills and to promote their businesses.

The food industry within South Holland is of vital importance to Lincolnshire and the rest of the country. Lincolnshire produces one fifth of all food consumed in the UK; more than any other county. South Holland alone manufactures over 35% of all processed foods consumed in the UK. The Spalding and South Holland Food Festival allows food producers to celebrate the food they make and the event provides the ideal opportunity for food and drink businesses to showcase their produce. The cost of staging a food festival is considerable and in the absence of any public funding a number of local businesses/organisations; Spalding Chamber of Commerce, Bakkavor Foods, Springfields Shopping Outlet, Austendyke Ales, Tulip

Radio, TK Events Support Ltd from Holbeach St. John (marquee provider), KDH Construction and Food Industry from Donington (who are providing the generators) and EMG Motor Group, have all generously sponsored this year's event.

The aim is to make this a premiere annual event, that will raise the profile of Spalding and attract additional visitors to the town. Please support this event and help make it a success.