

## **Business Prospects**

Recently you will have read that South Holland has seen the largest rise in employment in the production sector since the 1980s. It saw an increase of almost 120 per cent, or 4,000 jobs, over the last three decades. What is probably more relevant is what is happening now? I have spoken to businesses in food production and the haulage industry within the area and they tell me that they expect their businesses to grow by more than 20% year on year during the next three years. Why? Simply South Holland has all the components to allow their businesses to grow and has all the components for success i.e. produce, labour, expertise, logistic companies, service providers e.g. marketing, packaging, tray washing etc and the National Centre for Food Manufacturing at Holbeach – we are recognised as the “Kitchen of England”. The importance of South Holland as a national producer was emphasised by reports from supermarkets stating that 37% of all fresh food within the UK comes through our area.

## **Presidents Lunch**

We have been successful in attracting sponsorship for a Chamber Presidents Lunch on **Monday 6th July** and this will be of interest to retailers and customer focused businesses. It also offers an excellent opportunity for businesses to network.

Our Key note speaker is Claire Rayner. Claire is a much in demand speaker, business mentor and Retail Consultant who is well known to the media as The Retail Champion because of her drive, enthusiasm and commitment to helping retailers optimise their business performance. She is a frequent contributor to Good Morning Britain and BBC Breakfast as well as commenting on a wide range of retail and consumer topics. She also writes for trade press and digital media.

The lunch takes place on **Monday 6th July** at the “Pantry and the Parlour” in Red Lion Street, commencing at 12pm until 2:30pm. Cost is just £10 for a drink on arrival and a buffet lunch.

Tickets are available from Dennis Hannant, Town Centre Manager, Tel: 01775 766729 E-mail: [Dennis.Hannant@Lincs-Chamber.co.uk](mailto:Dennis.Hannant@Lincs-Chamber.co.uk)

## **Chamber AGM**

Our invited speakers at previous AGM's have been excellent and delivered relevant and thought provoking topics. This year will be no different as our speaker is Richard Davies. Richard is an extremely busy person not just in his role of Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport & IT at Lincolnshire County Council but as Co-Founder of LearnLog Ltd an evidence-based assessment tracking tool. Managing Director of Agincourt who supply ICT consultancy across the SME market from bespoke software development to on-site support and a Trustee at St Barnabas Hospice.

His talk will be on "Connecting Lincolnshire" a subject he is well placed to give his perspective on and one which will resonate with our businesses in the Agri-Food sector and indeed all businesses who use IT.

Non Chamber members are most welcome to attend and the meeting takes place on **Tuesday 7th July**, starting at 5.45pm at the Broad Street Business Centre, Broad Street, Spalding.

### **Spalding in Bloom**

Last year we achieved gold status and judging this year takes place on Tuesday 14th July. I would like to complement Dennis Hannant our Town Centre Manager for asking retailers in the town centre to once again purchase hanging baskets. The baskets are now looking really good thanks to twice weekly watering by Ben and Pete Williams. Jan Whitebourne at Tulip Radio has been pulling the strings in the background getting the brochure ready and making everyone aware of their duties. My best wishes to the team and I hope that they can replicate last years exceptional result with another GOLD.