

President's Notes March 2014

### **Visit Spalding Guide 2014**

We are delighted to be involved with Newton Press the publishers of the Visit Spalding Guide. This year's edition has been given a complete makeover and is unrecognisable from its layout in previous years. It has a lighter and more practical feel. It is aimed at visitors and residents who simply want explore the area. The magazine is built around "A Day to Remember" and included this year are brand new directories and voucher sections to make it easier to find relevant information and to give visitors the opportunity to save money on their trips as well.

With our beautiful countryside and historical architecture, Spalding is well known for agriculture, food processing and heritage. From Heritage & The Arts to The Great Outdoors and Family Fun, there are a wealth of activities to keep visitors of all ages entertained.

Local Stockists include: South Holland Centre, Springfields TIC, Woodlands Hotel and The Red Lion Hotel

### **Spalding Retailers Forum**

The first steps have been taken to give traders in Spalding a united voice. About 25 people from businesses in Spalding town centre met on Wednesday 19th March at Sainsbury's Cafe to discuss the launch of a new Spalding Retailers Forum.

During the meeting, Emily Holmes (SHDC), presented the proposal for new digital CCTV cameras and have them monitored 18/7 in Boston. Stuart Brotherton (Shopwatch) made the meeting aware that the Police & Crime Commission viewed the Shopwatch schemes in Spalding and Sleaford as examples that they would like to see rolled out to other towns in the County. Phil Scarlett brought the meeting up to date on progress in getting a Town Centre Manager. Phil emphasised that it was the town retailers who should set the agenda for the Town Centre Manager.

The date for the next meeting was agreed: **Wednesday 16th April**. On this day there will be two meetings to allow maximum attendance 07:30am (start at 07:45am to 8:45am) and 17:45pm (start at 18:00pm to 19:00pm). Both meetings will be at Sainsbury's Cafe.

Retailers are asked to make a note of the meeting date on Wednesday 16th April and decide which meeting they can attend.

### **Spalding in Bloom**

We have been contacting businesses in Spalding Town Centre to ask them to sponsor hanging baskets. The response so far has exceeded our expectations with a number of businesses taking baskets for the first time. Our thanks to Plantiflor Ltd in Enterprise Way for agreeing again this year to sponsor 12 baskets at charity shops.

A basket costs just £40 which includes watering during the summer. The baskets will go up at the end of May and be removed at the end of September. If the business doesn't have hanging brackets, these will be provided free of charge. Any business that is interested should contact: Phil Scarlett at: phil.scarlett@theedgeconsultancy.co.uk as soon as possible to enable us to plant the baskets ready to hang.

Last year Spalding in Bloom was just two points short of achieving Gold status in the East Midland in Bloom competition. With the traders support and a little extra effort we can achieve Gold which will bring with it additional recognition for the town and enhance its attraction as a visitor and shopping destination.

**Learn More**

Please visit our website at: [www.spaldingareachamber.co.uk](http://www.spaldingareachamber.co.uk)