

President's Notes - May 2014

Spalding Gentlemen's Society

Recently, I visited the Spalding Gentlemen's Society in Broad Street. The Museum is one of Spalding's "hidden gems". It contains artefacts, pictures, books, manuscripts and other archival material covering more than three hundred years of local and national development. Sadly the Museum is not easily accessible to the public other than on Open Days and for pre-arranged groups/organisations.

I was therefore delighted to learn that they are currently looking at ways to create a museum and associated resources accessible to the public, for the benefit of local residents and visitors.

There are many aspects of the Society that will need to change but I detected a real energy and desire to provide greater public access to the museum. They would like to see adequate space overall but specifically for the permanent display areas, temporary exhibitions, a lecture theatre, storage facilities and toilet facilities. To achieve this the Society needs external financial assistance, possibly including grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

We need to give potential visitors to Spalding good reasons to visit the town and whilst we have Ayscoughfee Hall, a twice weekly market within a riverside setting, we need more. Having a Museum with some exceptional items, some of international significance, will be a major asset to Spalding and surroundings.

Town Centre Manager.

Applications have been received following our advertisement and the recruitment process is under-way. When an appointment has been made it will be announced through the local press and this web site.

Spalding Town Traders Association

This is the new name for the Retail Forum and was changed at their last meeting to avoid any confusion with the Town Forum. Gavin Allmand (Hills Department Store) was elected as Chair with Paul Bryan (Sainsburys) as the Vice Chair.

Spalding in Bloom

Many thanks to the businesses who have agreed to sponsor a hanging basket within the town centre this year. For the first time we will have a good display in Holland Market with Sainsburys taking four baskets linked with nine baskets at Wilko, Halfords, Argos and Brantanos plus the barrier baskets on Swan Street. The baskets are planted and will go up within the next couple of weeks

Business Awards 2014

We are planning this years event with a black tie Awards Dinner in November. Full details will be announced within the next couple of weeks through the Spalding Guardian. Last year was our first year and it was a great success – this year will be even better.

CCTV

Plans for new CCTV cameras in Spalding town centre with monitoring taking place 18 hours a day, seven days a week in Boston are now well advanced and should be in place during August. Chambers plan to upgrade our Shopwatch equipment are also well under-way with the aerial being relocated to the South Holland Centre which will give a better signal quality in Spalding but can also cover Springfields and Holbeach.