

President's Notes - October 2014

South Holland Business Awards

The Awards Dinner takes place on Thursday 20th November at Springfields Event Centre. The award categories are: Business of the Year, Small Business of the Year, Supporting the Community, Business Innovation of the Year, Apprentice of the Year and Customer Care Award plus a new award this year Business Person of the Year.

Entries have been received and companies have been short listed and have met the judges for an informal interview to expand on their application. The quality of entries has been extremely high and has challenged the judges to much discussion to decide on the winners.

The speakers for the event have been confirmed and I'm delighted that Mark Tinsley from the Greater Lincolnshire LEP and Jim Rogers, President of the Fresh Food Consortium have agreed to speak. Last years winner of the Business of the Year, Harry Drury from We'll Let Your Home will also speak. The event is hosted by the BBC's Melvyn Prior.

Tickets for the evening which include a three-course meal followed by coffee and mints are now on sale at £22 for Chamber members and £27 for non-members. A table of 10 can be purchased for £160+VAT for Chamber members and £210+VAT for non-members. To book, please email: Alison.Mackfall@lincs-chamber.co.uk or call 01522 846922

Shopwatch

ShopWatch is a scheme which brings businesses together for the common purpose of reducing retail crime. This is primarily achieved through a radio network linked to the police and enables members to pass prompt warnings to each other when they spot known shoplifters heading their way or of crimes in the area. The two-way radio is monitored by CCTV and police beat teams who attempt to respond to calls for assistance from our shops.

ShopWatch has led to arrests and prosecutions for retail crime, the return of stock, and shop staff feeling safer knowing there's a community of over 35 retailers watching out and listening in to what's going on in our busy streets.

ShopWatch is co-ordinated by Stuart Brotherton a former local Police Sergeant who has brought along with his extensive experience an energy that has increased the number of users in Spalding. With new CCTV equipment and monitoring imminently in Boston, Chamber has invested in new equipment and the relocation of the aerial to provide improved sound quality and enlarge the area. This provided the opportunity to extend the area of operation and I'm delighted to welcome 12 new members to the scheme in Holbeach. Stuart has plans to further extend the scheme to Springfields shopping centre

and introduce PubWatch for the night-time economy. If you would like to know more about ShopWatch, please contact Stuart at: stuart.brotherton@hotmail.co.uk