

President's Notes September 2014

TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

Dennis Hannant, has been recruited as the Spalding Town Centre Manager to shape the future of the town and help unite businesses so Spalding can achieve its full potential. Dennis has had a 43 year career in the Army and brings many years of military and commercial business experience to the role. He starts in November and I hope he is made welcome by everyone.

Dennis demonstrated a good understanding of the town and the challenges we face. He showed a determination and enthusiasm to deliver events and activities that will invigorate the town centre. His military background will provide essential planning and organisational skills for what is going to be a demanding and challenging role.

His priority initially will be to 'walk and talk' around the town to meet businesses and shoppers so that he can better understand the challenges and the opportunities that exist to improve the town centre.

Within the next month the Chamber of Commerce will establish a Management Board, made up from the funding partners and local businesses. This Board will be responsible for managing and supporting Dennis. Jointly with Dennis they will produce a Business Plan for the Town Centre which will include short and long-term deliverable objectives.

This project has taken a great deal of effort over a number of months to come to fruition, and to all those involved I am extremely grateful. It illustrates exactly the role of a Chamber of Commerce in bringing together partners and funders to deliver a substantial project.

South Holland Business Awards

The Awards Dinner will take place on Thursday 20th November at Springfields Event Centre There are six award categories and entries are open to all businesses across South Holland, including Crowland, Holbeach, Long Sutton, Pinchbeck and Spalding. Companies do not have to be members of Chamber to enter. Entry forms are now available from Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce by e-mailing enquiries@Lincs-Chamber.co.uk. All applications must be submitted before the Friday 3rd October.

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

Making an entry is not difficult and I would encourage businesses to take the time and effort to enter. Entering and winning an award can make a significant difference to a company. It helps to differentiate them from their competitors as well as generating significant media interest. Possibly of more importance is the boost that it gives to staff moral as it recognises their contribution to your company's success.

Please book your tickets to attend now, at £22 for Chamber members and £27 for non-members. Tickets include a three course dinner before the award ceremony starts.

Gold for Spalding

I was delighted when I heard the news that we had struck gold. This award is an acknowledgement not just for this year's effort but for the many years the Spalding Bloomers have worked tirelessly.

This year they made an extra special effort as we just missed Gold last year and this was spearheaded by Jan Whitbourne from Tulip Radio who stepped up and organised volunteers to tidy up the town, organised the judges route and generally chased us along. I must also make a special mention about the Williams family, Pete and Steph took the time and personal expense to replant the flower planters outside Boots and Longstaffs and weeded along shop fronts and street furniture in Hall and Market Place. They also arranged hanging baskets on the Magistrates Court on the day of the judging. Ben Williams, who was our "flower fairy" made sure that hanging baskets appeared overnight to minimise disruption to shoppers. I must also thank the many Spalding businesses who sponsored hanging baskets and brightened up the town centre. What a pity though that we didn't have any bunting up this time as that also helps to brighten the town.

All the hard work has paid off this year and thanks to everyone who did so much and to all the volunteers who helped us achieve this result.