



OPPOSITE SPRINGFIELDS





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A Special Projects department production Published by the Lincolnshire Free Press and Spalding Guardian, Priory House, The Crescent, Spalding, in conjunction with Springfields and Spalding Flower Parade Committee, Origination and advertising typesetting by AT Graphics, 4 Milnyard Square, Orton Southgate, Peterborough, Colour by Final Reproduction, Unit 18, Brookside, Sawtry, Huntingdon, Printed by Warners (Midlands) plc, Manor Lane, Bourne.



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DAPHNE LEDWARD, Surfleet-based garden writer and broadcaster, has been commissioned by Anglian Water to design the drought-resistant Anglian Water Conservation Garden, a new feature this year at Springfields Gardens,

Here Daphne explains the ideas behind the new garden - and how she set about creating it. A simplified plan of the garden is on the facing page.

#### Garden even a drought?

"RAIN spreading to all areas, I'm afraid," says the TV weathergirl, and there is a communal groan.

But to many people, especially in the eastern parts of the UK, which is naturally an area of low rainfall, the forecast is music to the ears.

Water, though a natural commodity, has to come from somewhere.

Rainfall quantities in recent years, especially in winter when underground water supplies and reservoirs are traditionally replenished, have been much lower than average.

This fact, combined with a rising population and an ever-increasing requirement for water in the home, agriculture and industry, have led to shortages at peak times. But sensible use of this precious resource can avoid crises in times of drought.

The main thing that water companies and gardeners have in common is the hope of hearing that all-too-rare wet forecast.

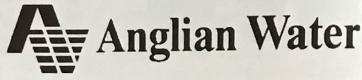
After this point, however, it would seem at first sight that their interests are in serious conflict. We gardeners have been used to keeping England's pleasant land green at all times by whatever means, and this has included the unrestricted use of the hosepipe, sprinkler and can if necessary.

But now we are urged to lay off the watering and we see our carefully nurtured plants wilting and shrivelling.

Last year, Anglian Water, a company with some of the driest parts of the UK in its area, realised the necessity to point out that they are far from against the increasingly popular hobby of gardening, but have a responsibility to all customers to distribute a currently scarce commodity fairly and sensibly.

A hosepipe or sprinkler can account for a vast volume of water. In two hours a sprinkler can use as much as an average household in a day!

But it is possible to have an attractive garden and keep artificial watering to a minimum by careful planning.



Following the successful creation of a garden designed by Geoff Hamilton at the Barnsdale car park access to Rutland Water a few years ago, Anglian Water decided to provide another public garden in the Lincolnshire area where water conservation ideas and design features could be displayed.

Peter Atkinson very kindly made an area available at Springfields Gardens in Spalding. The piece of ground is big by demonstration plot standards - 500 square metres, as large as or larger than many modern building plots.

My commission was to lay out the area as an imaginative and colourful domestic garden which could be copied as a whole or in parts by anyone wanting a no-hassle feature without the disappointment of dead plants and a burnt-up lawn.

The first essential of a droughtresistant garden is to conserve as much rainwater as possible by installing water butts rather than letting rainwater off the roof run to ground through a soakaway. This will provide an emergency supply of soft water, beneficial to many species.

Mulching with thick layers of organic material after rain will prevent moisture escaping from the soil.

Paving is much easier to keep looking good in hot weather than grass, but the main requisite of most British gardens is at least a small piece of green lawn.

If it is unthinkable to dispense with grass, a reasonably good sward can be achieved if drought-resistant grasses interestingly, those sold in garden centres as suitable for shady areas - are used, and not mown too close.

Shady areas themselves dry out less quickly than those in full sun. Shade

can be created instantly without causing a shut-in feeling if trellis or pierced-screen walling are used through which drought-resistant climbers, such as Solanum Crispum and Akebia Quinata, can ramble.

Everybody wants a rockery, yet raised alpine gardens can dry out alarmingly. A good alternative is to construct a

scree garden at ground level.

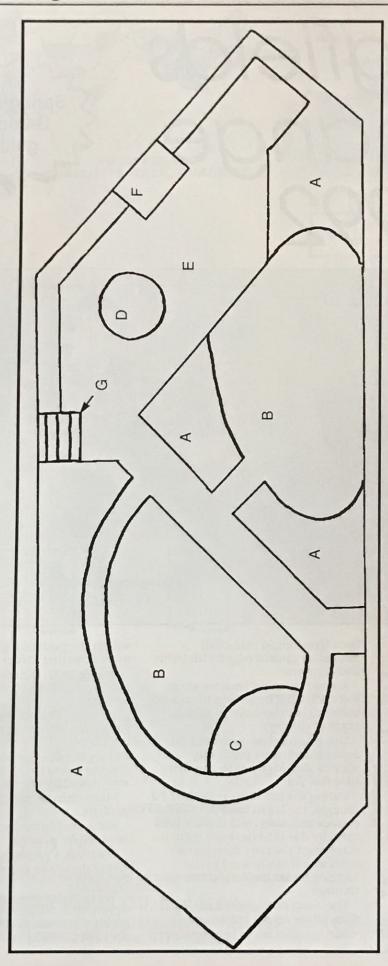
Some plants are naturally adapted to dry conditions. These include ones with: grey leaves - the grey colouring is usually due to a covering of minute hairs which cut down moisture loss through the pores; few or no true leaves, like brooms; spiky leaves (yucca, cordyline, red hot poker); and thick, succulent leaves or fleshy roots capable of storing water for long periods, for example, sedum and bearded irises.

Many herbaceous plants revel in full, hot sun providing the roots can be kept damp by mulching, and it is possible to have brilliant bedding displays using pelargoniums, mesembryanthemums, portulaca and begonia semperflorens.

Firms supporting the project are; Johnsons Seeds (drought-resistant grass), Metpost (log roll edging) Sunshine of Africa (cocoa-shell mulch), Camland products (bark mulch and soil conditioner), Babylon Walling (screening and pergola), Bressingham Gardens (scree garden plants), Notcutts Nurseries (shrubs, climbers and herbaceous plants), Marshalls Mono (paving and walling). Landscaping was carried out by Rainsbury's Nurseries. Cowbit, Spalding, and the garden is maintained by Springfields' own staff. Full details of products, the original

plan and useful leaflets from Anglian Water are in the summer house on site.

# Anglian Water Conservation Garden



## Key to the Conservation Garden plan

A Shrubberies, probably including nearly 200 varieties of shrubs.

**B** Lawns of drought-resistant grasses.

C Scree garden.

D Low raised bed of droughtresistant bedding plants.

E Paved area.

F Summerhouse or display shed with information and plan - this building is intended to represent the home as far as one's own plot is concerned.

G Babylon pergola.



#### ORDER OF PARADE 1992

#### THE ROMSEY OLD CADETS

- 1 BELVOIR CASTLE JOUSTERS Entered by Belvoir Castle
- 2 CHAIRMAN SPALDING FLOWER PARADE Mr Brian Drury
- 3 FLOWER QUEEN 1992 Entered by South Holland District Council
- 4 DERBY SERENADERS SHOWBAND Sponsored by East Midland Electricity
- 5 FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH Entered by Lincolnshire TEC
- 6 BRINGING THE BEST OF THE WORLD TO YOU Entered by Littlewoods Stores.
- 7 EASTWOOD ARCADIANS Sponsored by British Sugar
- 8 TEA-TIME TREAT Entered by British Sugar
- 9 LONG SUTTON & DISTRICT VETERAN CYCLE CLUB
- 10 HASLAND DRUM CORPS -
- 11 THE HISTORY OF THE TURKEY Entered by Turners Turkeys
- 12 YOUNG FARMERS ON PARADE Entered by Spalding and District Young Farmers Club
- 13 BRAINTREE DIMENSIONS
- 14 HEALTHY EATING AT TESCO Entered by Tesco
- 15 OUT IN THE GARDEN Entered by Lingarden Ltd
- 16 BREAKDOWN VEHICLE
- 17 LINCOLN DISTRICT SCOUT BAND Sponsored by Geo. Adams & Sons
- 18 GARDEN FESTIVAL WALES 1992 Entered by Garden Festival Wales
- 19 FLOWERS' ALL THE WAY Entered by E Four Sales Ltd
- 20 MELODIANS STEEL BAND FROM LONDON Sponsored by Express Newspapers and Broadgate Builders of Spalding
- 21 THE KEY TO SUCCESS Entered by Midland Bank
- 22 BREAKDOWN VEHICLE
- 23 THIRTEENTH CITY OF COVENTRY SCOUT MARCHING BAND Sponsored by
  Spalding and District Churches
- 24 MAKING THE MOST OF FLOWERS AND PLANTS Entered by Flowers and Plants Association
- 25 GROWING FOR YOU Entered by the National Farmers' Union
- 26 MELTON MOWBRAY TALLY HO'S BAND -
- 27 LIFE'S A BEACH AND THEN YOU PARTY Entered by Rotaract
- 28 GOING FOR GOLD Entered by Geest plc
- 29 BREAKDOWN VEHICLE 15/FP/OoP

## Springfields all change for 1992



HEAD gardener at Springfields Gardens, ANDREW BOYTON (pictured right), gives an update on garden planning and work in progress at Springfields Gardens for 1992.

A MAJOR development during the close season has been the commencement of the building of the new exhibition complex which is expected to be completed in the late spring.

Work has commenced on clearing out the woodland area which is adjacent to the hall.

New fences and gates are being erected to control visitors' access.

We are looking to re-develop a new maze to replace the Jubilee maze which had to be sacrificed for the new development.

Our old greenhouse was also removed and we are to concentrate our activities on the tulips glasshouse which we intend to transform during 1992 using subtropical palms.

With good top soil being available from the site of the new development, we have been able to introduce a raised area into the centre of the garden known as the flower meadow.

The area has been grassed over and planted with bulbs and bedding.

Six of the thirteen squares have



been transformed into small individual gardens edged with trellis and climbers.

Around the main lawn we are to erect posts and by linking them with suitable chain we hope to grow a range of climbers.

Tree planting has continued this autumn and many previously planted should flower for the first time this year.

During the last three years of drought, the lawns have been under considerable stress and this autumn considerable time has been spent on scarifying to remove thatch and moss which can be used in our hanging basket displays in the summer.

These will be featured hanging from pillars on the colonnade.

Further roses are to be planted

within the gardens together with more flowering shrubs.

During 1992, the construction of the new Spalding bypass will commence.

This will affect the southern end of the garden as a roundabout is to be built there.

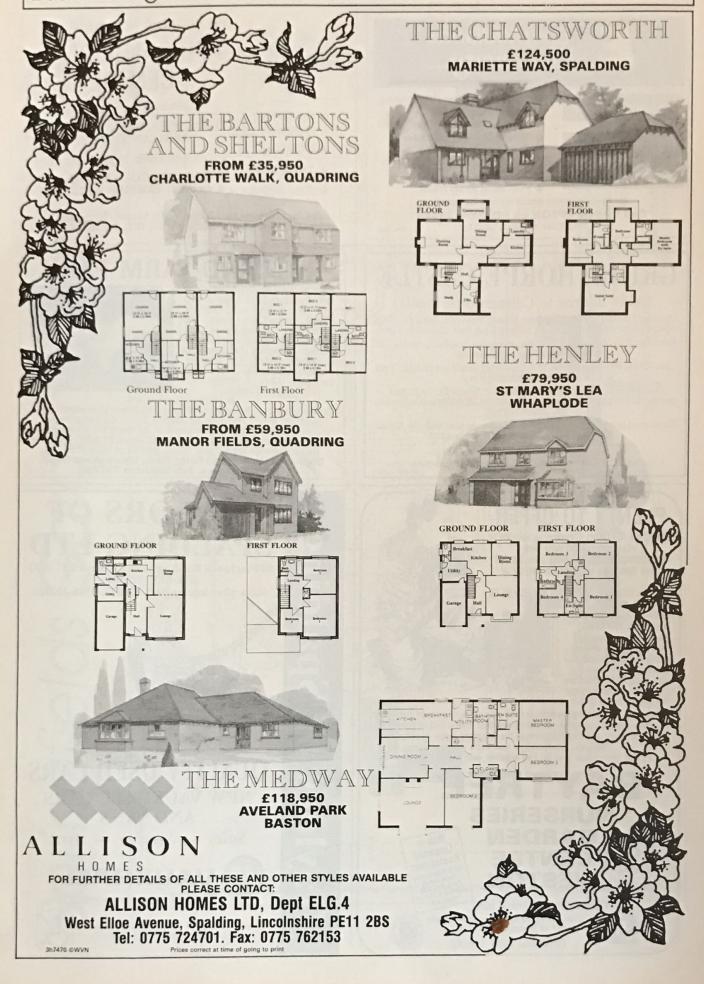
Once the line has been established, it is our intention to re-develop the new boundary line.

Many changes take place in the gardens.

Some are planned and others imposed by nature.

However, a garden is a living thing and will never be static.

We hope the changes at Springfields enhance the visitors' pleasure and we look forward to seeing you in 1992.



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Castle: Sun, 30th May to Sun, 13th Sep, every Sun/Bank Holiday, 2 pm to 6 pm (last admission 5 pm).

Admission prices: Park and Gardens — Adults £1, OAPs and under-16s 50p plus to enter the Castle Adults £2, OAPs and under-16s £1, under-5s Free.

Conducted tours for private parties by arrangement with the Estate Office in advance. Min £3.60 per head.

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Catering: The Coach House Cafeteria serves home-made teas.

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Sundays, Public Holidays 10.00am-5.30pm. Closed Monday.
School and coach parties welcome at all times by arrangement
(except Monday). Entry: Adults £2.50, Children £1.50, OAPs £1.75
Reductions for school and coach parties of 15 and above.

Daphne Ball, Rutland Farm Park, Uppingham Road, Oakham, Leics. Tel: Oakham 756789

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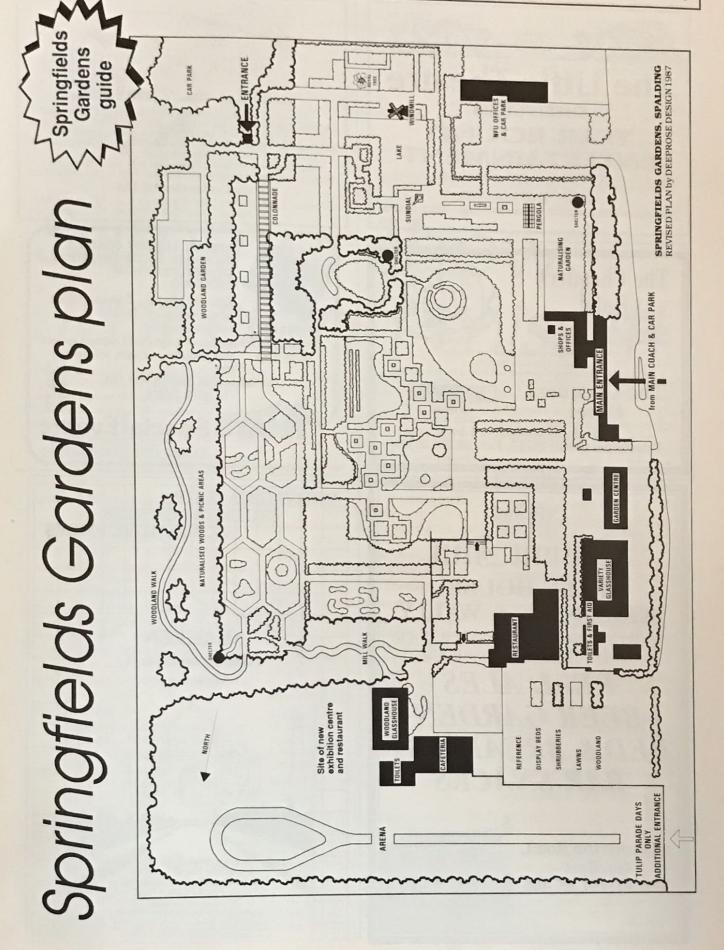
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Eastern England Leisure Guide 1992

9





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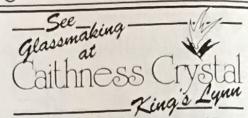
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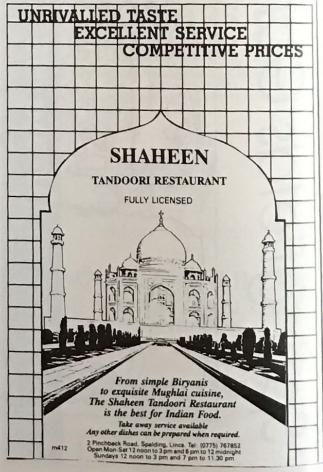
14 Sheepmarket, Spalding PE11 1AR. Tel (0775) 725398



MAYS Special Events

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THE FIFTH Springfields Summer Show is set to be the event of the season - not to be missed. The show, on Saturday and Sunday August

15 and 16 includes the highly successful Springfields Flower Show - a must for all flower lovers - as well as lots of entertainments and interest throughout the weekend, all set within the world-famous beautiful 25 acre show garden.

In Springfields' new exhibition centre, due to open in June, there will be craft and trade exhibitors selling a wide

range of products.

The Meirion Jones Sheepdog display team will be demonstrating their skills during the weekend

and there will also be a heavy horse display, presented by Northcote Heavy Horse Centre.

For the children there will be mini-quad motorcycles and inflatables, and the old favourite Punch and Judy show, train rides and Chair-oplane rides for tiny tots.

Radio Lincolnshire will be there with its own gardeners' question time with Geoff Hamilton of BBC Gardener's World, TV gardener Ann Swithinbank and Surfleet-based gardening writer Daphne Ledward of BBC Radio's Gardeners' Question Time and the Jimmy Young Show.

Other attractions include Róyal National Lifeboat Institution display, Melton Mowbray Tally Ho's band, and a static bird display.

There will be a bar and refreshment marquees.

#### Summer show: Just don't miss it!

THERE'S lots of fun for all the family at Springfields Summer Show - and don't miss the Flower Show with stunning exhibits. Here's the full timetable of events:

#### Saturday August 15

12pm Melton Mowbray Tally Ho's Band - a fantastic and entertaining

1pm Meirion Jones Sheepdog display - an entertaining and instructive programme designed to demonstrate the skills and intelligence of working dogs.

1.30pm Heavy Horse display by kind permission of Northcote Heavy Horse Centre.

2pm Flower demonstration by top Dutch champion and master in floral art - Johan Huisman.

3.45pm Meirion Jones Sheepdog display - as above.

4.15pm Melton Mowbray Tally Ho's Band - as above.

#### Sunday August 16

11.30am The Marching Ambassadors - a spectacular marching band with some great sounds!

12pm BBC Radio Lincolnshire Gardeners' Question Time -Panel of experts, Geoff Hamilton (BBC TV's Gardener's World), Daphne Ledward (BBC Radio's Jimmy Young Show and Gardener's Question Time) and Ann Swithinbank (writer and broadcaster) will be recording a special programme and visitors will be invited to form the audience and ask questions.

1.30pm Meirion Jones Sheepdog display - as on Saturday.

2pm The Marching Ambassadors - as above.

2.30pm BBC Radio Lincolnshire Gardener's Question Time.

3.45pm Meirion Jones Sheepdog display.

#### Around the Showground

Flower Show Marquee - The theme is The Pace of Life. Competitive classes of the highest quality with exhibitors entering their magnificent displays from throughout the UK and abroad. Prize giving will be in the Flower Show Marquee at about 4pm on Sunday.

Crafts - a wide variety of craft stands will be housed in Springfields' new exhibition centre. They will be exhibiting, demonstrating and selling their products throughout the weekend.

Static Bird Display - educational and interesting.

**Trade stands** - various trade stands promoting and selling their products.

Children's entertainment - Punch and Judy; bouncing castles; chair-o-plane; quad bikes; colour maze; clown walkabout; train rides and much, much more.

Nursery Marquee - exhibits from nurseries, societies and clubs.

#### Lifeboat Institution display.

The National Begonia Society will be holding the East Anglian Area Annual Show throughout the weekend.

Laser Sport Clay Pigeon Shooting - a sport which can be enjoyed by everyone.

#### Model railway exhibition.

Garden shop - don't forget to visit it.

25 acre show garden - A dazzling display of thousands of bedding plants with greenhouse, lake, woodland walk and paved walks.

Don't worry about the weather! Most of the show is under 40,000 square feet of

Other facilities include a licensed restaurant, ample free-parking and AA sign-posting.

The show is open from 10am to 6pm. Admission adults £3, OAPs £2.50 and accompanied children free. There are special rates for party bookings.

balanced with other classes such as Spare time, Snail's pace and Let the train take the strain.

Competition judges are Mrs Daphne Hubbard, Mrs Ann Larke and Mrs Joan Owen.

The competition marquee is open for visitors between 12.30pm and 6pm Saturday, August 15, and 10am to 5pm Sunday, August 16. Springfields Gardens open between 10am and 6pm.

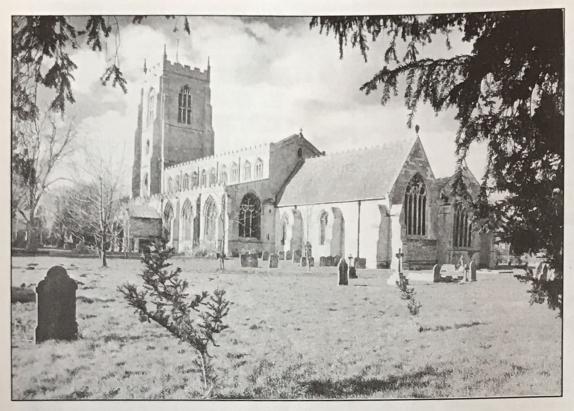
Flowers expressing the pace of life

LIFE will be hotting up for competitors in this year's Springfields flower competition at the world-famous gardens' summer show.

the world-famous gardens' summer show.

Theme is The Pace of Life and with class subjects including Climb the Ladder of Success, Express Delivery, and How Time Flies, flower arrangers will have a marvellous opportunity to produce one of the most exciting displays the show has seen.

For the less energetic the competition is



#### PICTURED LEFT:

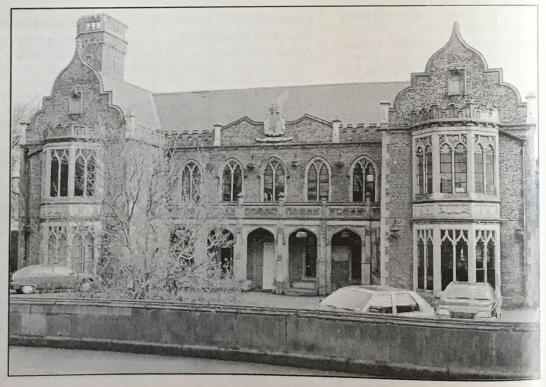
Pinchbeck's splendid parish church is just one of South Holland's marvellous buildings to the glory of God. A perfect time to visit is during the Flower Festival in Pinchbeck from April 26 to May 5.

#### Flat doesn't mean uninteresting!

#### PICTURED BELOW:

A MUST for every visit to **Spalding** - the splendid Ayscoughfee Hall, built in the 1430s, and now home to Spalding Tourist Information Centre. Ayscoughfee also

houses a museum tracing South Holland's history and an attractive gallery with a monthly programme of exhibitions. The gardens are delightful on a summer's day.



#### South Holland welcomes you to the Fens

THE HEART of the fens, England's undiscovered landscape, South Holland is rich with fascinating discoveries for the discerning visitor.

From fine ancient churches and grand Georgian and Elizabethan buildings to beautiful gardens, industrial archaeology and interesting market towns, South Holland has them all. And with the visitor in mind, South Holland district council and the Fenland Tourism Group have produced a series of leaflets, setting out the attractions.

Events include the South Holland Arts programme bringing a whole range of events to Spalding and surrounding villages and towns.

As well as free leaflets there are larger

booklets about specific attractions, including walks around Spalding and a history of Ayscoughfee Hall, the home of the district tourism office, museum and art gallery, as well as an introduction and guide to South Holland as a whole.

The leaflets are available from South Holland District Council tourism office, Ayscoughfee Hall, Spalding.

## Skyscapes and sunsets await

A LAND of sykscapes, dramatic sunsets and unspoilt beauty awaits the traveller in **South Holland**.

The Fens are the centre of the bulb and seed industry in Britain and all around you the rich, dark, productive soil is being tended.

The countryside is criss-crossed with dykes and ditches, used for land drainage since Roman times.

The coastal marshes of the Wash offer mile upon mile of silence and

remoteness. The Sir Peter Scott Walk, the Gedney Drove End and Frampton nature reserves all provide opportunities for birdwatching and quiet contemplation of nature in this unusual part of England.

Inland there are villages and towns to be explored, with Spalding at the heart of South Holland.

This historic market town grew along the banks of the River Welland, from where Spalding obtained much of its wealth.

Relow High Bridge, the Welland was

Below High Bridge, the Welland was navigable to the sea and the harbour was part of the Port of Boston and flourished until the arrival of the railways.

Close to High Bridge are the parish church of St Mary and St Nicolas and Ayscoughfee Hall - where visitors can discover the fascinating history of the area in the South Holland Museum -

and its pleasant gardens.

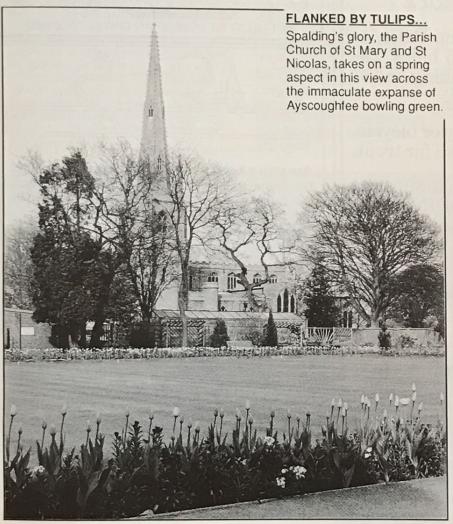
South Holland's arts renaissance continues apace - spring and summer events at the South Holland Centre, Spalding, include Alan Price, popular touring theatre companies Great Eastern Stage and Hull Truck, Chris Barber and his Jazz Band, flamenco and much more. There's a gallery too, with an exciting programme of work by local artists. More information from the centre, Spalding 725031.

Nearby Pinchbeck Engine and Land

Nearby Pinchbeck Engine and Land Drainage Museum houses a restored steam powered pumping station.

The great medieval Abbey at Crowland is one of the finest churches of the fens and the town also contains the medieval Trinity Bridge which originally spanned three streams - but is now on dry land.

South Holland's church spires stand out dramatically against the flat landscape, and the churches are decorated with spring flowers for the annual Flower Festivals.



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## Butterflies - and pot-bellied pigs?

THELMA and Louise are the latest arrivals at the popular tourist spot with a new name for 1992, Long Sutton Butterfly and Falconry Park.

The Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs join the other farm animals which are just one of the many attractions at the

fabulous park.

The birds of prey exhibition with two displays at 12 noon and 3pm each day have proved so popular they have become a permanent attraction, hence the change in the park's name.

Apart from exciting displays involving eagles, owls and falcons, there will be regular falconry classes for

beginners.

Britain's largest butterfly house continues to attract record crowds, with

80,000 visitors last year.

Hundreds of exotic butterflies float around visitors inside the newly landscaped butterfly house, complete with Mediterranean plants, flowers, tropical trees, waterfalls, streams and ponds. The park continues to cater for the young and old.

The visitor centre is accessible for pensioners - and owners are delighted more are enjoying its attractions. School parties are also welcome, and the adventure playground, with its popular aerial slide, with a new area opened for tiny tots as well.

Where else could you watch mice at work, rest and play - in the mouse

house!

The park, open from March 28, has gift and country fayre shops, tea rooms

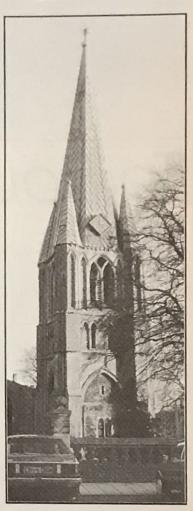
and extensive grounds.

Other attractions in the market town of Long Sutton include the fascinating Whalebone Arch in Cinder Ash Park and the parish church, St Mary's with its soaring timber spire and bust of tenor Alfred Piccaver.

#### PICTURED BELOW:

Long Sutton Butterfly and Falconry Park owner Peter Worth feeds the two new arrivals, these wonderfully ugly Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs - Thelma and Louise!





#### PICTURED ABOVE:

While you're in Long Sutton, don't forget to take a look at (you can't miss it!) the highest, most perfect timber coated spire in England, on the Parish Church, St Mary's - whose Flower Festival (April 23 to May 4 this year) is always breathtaking.

#### PICTURED RIGHT:

Sounding brass from the 13th City of Coventry Scout Marching Band provides musical accompaniment to the big parade.



#### PICTURED BELOW:

Youngsters are among the riders from Long Sutton and District Veteran Cycle Clubmaking their 32nd appearance in the parade.



#### **PICTURED ABOVE:**

Adding the final touches: Float decorators pin on tulip and hyacinth heads and add the stunning floral arrangements to the giant floats all ready for Parade Day.



#### PICTURED LEFT:

Garden Festival Wales - featuring Gryff, the festival's mascot - returns to the parade this year. 1992 is the year of the Garden Festival in Ebbw Vale, from May 1 to October 4.



### Clowning around...

#### PICTURED LEFT:

Clown on parade: This cheery chappie caught the eye on Lingarden's float in last year's Flower Parade...

#### PICTURED BELOW:

...Clowns on the ground: Parade Day fun for all ages on the Festival Site, Sir Halley Stewart Field, Spalding.



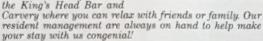


#### PICTURED LEFT:

From babies to businessmen - the message was that the Midland Bank was there for all ages in High Flyers, its eye-catching float last year. This year the Midland is suggesting it's got The Key to Success.

#### ELCOME TO THE QUEENSGATE

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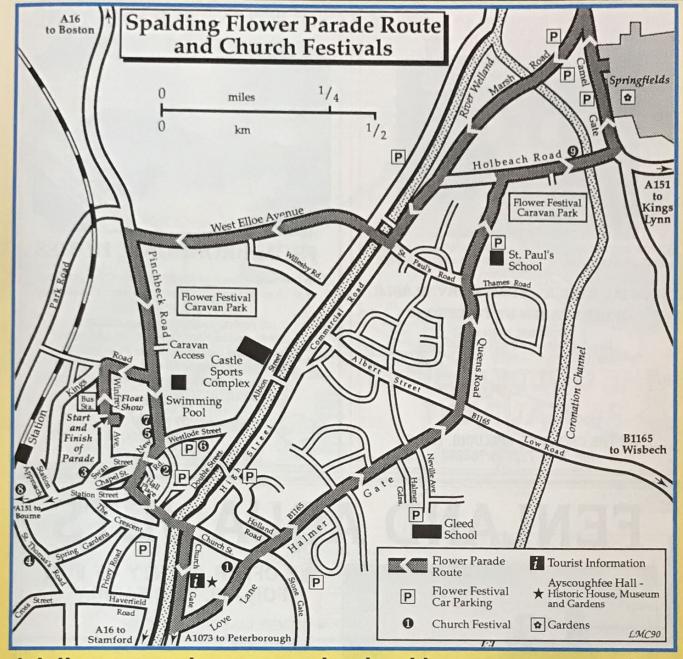
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#### to watch the parade

Spalding's 34th Flower Parade with the theme Flowers on Parade starts from the Festival Site in Winfrey Avenue (see map) on Saturday, May 2, at 1pm.

Approximate parade times: King's Road/Pinchbeck Road 1.05pm; Market Place 1.15pm; High Bridge 1.30pm; Churchgate/Love Lane 1.45pm; Halmergate/Queens Road 1.55pm; Holbeach Road/Camelgate 2.10pm; Springfields Gardens 2.30pm; Roman Bank 2.50pm; West Elloe Avenue/ Pinchbeck Road 3.10pm; return to Festival Site 3.30pm to 4pm.

The floats are on show at the Festival Site, Winfrey Avenue (9am to 7pm) until Monday, May 6. Shuttle buses to Springfields will run all weekend

Car Parking: Main parking places are

on the map; farm and industrial land is also used on Parade Day.

Camping and caravanning: District council sites and others. Consult Tourist Information Centre, Ayscoughfee Hall, Churchgate, Spalding, 0775 725468.
Central Bus Park: In Winfrey Avenue, opposite the Festival Site.

Traffic Systems: On Parade Day roads are re-opened as soon as possible. Sunday, May 3, if necessary, a signed police-directed system takes in Festival Site, Springfields Gardens, and town centre.

Spalding flower festivals, catering: 1. Parish Church, St Mary and St

Nicolas: Festival, Wednesday, April 29, to Tuesday, May 5. Refreshments.

2. Broad Street Methodist Church: Festival, Friday, May 1, to Wednesday, May 6. Refreshments.

3. Spalding Baptist Church: pre-booked parties; casual catering Parade Day

4. St Norbert's Catholic Church: Parade Day Lourdes Grotto and cafeteria

5. Spalding United Reformed Church: Decorated church. Catering (booked) Friday, April 24, to Tuesday, May 5.

6. Friends Meeting House, Westlode Street: Parade Day meals.

7. St John Ambulance, rear of 7 Pinchbeck Road: Parade weekend catering. No bookings

8. St John the Baptist Church: Decorated church, Thursday, April 30, to Tuesday, May 5. Refreshments.

9. St Paul's Church: Flower Festival Saturday, April 25, to Monday, May 4. Refreshments.

#### **OPEN FROM 12 NOON TO 12 MIDNIGHT** ON FLOWER PARADE DAY



Come and enjoy a delightful Chinese Meal in friendly and pleasant surroundings at our popular Chinese Restaurant.

#### SPECIAL TAKE-AWAY MENU AVAILABLE

ORDERS TAKEN BY TELEPHONE

**Opening Hours:** 

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#### THE GOLDEN RESTAURANT

30 THE CRESCENT, SPALDING, LINCS. Tel: 0775 722065/768282

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EACH one of the South Holland Flower Festivals is unique

Some choose Biblical themes, others echo the Flower Parade title, or are famous for craft displays, architectural features or historical figures.

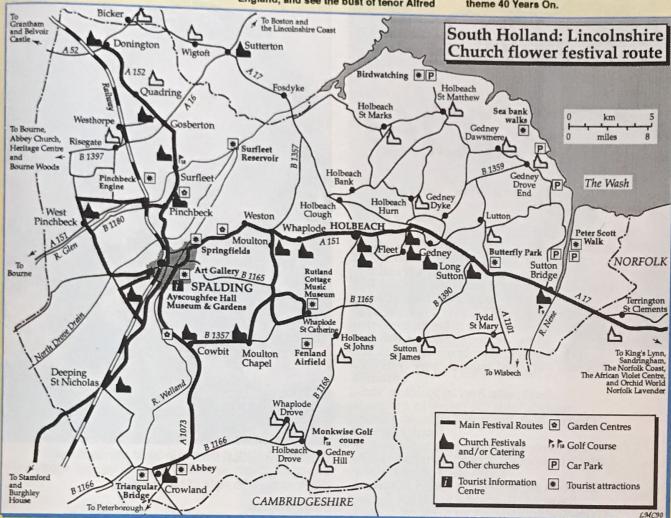
Visitors can follow the trail by reference to the map created by tourism development officer Dr Douglas Gyte and reproduced courtesy of South Holland District Council,

The map is part of a free booklet - South

Holland, the Heart of the Fens - which includes a Spalding map, four festival routes and other tourist attractions. Pick a copy up from the council's stand on the Festival Site, Winfrey Avenue, Spalding Saturday, May 2, to Monday, May 4, or from the Tourist Information Centre, Ayscoughfee Hall, Spalding. FLOWER FESTIVAL TASTERS:

★ Long Sutton - Tallest timber spire in England, and see the bust of tenor Alfred Piccaver, the Pavarotti of his time.

- ★ Donington A place of pilgrimage for Australians, home of Matthew Flinders, the first man to circumnavigate their country.
- \* Surfleet South Holland's Leaning Tower.
  - \* Pinchbeck Fine views from the tower.
  - \* Moulton Three fonts, gift stalls.
- \* Gosberton Big exhibition of crafts, theme 40 Years On.



#### ower festivals to delig

South Holland churches burst into bloom at Flower Parade and festival time.

The glorious flower festivals in towns and villages are a must-see for many

Spalding Town Centre (see map on previous page for locations):

- \* Parish Church, St Mary and St Nicolas: Wednesday, April 29, to Tuesday, May 5.
- ★ Broad Street Methodist Church: Friday, May 1, to Wednesday, May 6.
- \* United Reformed Church: Friday, April 24, to Tuesday, May 5.
- St Norbert's Roman Catholic Church: English "Lourdes" grotto, open Saturday, May 2.

Spalding outskirts:

- \* Parish Church of St John the Baptist: Decorated church, Thursday, April 30, to Monday, May 4.
- ★ St Paul's Church: Saturday, April 25 to Tuesday, May 5.

Flower Festivals in villages on the A151, east of Spalding, include:

- ★ Moulton Parish Church: Saturday, April 25, to Tuesday, May 5.
- \* Holbeach Parish Church: Friday, April 24, to Monday, May 4.
- ★ Fleet Parish Church: Friday, May 1, to Sunday, May 10.
- \* Fleet Baptist Church: Friday, May 1, to Monday, May 4.
- \* St Mary's, Long Sutton: Thursday, April 23, to Monday, May 4.

★ Moulton Chapel: decorated church and chapel, from Saturday, April 25. Village Parade, Sunday, May 3, 3pm.

Flower Festivals north of Spalding include:

- ★ Pinchbeck St Mary's: Sunday, April 26, to Tuesday, May 5.
- ★ West Pinchbeck Parish Church: Thursday, April 30, to Tuesday, May 5.
- \* Surfleet Parish Church: Wednesday, April 29, to Tuesday, May
- ★ St Peter and St Paul, Gosberton: Saturday, April 25, to Monday, May 4.
- ★ Gosberton Methodist Church: Friday, May 1, to Monday, May 4.
- ★ Donington Parish Church: Friday, May 1, to Monday, May 4.

#### Queen Sarah in the Parade

BUBBLY blonde Sarah Crampton, an 18year-old nursery nurse student, is the 1992 Flower Queen.

She's the latest in a bevy of beauties stretching back to 1950, eight years before the first Flower Parade.

The early Miss Tuliplands and their attendants toured the fields and met the folks over three designated Tulip Sundays.

The title changed to Flower Queen in 1988, as now we grow far more daffodils than tulips, and to signify that this great springtime event embraces all the church festivals with their stunning variety of floral splendour.

Sarah, who lives in Spalding, and is engaged, leads the parade in the special Queen's float, sponsored by South Holland District Council.

The council organises the annual contest, which chooses three pretty girls to represent South Holland for the year.

This year's Deputy Flower Queen is Adelaide
Boswell (21), grand-daughter of the late
leading Romany author Sylvester Boswell.
Adelaide works as a secretary for her father in
Spalding.

Third of the charming trio is Joanna Higgins, 18, from Gedney, working for A levels at Spalding High School. Students Sarah and Joanna both have Saturday jobs - but not Flower Parade weekend!

During the year, all three will be out and about in the district's towns and villages giving support to community events. The girls were chosen at a Flower Queen supper dance organised as a service to South Holland District Council by the Lincolnshire Free Press and Spalding Guardian, sister newspapers and publishers of the Eastern England Leisure Guide.

The council gives cash prizes to Sarah (£500) and Adelaide (£300). And there's £100 from the Spalding Guardian for Joanna. The council pays for the Parade Day gowns for all three girls, and Sarah and Adelaide also get an



STUNNING SMILE from blue-eyed blonde Sarah Crampton, South Holland's Flower Queen for 1992 - the lady in red on the night of her crowning.

outdoor outfit.

The council brings out the bunting, decks out floral comedy characters and brings in other flower power to decorate the festival scene.

Civic money and initiative go into the job of promoting tourism, both directed on the South Holland district and the wider Fenland region.

The South Holland Museum depicting the long history of agriculture, fen draining and the bulb industry, plus the story of the area's towns and villages, is housed in the riverside Elizabethan mansion Ayscoughfee Hall, with its fine public park.

The Hall is also the regional Tourist Information Centre, never busier than at Flower Festival Time, finding accommodation for all who want to stay over.

And the many who see us, like us, and want to visit later - and longer - will find invaluable the Book-a-Bed-Ahead service, through the nationwide link with other TICs.

## Chairman's welcome to the parade

ANOTHER miracle of nature - winter is now behind us and the elements are a little kinder.

Our workers have prepared another dazzling display for your entertainment and amazement.

Firstly, a thank you to our float sponsors, South Holland District Council and all those helpers and supporters who without them the parade could not take place, particularly St John Ambulance and the Lincolnshire constabulary.

Despite the recession, we have 14 floats this year and beauty is in the eye of the beholder - hence the theme this year Flowers on Parade.

We again have prepared a fun-packed programme at the float exhibition at the Festival Site, the Sir Halley Stewart Field, Spalding, where the floats can be seen over Saturday, Sunday and Monday May 2 to 4 (except during parade time on Saturday from 1pm to 4.30pm), and at Springfields Gardens, where the tulip displays are unequalled anywhere in the UK.

Please remember that the parade starts at 1pm prompt and I look forward to seeing you from the Range Rover at the head of the Parade.

Don't forget to cheer and clap the Flower Queen, her attendants and all the float riders.

They welcome your appreciation.

**Brian Drury** 



IN CONTROL...Flower Parade Chairman Brian Drury keeps in touch on Flower Parade Day.



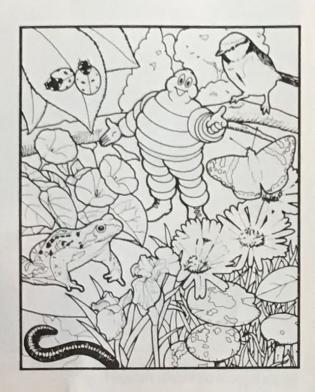


#### THREE LOVELIES...

South Holland Flower Queen Sarah Crampton (centre) is flanked by her deputy Adelaide Boswell (left) and runner-up Joanna Higgins (right). The trio of South Holland beauties will be riding high on the South Holland District Council float, the first float in Spalding Flower Parade, 1992. Watch out for them - and give them a wave!



#### I-SPY COMPETITION





Win a set of five I-Spy books - Wild Flowers, Nature, Creepy Crawlies, Trees and Birds.

Just spot the number of differences in these two pictures. Put your answer on a postcard, along with your name, age and address and send your entry to:

Michelin Man Competition
Eastern England Leisure Guide
Newspaper Offices, Priory House, The Crescent
Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 1AB

Postcards should arrive not later than 20 August 1992. The first 10 correct answers out of the postbag will win.



**LOOK OUT** for more I-Spy books. There are over 30 colourful titles. Each one is packed with masses of things to spot, questions to answer and badges to win.

Rules: Entrants must not be over 13 years of age. Employees of Welland Valley Newspapers, Michelin, and their families cannot enter. The judge's decision is final.



#### MAKE SURE IT'S A MICHELIN

#### Award for 30 years of photographic expertise

## Colouring in your parade memories

A SPALDING man whose photographic hobby has developed into 30 years' service to Flower Festival visitors is to receive a special award on Flower Parade Day.

Mr Bryan Simpson is the man behind Spring Photographic and Spring Colour of Springfields, Spalding, which sells slides, prints, postcards and tourist guides to visitors.

Every year the Worshipful Company of Gardeners award a trophy - on South Holland District Council recommendation - for outstanding services to Spalding Flower Parade.

The trophy is presented at the council's civic luncheon.

Mr Simpson, a retired financial director with the giant Spalding-based company Geest plc, said: "I've been watching the parade since 1960 - two years after it began - and I joined Spalding Photographic Society early on.

"People began asking the parade organisers where they could get photographs and colour slides when they found their own were not too good."

So, in 1963, with Society members and other enthusiasts, he began producing colour slide 20-picture strips.

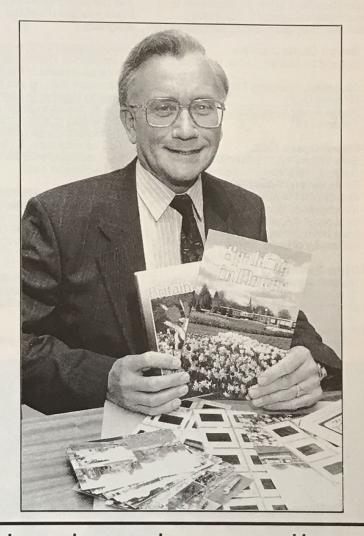
And he has since seen the demand for slides and ciné give way almost entirely to colour prints and

Spring Photographic is also distributor for England's Floral County (see story below), the popular 30-minute video on Lincolnshire which highlights the making of the parade

highlights the making of the parade.

"If all the work was a fully commercial venture we'd lose money, but we're trying to help both the Flower Parade and Springfields and give people what they want," said the 1992 winner of the city livery company's prestigious award.

PICTURED RIGHT: Bryan Simpson, 1992 Worshipful Company of Gardeners' Award winner.



#### Captured on video to enjoy any time

SOUTH Lincolnshire past and present feature on two videos about the county.

Seems Like Yesterday is a selection of clips of old films from the first half of this century, collected by Lincolnshire and Humberside Film Archive.

The clips feature the whole of Lincolnshire and cover subjects as diverse as industry, farming, horticulture, sporting events, holiday camps, Lincolnshire airfields and life on the home front in two world wars.

The 30-minute film also includes footage of famous visitors to the county including American ambassador Joseph Kennedy, Gracie Fields and George V.

Other memories include the big freeze of 1938 the devastation caused by the east coast floods in 1953.

Springfields Gardens and the Flower Parade appear on the video England's Floral County, featured on TV-AM before Christmas and to be seen on Australian television this year.

The video - more than 5,000 copies have been sold - is available from Springfields Gardens, Spalding, £11.99 (£12.99 by post).

Seems Like Yesterday is available from Ayscoughfee Museum, Spalding, £14.98, or from Spring Colour Publications, Springfields, Spalding, £15.98 (including postage); telephone 0775 724411.

#### ORDER OF FLOW

#### SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1pm

SPALDING Flower Parade will leave the Festival Site, Sir Halley Stewart Field, Winfrey Avenue, at 1pm on Saturday, May 2.

For their safety spectators are advised not to block the road on the route.

This is the 17th Parade appearance for comedy band Romsey Old Cadets (secretary Mr S White). Famous for their musicianship, costumes and crazy routines, they get a great welcome every

- 1 Belvoir Castle Jousters Entered by Belvoir Castle, Grantham.
- 2 Chairman, Spalding Flower Parade Mr Brian Drury. Range Rover by courtesy of Boston Tractors Ltd.
- 3 Flower Queen 1992.

Entered by South Holland District Council, the leading float conveys the South Holland Flower Queen, her deputy and the runner-up, the charming trio chosen to represent the district throughout the year. The attendants have been chosen from six local secondary schools.

- 4 Derby Serenaders Showband Musical director Mr M F Ward. Sponsored by East Midlands Electricity plc.
- 5 Fountain of Youth Entered by Lincolnshire TEC and

time. Parade organisers will unleash them at 12 noon - to allow them to roll round the route in their usual madcap style, and with their own idea of time.

You have been warned!

Street entertainers following on will include the Michelin vintage opentopped bus, followed by Morris dancers and the public address vehicle with those vital details of the parade's progress.

sponsored by local businesses.
Lincolnshire TEC's float is designed to raise awareness of the importance of education, training and business working together in partnership.
The float is an example of that partnership in action, thanks to business sponsorship, pupil participation and TEC co-ordination. To find out more, see Lincolnshire TEC's stand on the Sir Halley Stewart Field.

- 6 Bringing the Best of the World to You Entered by Littlewoods, who bring the best possible value-for-money products from around the world to their stores, home shopping and INDEX catalogue shop customers.
- 7 Eastwood Arcadians Band Secretary Mrs M Machin Sponsored by British Sugar.
- 8 Teatime treat Entered by British Sugar.

The larger than life chocolate cup cake and the cream meringue - the central characters of this year's colourful float from Silver Spoon - are just two examples from this cornucopia of delights of the deliciously mouthwatering confections that can be made using the nation's number one sugar; Silver Spoon, naturally.

9 Long Sutton and District Veteran Cycle Club

Secretary Miss N A Wellband. This is the club's 32nd appearance in the Flower Parade.

- 10 Hasland Drum Corps Secretary Mrs J Lee.
- 11 The History of the Turkey
  Entered by Turners Turkeys, Britain's
  biggest exporters of turkey meat and
  holders of the Queen's Award for
  Export.
- 12 Young Farmers on Parade.
  Entered by Spalding and District Young Farmers' Club. Their annual float is built entirely by members everyone joins in and has fun doing so. The Young Farmers' catering centre on the Festival Site at the Sir Halley Stewart Field specialises in good country food. Proceeds go to local charities and club funds.
- 13 Braintree Dimensions
  Band manager Mrs P Amos.

#### 14 Healthy Eating at Tesco

Entered by Tesco, one of the UK's largest food retailers with 380 stores nationwide, the float features the Healthy Eating symbol, which appears on over 150 products to help customers quickly identify those which contribute to a healthy diet. Tesco opens a new superstore in Boston, New Hammond Beck Road, in late May.

Road, in late May.

15 Out in the Garden
Entered by
Lingarden Ltd,
As the world's
largest daffodil
growing
organisation,
Lingarden is happy



LAST YEAR

Hey Diddle Diddle was the cheerful creation from Geest. This year the company celebrates Olympic year in Going for Gold.

#### ER PARADE, 1992



THIS YEAR From the Wild West to cosmopolitan Europe - Turners Turkeys plan to tell **The History of the Turkey** with their float in this year's parade.

that its products really are "green" and benefit the environment wherever they are planted, be it a country garden, city park, naturalised woodland or balcony boxes.

- 16 Breakdown vehicle just in case
- 17 Lincoln District Scout Band Chairman Mr B Blackbourn. Sponsored by Geo Adams and Sons.
- 18 Garden Festival Wales 1992
  Gryff, the Garden Festival Wales
  friendly mascot, flies in by aeroplane
  bringing greetings from South Wales to
  Spalding Flower Parade. Spectators!
  Garden Festival Wales, the fifth
  National Garden Festival, takes place
  in Ebbw Vale from May 1 to October 4

19 Flowers All the Way

this year.

Entered by E Four Sales, New Covent Garden, London. One of the country's leading wholesalers of flowers especially Lincolnshire grown.

20 Melodians Steel Band from London Sponsored by Express Newspapers and Broadgate Builders Ltd of Spalding.

- 21 The Key to Success Entered by Midland Bank.
- 22 Breakdown vehicle just in case

23 Thirteenth City of Coventry Scout Marching Band

Director Mr R H Nowell. This is the band's 27th appearance in the Parade. Sponsored by Spalding and District churches.

24 Making the Most of Flowers and Plants

Entered by the Flowers and Plants Association, New Covent Garden, London. The Association has been set up to promote cut flowers and plants. Its aim is to encourage the public to be more confident over buying flowers and plants and to understand how best to look after them.

25 Growing For You

The float entered by the National Farmers' Union depicts the quality produce which farmers and growers

supply at competitive prices with the demands of the consumer and the environment very much in mind - a theme developed at the NFU static display, Festival Site, Sir Halley Stewart Field.

- 26 Melton Mowbray Tally Ho's Band Secretary Mr A G E Cragg.
- 27 Life's a Beach and then you Party
  Rotaract is an international
  organisation open to anyone between
  18 and 30 years. Main functions are
  community work, fund raising and
  fellowship. This float has been
  entered by Rotaract District 1070,
  which represents over 20 clubs from
  Spalding to Loughborough, Bedford
  to Grantham. District Secretary S
  Parkin.

28 Going for Gold

Entered by Geest plc. Geest leads the UK market in the sourcing and supply of fresh produce and is a major producer of chilled and frozen convenience foods for multiples.

29 Breakdown vehicle - just in case

#### SPALDING FLOWER PARADE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO THANK...

SPALDING Flower Parade committee expresses sincere thanks to:

Lincolnshire Constabulary for their close co-operation:

Swan Street Motors, R C Edmondson and Whitaker's Ltd, of Spalding for the loan of breakdown vehicles;

Ford Tractor Operations, Basildon, for

loan of tractors;

Gee Tee Bulb Co, for generous assistance in providing storage;

Spalding Bulb and Produce Auction directors and staff;

Lin-Pac for generous supply of materials;

South Holland District Council and staff; Spalding and District Flower Lovers' Club:

Burden's for loan of equipment; St John Ambulance;

Lincolnshire Free Press and Spalding Guardian;

East Elloe Rotary Club for help in selling programmes;

Kees van Driel, float designer; Fine Arts Ltd, for generous use of buildings;

Spring Photographic, for kind loan of transparencies:

Geoff Gilbert Transport, Swineshead. Thanks too to all other companies and individuals who help to ensure the success of Spalding Flower Parade.



#### Handcraft, high tech!

HANDCRAFT and high tech combine to make Spalding Flower Parade.

The handcraft - the blacksmith's wizardry with float metalwork, and many skilled fingers which pin on up to eight million flower heads.

High tech - this brings the art work winging across the world by fax. For last year Dutch-born Kees van Driel, international float and festival designer, left Lincolnshire to live in Australia.

PICTURED LEFT: Blacksmith Geoff Dodd at work creating a gigantic daffodil!



**ABOVE:** Michael Pratt at work on the polythene foam, the base for the flower heads. **BELOW:** Gerry Tann measuring up to the metalwork on one of the floats.



Kees and before him his father Adrianus have created all the grand designs and endearing characters over 34 years of parades.

From his Adelaide headquarters Kees faxes colour designs to the float sponsors via parade organiser Peter Atkinson at Springfields Gardens amendments can be transmitted across continents in minutes.

Of course, Kees flies back every autumn to show designs to sponsors, and again for parade week, when he sees the flower covered end-product take to the streets.

The first step - Spalding blacksmith Geoff Dodd takes scaled working drawings, blows them up 25 times, and makes a rough template of every section, before fashioning and welding each in metal, following every delicate twist and turn of the design.

Next step is to wrap up the framework Egyptian-mummy style, using 4mm thick foam which can be cut, shaped and stuck tight on the framework.

Geoff and assistant Gerry Tann (he's president of Spalding Lions) have to have a head for heights, for though 12 feet is the limit to clear the doors at Gee Tee Bulbs of Spalding, where the floats are created, additions may add up to 16 feet, when care is needed not to tangle with the trees.

Super spectacular giant double floats can be 60 feet in length, and great skill is needed from the drivers of the tractors which power them in getting round corners.

Some spectacular floats to look out for this year include Geest plc's Going for Gold, celebrating Olympics Year, and, as always, British Sugar Corporation has sweet treats in mind - this time a cornucopia of cupcakes!

On D-Day minus two, float decoration takes over - done by gang labour, volunteers working for charity, and youth groups.

charity, and youth groups.
There's a cheerful melee in
Spalding Bulb and Produce Halls,
where visitors can watch on Friday,
May 1, from late afternoon (for a
small charge) and feel the great team
spirit as the marathon task comes to
an end.

All the heads are pinned on individually using giant hat pins - 1,000 are needed per square yard of float - before the final touch, a set piece for each float created by members of Spalding Flower Lovers' Club.



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#### VIDEO



#### England's Floral County

featuring

FLOWER PARADE

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6.00 pm-10.30 pm 6.00 pm-10.30 pm 10.00 am-11.00 pm 10.00 am-11.00 pm

10.00 am-10.00 pm



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We protect our customers' interests

#### One in a thousand...

VISITORS to this year's Spalding Flower Parade will be able to buy an unusual, exclusive one-in-a-thousand souvenir of the event.

Phonecards - only 1,000 have been made - which will give details of this year's Flower Parade are being produced by Spaldingbased Pelennor Promotions on behalf of Springfields Horticultural Society.

The 1,000 cards feature a Flower Parade float from last year's parade in colour.

Each card is individually numbered and mounted in a folder publicising the Flower Parade.

The complete package will be on sale at £6.

There is a growing army of collectors around the world prepared to deal in phonecards, and British Telecom's Card Collectors Club now has over 3,000 members.

The most sought-after cards are those of which 1,000 or fewer have been made.

The highest price paid for a phonecard so far was for a pair of first issues from Taiwan dated 1984, which fetched £28,000 at a recent sale.

It is hoped some of the special Flower Parade phonecards will be available on Parade day, but to be sure of obtaining one, send a cheque for £7 (including £1 recorded post) to Pelennor Promotions, PO Box 12, Spalding, PE11 4HX.

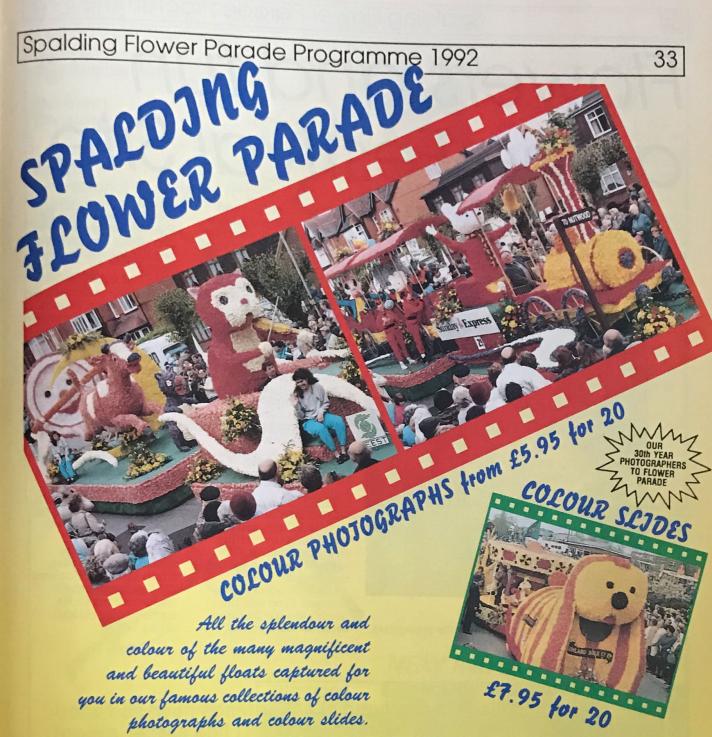


#### Sweet treats on Parade Day...

#### **PICTURED RIGHT:**

British Sugar's Silver Spoon float is always one of the highlights of the parade. Last year's saw Hansel and Gretel up to all sorts of sugar capers. This year they promise a cornucopia of delights - including chocolate cup cakes and cream meringues - in Teatime Treat.





ORDER FORM 1992 (Telephone Orders accepted with credit cards) To: SPRING COLOUR PUBLICATIONS SPRINGFIELDS SPALDING, LINCS PE12 6ET Telephone (0775) 724411
Please me the following:  1992 FLOWER PARADE  Sets E13 — 20 Colour Photographs (6" × 4")
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#### Flowers and fun at the Festival Site

ALL the beauty of flowers and the fun of the festival will be at the Festival Site, the Sir Halley Stewart Field, Spalding, throughout the holiday weekend, Saturday to Monday, May 2 to 4.

The 14 Parade floats will all be on display for you examine more closely except during the parade itself between 1pm and 4.30pm - and you will be able to see for yourself the incredible amount of work that goes into these magnificent monuments to the beauty of flowers.

Frazer Hines, better known as Joe Sugden of ITV's Emmerdale Farm (although he has appeared in a host of films and other TV shows) will be there with Liz Hobbs, seven times British water-ski racing champion, and three times European water-ski champion and world champion from 1981-85.

The couple, now married, hosted ITV's Country Challenge together.

Other attractions will include a flight simulator, the ultimate in exciting flying experiences - without your feet leaving the ground.

The Willi Schneider Oompah Band and the north's top star Bavarian band, Steinamite, will provide musical entertainment while for the children there will be everything from the ever popular inflatables to clowns.

Big Old Bill the stiltwalking policeman and Professor Buster Balloon will be entertaining visitors throughout the weekendand look out for their amazing comedy car act. One of Britain's major

One of Britain's major tourist attractions, the American Adventure Theme Park, will be at the site to entertain visitors throughout the weekend.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution will have a display and there will be a wide range of trade stands and exhibits.

The festival site will be open from 9am to 7pm each day.

Admission fees are Saturday and Monday, adults and senior citizens £2; Sunday, adults £3, senior citizens £2.50; accompanied children under 16 free.



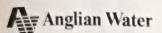
COMIC CAPERS...

With a comedy car act to entertain the youngsters.



#### PICTURED LEFT:

Meet Emmerdale's Joe Sugden (alias actor Frazer Hines) at the Festival Site. He'll be there with his wife, Liz Hobbs, who just happens to be a former British and European water-ski champion, and now a famous face from television too - her series have included Hobbs Choice and Country Challenge.



Northern Division

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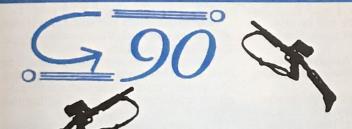
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★ G90 is situated in Great Paxton, St Neots, 5 mins off A1★

#### Country fair: It's



#### PICTURED LEFT:

Clowning around last year were the ever-popular comedy band Romsey Old Cadets. Who knows what exotic costumes they'll dream up this year? One thing's for sure - they'll raise a laugh when they do their stuff at Springfields Country Fair on Parade Weekend Sunday, May 3.

#### That's entertainment...



WALKING TALL...
With Boots the stilt-walking clown at Springfields
Country Fair.

SPALDING Flower Parade will be just one of many attractions at Springfields Gardens Country Fair.

The Country Fair, from Saturday, May 2, to Monday, May 4, includes something for everyone.

But no one should miss the spectacular appearance on the Saturday afternoon at about 2.15pm of Spalding Flower Parade as it makes its way through Springfields arena on its way back to the Festival Site at the Sir Halley Stewart Field in the centre of Spalding.

If you are unlucky enough to miss the floats on Saturday, you will be able to see them at the Festival Site in the Sir Halley Stewart field, Spalding, over the weekend.

Other attractions at Springfields - apart from the magnificent gardens themselves, of course - will be Spalding Marching Ambassadors on the Saturday only, and the old favourites Romsey Old Cadets on the Sunday only.

Top marching band Wellingborough Radwell Band will be entertaining visitors on the Saturday, while on Monday there will be the Rangers of Derby Band.

On Sunday afternoon there will be the Top Band contest when you will have the opportunity to see a fine display of marching bands.

To sweeten the day, there will be the Silver Spoon Square Dancers.

Meanwhile Boots the stiltwalking clown will be mixing with the crowds and amusing the children.

Throughout the weekend there will be craft and trade stands where traders from the immediate area and some from far afield will be promoting and selling their products.

The large number of caravanners drawn to the fair will enjoy special caravan accessory stands at the fair on Saturday and Sunday.

One of the most amazing features of the weekend will be the Daily Express Flying Crusaders with the four freefall girls and the Dynamic duo in their old and new aerobatic aircraft. Full details on this special act on the facing page.

For the youngsters there will be lots of rides and slides as well as quad bikes for them to try.

Don't forget to visit the garden shop, where there will be plenty to help you transfer to your own garden some of the marvellous ideas on display at Springfields.

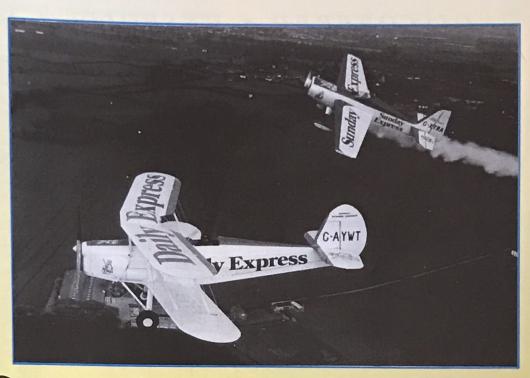
There will be full catering and bar facilities

Springfields Gardens and Country Fair is open from 10am to 6pm each day. Admission: Saturday and Sunday, adults £3, senior citizens £2.50; Monday, adults and senior citizens £2. Accompanied children are admitted free.

#### lots of fun for all

#### **PICTURED RIGHT:**

Another near miss...as a 1947 vintage biplane and an aerobatic monoplane come close to a collision - missing by inches. See the aerobatic aircraft of the Daily and Sunday Express Flying Crusaders at Springfields Country Fair, Spalding, on Saturday, May 2



#### Flying Crusaders swoop down from the skies



BRITAIN'S largest civil aerial display team, the Flying Crusaders, will be appearing at the Country Fair over Flower

Parade weekend at Springfields.
Sponsored by the Daily and Sunday Express, the Flying Crusaders includes aerobatic aircraft as well as a four girl freefall parachute team.

John Harper and John Connor have paired up a 1947 vintage Stampe SV4b biplane with a modern state-of-the-art Extra 230 aerobatic monoplane.

The two intrepid pilots fly head-on towards each other at a combined speed of 350 mph, aiming to miss a collision by the smallest possible margin.

During the display they swap over several times as first one

and then the other takes centre-stage.

The freefall parachute team (PICTURED LEFT) features Angie, the parachute team leader, who is a qualified keep-fit instructor, but prefers dropping from the team's helicopter at 10,000 feet above the ground.

Her speciality is linking up with one of her team-mates

under canopy and flying down to the arena in tandem.
The Crusaders' distinctive neon pink parachutes are one of the latest high performance designs and are capable of a forward speed of 25mph.

Smoke canisters attached to their ankles allow the audience to see them as they drop 6,000 feet, hurtling earthwards at over 100 mph.

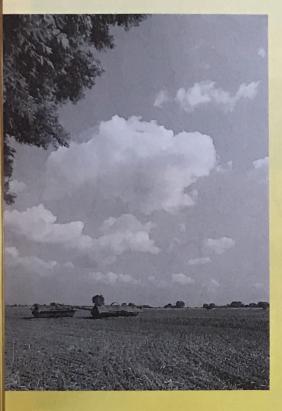
The parachutists will be at Springfields on Saturday and Sunday, May 2 and 3.

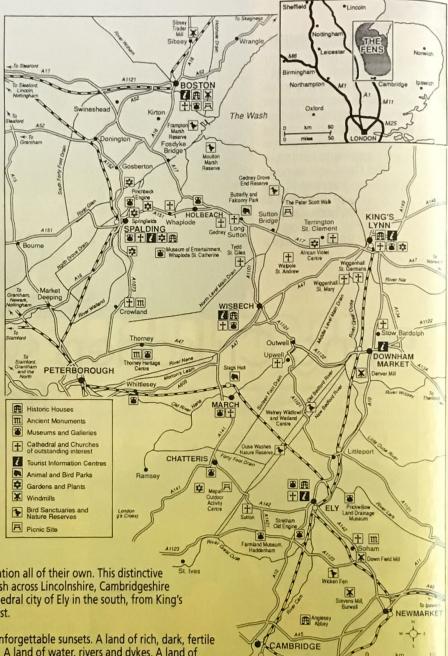
The aerobatic duo will appear on Parade Day Saturday, May 2, only.

# THEFENS

UNDISCOVERED · UNSPOILT · UNRIVALLED

Introducing The Fens of Cambridgeshire Lincolnshire and West Norfolk





The Fens are unique, with an atmosphere and fascination all of their own. This distinctive area of eastern England spans out from around the Wash across Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and West Norfolk. From Boston in the north to the cathedral city of Ely in the south, from King's Lynn in the east through Wisbech to Spalding in the west.

A land of dramatic open landscapes, of vast skies and unforgettable sunsets. A land of rich, dark, fertile soil drained and reclaimed by man over many centuries. A land of water, rivers and dykes. A land of almost wild solitude, so far removed from urban life. On the open road, experience the pleasure of touring through peaceful countryside at your own pace. Why not take to two wheels? Rediscover the fun and freedom of cycling in the Fens. No hills to climb, very little traffic and one of the driest, sunniest climates in Britain.

Historic market towns stand proud as landmarks on the horizon, drawing in visitors from far and wide like magnets across the open land. Elsewhere, seen through early morning mist or silhouetted against the setting sun, church towers and windmills rise majestically from the land, none more so than Ely Cathedral, "the ship of the Fens" sailing above the Isle of Ely.

Tranquil waterways are ideal for relaxed boating and cruising, and are amongst the best waterways for angling throughout Britain. The famous wetlands provide a haven for wildlife, their role as a centre for migrating wildfowl creating a spectacle renowned throughout Europe. Across the Fens, the rich fertile land produces an abundance of crops, from endless fields of wheat, to acres of daffodils, of orchards in blossom and rose fields in bloom. This is the heart of Britain's flower and bulb industry, celebrated with spectacular displays, parades and festivals.

# AROUND BOSTON

Lincolnshire's premier port sited on the banks of the River Witham is characterised by fine historic buildings, including Britain's tallest working windmill. The huge octangonal tower of St Botolph's Church, better known as 'The Stump', overshadows the pretty market place where bustling open air markets are held every Wednesday and Saturday. Strong American connections are remembered at the historic Guildhall Museum, including the cells where the Pilgrim Fathers were imprisoned. Open air auctions every Wednesday, modern sports centre and leisure pool, thriving arts centre, excellent moorings at Grand Sluice.

## AROUND WISBECH AND FENLAND

At the centre of a famous fruit and rose growing area, Wisbech is a distinguished Georgian town with a wealth of historic buildings. Stroll along the elegant brinks overlooking the river to Peckover House (NT) with its fine rococco decorations and rare Victorian garden; Visit the Wisbech and Fenland Museum in the grand Georgian crescent, the Angles Arts Centre; thriving open air market on Thursdays and Saturdays or simply relax with a pint of the local Elgoods real ale. Not to be missed is the spectacular Rose Fair held in July. Why not spend a day on a traditional farm at Stags Holt farm and stud, 5 miles south of Wisbech.

## AROUND ELY

Look out across the Fens from the tower of Ely Cathedral, imagine the landscape before drainage took place, and you will appreciate why this is called the Isle of Ely. This small market town beside the River Great Ouse, was once a monastic settlement, its early medieval buildings still found today around the foot of the magnificent Cathedral. A traditional Thursday market, riverside walks, unusual museums such as the Stained Glass Centre, Ely Museum, and Oliver Cromwell's former family home all make this an attractive place in which to stay whilst exploring the Fens.

## AROUND SPALDING AND SOUTH HOLLAND

Experience the special landscape and wildlife of the South Lincolnshire Fens, the Marsh and the Wash. Visit the Butterfly Park, Springfields, Spalding Flower Parade, Pinchbeck Engine, Crowland Abbey and Bridge, Spalding's Ayscoughfee Hall and fine Georgian terraces lining the river Welland, the Museum of Entertainment, Baytree, Rainsbury's and Birchgrove Garden Centres. Explore Medieval Seabanks, and the Peter Scott Walk around the Wash, an internationally important bird migration site. With town trails, scenic drives, church flower festivals, nature reserves and church trails there's a great deal to do in South Holland.

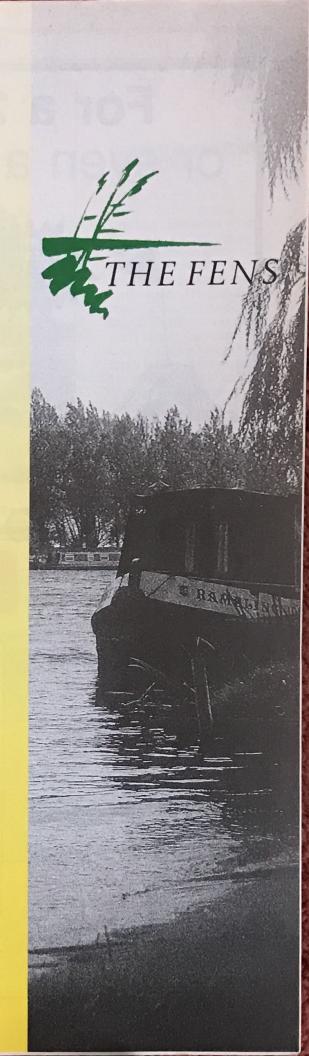
# AROUND KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

King's Lynn was one of England's foremost ports from the 11th century, as the fine buildings around its two market places and along the riverfront testify. It has a wealth of accommodation, pubs and restaurants, four museums, quality shopping and a lively arts festival each July. Downham Market, with its unusual clock tower, is the centre of Norfolk's fenland. Visit nearby Denver Sluice and windmill, explore attractive Upwell and Stow Bardolph (with its bizarre wax effigy); see the wildfowl at Welney and the colourful array of African Violets, orchids and ornamental conifers at Terrington St Clement.

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES	
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KING'S LYNN	(0553) 763044
SPALDING	(0775) 725468
WISBECH	(0945) 583263

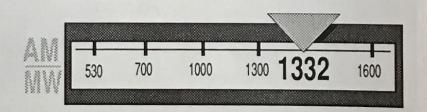
For your FREE official tourist guide to the Fens write to:

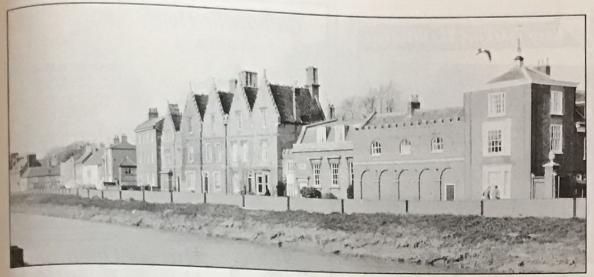
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## PICTURED LEFT:

The fine Georgian facade of North Brink, on the River Nene at Wisbech.

# Wisbech: Capital of Fenland towns

FROM early times, the Wash ports of Boston, King's Lynn and Wisbech all flourished and remain active to this day.

As the Fens were drained, the farmland created great wealth for some inhabitants, reflected in the grand style of architecture in some of the towns - such as the Georgian Brinks and Crescent of Wisbech.

Among the fine houses in Wisbech, known to many as Capital of the Fens, is Peckover House in North Brink which has a garden with a working orangery.

The home of Quaker bankers from 1722 to 1943, it's now owned by the National Trust.

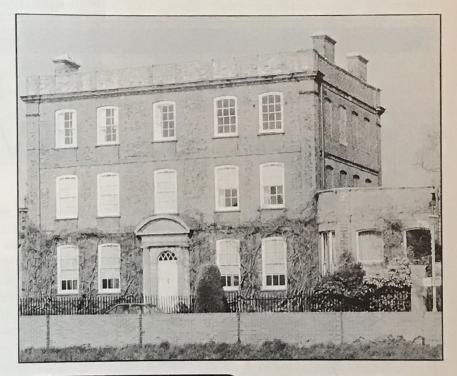
Wisbech has a famous son - Thomas Clarkson, who, along with William Wilberforce, are the men most remembered in the fight to abolish slavery.

Clarkson has a splendid memorial beside the Old Town Bridge.

It's 68 feet high, designed by Sir Gilbert Scott and put up by public subscription in 1881.

The Wisbech and Fenland museum trace the fascinating history and heritage of the town and is well worth a visit.

Other Wisbech attractions include the Angles Arts Centre, with a busy programme of theatre, exhibitions and other events; Wisbech Rose Fair in July; Elgoods Brewery - with real ale; and the glorious expanses of the Fens, ideal for birdwatching, fishing and boating.



Wisbech tourist information: 0945 583263

#### PICTURED ABOVE:

National Trust-owned Peckover House, one of the finest buildings on North Brink, Wisbech, is well worth a visit.



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Day visitors £1 per person over 5 years of age. Groups visits. Adults £2.50, OAPs and students £2.00. Children £1.50 (these are discounted rates for 15 or over in group). School visits: Children £2.00. Adults no charge. Caravans: £4 per night. Campers (per night): Adults £1.40, Children 6-16 70p.

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#### STYLISH BEAUTY...

Grimsthorpe
Castle (right), built
by architect John
Vanbrugh with
parks laid out by
Capability Brown.

#### TURRETED CASTLE...

Moat, battlements and all at Tattershall Castle (below).





# SPOT THE HORSESHOES...

At Oakham Castle (right), where a banqueting hall remains, part of a late 12th century manor house.



# Kings of the castle

SPEND a day in the magnificent surroundings of the area's stately homes or castles. There are plenty to choose from: Belvoir Castle, Belton House, Burghley House, Grimsthorpe Castle, Tattershall Castle, Oakham Castle are in easy reach!

★ Grimsthorpe Castle near Bourne was built by famous architect and playwright Sir John Vanbrugh in spacious parkland laid out by Capability Brown. The castle has limited opening on Sundays and Bank Holidays from May 24 to September 13, 2pm to 6pm, although the park and gardens open May 2 to September 13 every Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday, 12 noon to 6pm.

★ Tattershall Castle in Tattershall on the A153 Lincoln-Skegness road is open all year (apart from December 25 and 26) 10.30am to 6pm, March to October; 12 noon to 4.30pm November to March. The moated castle was built in 1440 by Ralph Cromwell, Treasurer of England. Only the massive 100 feet-high keep, moat and guardhouse remain. There are large tapestries and new displays in the turret rooms and a large model of the castle as it was in 1693 in the guardhouse.

★ Oakham Castle in Leicestershire is part of a late 12th century manor house. The Norman banqueting hall contains

a remarkable collection of horseshoes left by Royalty and peers of the realm. The grounds open daily, 10am to 5.30pm; the castle Tuesdays to Saturdays and Bank Holidays 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5.30pm November to March, 4pm closing.

★ Burghley House, Stamford, was built by William Cecil, Lord High Treasurer to Elizabeth I. The Heaven Room by Italian artist Verrio, is considered the finest painted room in England.

★ Belton House, near Grantham, now a National Trust property, was the home of the Brownlow family. Built in 1685 it has fine state rooms.

★ Belvoir Castle has belonged to the Duke of Rutland's ancestors since the first building on site after the Norman Conquest.



THE QLD... Peterborough Cathedral - a superb Norman structure - is an island of peace and quiet amid the hubbub of this busy city.

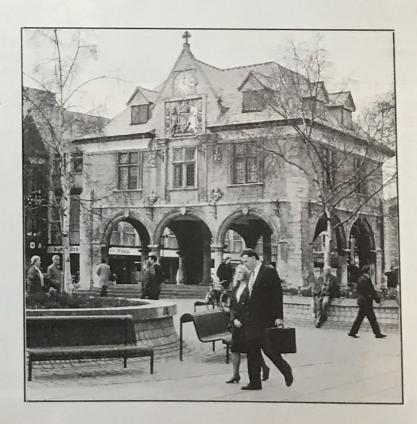


AND THE NEW... Bustling Queensgate, Peterborough's modern jewel in the crown, a shopping complex that is deservedly ranked beside those of much bigger cities.

#### HISTORY ALL AROUND ...

Historic Butter Cross (**right**, Market Cross of Guildhall) dominates Cathedral Square, Peterborough. Built in 1667 it is bounded by shops and faces the cathedral.

Peterborough information: 0773 317336

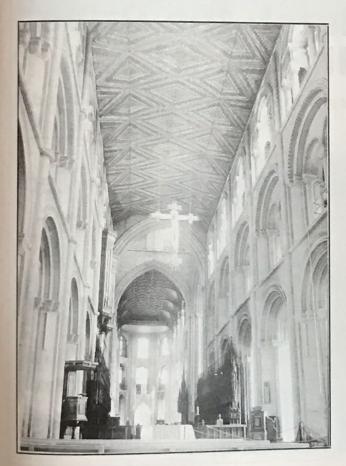


#### A POET'S CORNER ...

Rural poet John Clare lived in this cottage at Helpston. just to the north of Peterborough, from his birth in 1793 until 1832. The talented, self-taught man sadly died in Northampton Asylum in 1864 - his widow died in one of the former cottages in Winsover Road in Spalding. In 1989 a plaque was unveiled to him in poet's corner in Westminster Abbey. The house is privately owned, so not open to the public.



# City where ancient and modern meet



FANCY a journey through time? Then Peterborough is a must with its fine mixture of historic buildings and modern development.

Famed for its magnificent Norman Cathedral, the West front of which is claimed to be the finest in Europe, Peterborough really does have much to offer - nearly 5,000 years of history and prosperity to be exact!

Early beginnings of a Bronze Age settlement - an entire village built on a wooden platform - can be seen perfectly preserved at Flag Fen.

The Normans were the next, building the superb Cathedral which towers majestically above the city.

Peterborough was once regarded as not much more than a railway junction with a fine cathedral - then along came the Development Corporation.

#### PICTURED LEFT:

The painted wooden ceiling of Peterborough Cathedral dates from about 1220 and is unique in England.

Designated a New Town, Peterborough became the focus of development on a grand scale.

Thousands of new homes were built, thousands of jobs created with the influx of companies grasping the opportunities Peterborough had to offer; shopping, leisure, recreation, and entertainment were also well catered for.

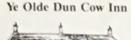
The city's modern-day jewel in the crown is the Queensgate shopping centre, an air-conditioned complex which stands beside other big city enterprises.

Traditional outdoor shopping areas have been enhanced with imaginative and extensive

pedestrianisation schemes. There's the Key Theatre beside the River Nene, Nene Country Park, which stretches from the city centre to the A1, with Ferry Meadows its playground of 500 acres of lakes, woodland and water meadows, making home to a host of pastimes and sports and the list goes on.

So why not pop along and

see for yourself.



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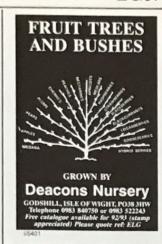
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STONE-BUILT FINERY ...

The beautiful St Mary's Church, Stamford, (above), stands atop St Mary's Hill, just one of many delightful views and vistas in this attractive town. Stamford Arts Centre,

with a popular programme of plays, concerts and exhibitions, is just behind in St Mary's Street.

#### **BREWING AS IT** WAS...

A place of special interest in Stamford is the Brewery Museum (right), a Victorian steam brewery with displays of working

DANIEL Lambert, who weighed 52 stone 11 lb when he died in 1809, is buried in the cemetery of St Martin's Church in Stamford.

That fascinating fact alone may not be interesting enough to attract you to the town, but the narrow passageways and cobbled streets -not to mention the hundreds of listed buildings are certainly worth exploring.

Stamford is a delightful stone town with two museums - one history and archaeology, the other a Victorian steam brewery plus a flourishing arts centre and many shops, restaurants and pubs.

Five hundred buildings are listed as being of architectural and historic interest! The town, which once had more than 65 coaching inns and hostelries, has six churches.

Stamford has been dubbed "the best stone town in England", and it certainly retains medieval and Georgian charm.

Don't miss Burghley House on the outskirts of the town - the home of the Cecil family for over 400 years - where both the home and deer park

are well worth a visit.

The annual Burghley Horse Trials attract visitors from all over the country.

Stamford Shakespeare Company at Tolethorpe Hall, Great Casterton, is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Theatre-goers enjoy a summer season (June to August) of Shakespeare plays in the open air - though the audience is under cover! Picnics on the lawn add to the atmosphere.

This year's plays are Julius Caesar, A Midsummer Night's Dream and Love's Labour's Lost. For information or to book - telephone booking for this year's season opens on Tuesday, May 5 - contact the Tourist Information Centre, Stamford Museum, Broad Street, Stamford 56133.





# A TALE OF TWO WINDMILLS ...

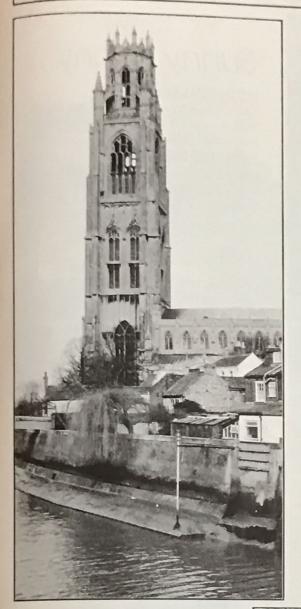
In Boston (left), stands the Maud Foster Mill, a five-sailed mill dating from 1809, still in use daily. While over at Heckington (below) stands a magnificent eight-sailed windmill.





#### CORNY AND CRAFTY ...

Heckington, on the A1121 between Boston and Sleaford, boasts England's only eight-sailed windmill (above) that still works and grinds corn. Just opposite is the Pearoom (left) which houses a centre for contemporary crafts, with craft workshops, displays and shops.



# Boston: Try its ancient charms

BOSTON'S most famous landmark, the 14th century St Botolph's Church, is better known as "The Stump".

It dominates the ancient market town and can be seen for miles around in the surrounding, flat countryside.

It is reputed to have the highest church tower but one in Great Britain.

Visitors can, at certain times, climb to the base of the lantern - the topmost section of the tower, used to guide sailors coming up Boston Deeps and Haven - and possibly see as far as Lincoln Cathedral on a clear day!

The windmills that were once a common sight in Lincolnshire have dwindled in numbers.

But a superb example remains beside the Maud Foster Drain in the centre of the town - the Maud Foster Mill, a five-sailed windmill which dates from 1809. Seven floors high, it's the tallest working windmill in the UK and is open to the public on Wednesdays and Sundays.

The mill produces a variety of stoneground flours - which you can buy on the premises.

Other landmarks to look out for in Boston include the Guildhall in South Street which contain the cells in which the Pilgrim Fathers were imprisoned in 1607.

Custom House of 1725 bears witness, with many other buildings, to Boston's maritime activity, still an important aspect of the local economy.

Blackfriars in Spain Lane, off a charming cobbled street, has been converted into a theatre and arts centre with a 235-seat theatre plus revue bar. Blackfriars also houses the town's Tourist Information Centre (Boston 356656).

More entertainment can be found at the Sam Newsom Centre for Music which was converted from a Georgian warehouse on the riverbank.

#### STUMP BY THE RIVER ...

St Botolph's Parish Church
(above) - affectionately known
as "The Stump" is for many
visitors the focal point of a visit to
Boston. This magnificent
medieval church has a soaring
tower topped by a beautiful
lantern and can also lay claim to
being the biggest parish church
in England.

#### **GEORGIAN GRANDEUR...**

Fydell House (right), in South Street, Boston, adjoins Boston Guildhall. It was built in about 1700 and reflects the best in Georgian architecture.



# In Leicestershire... or is that Rutland?

THE wonderful county of Leicestershire has lots to offer the visitor - quite apart from the historical city of Leicester!

The county contains what used to be Rutland - and still is in the minds of many of the residents of this attractive area of the country.

Rutland Farm Park, Oakham, has rare and commercial breeds of farm animals.

Oakham is full of interest, with a fine museum and Oakham Castle where the Great Hall of the Norman building displays a collection of over 200 Royal horseshoes.

The largest man-made lake in Western Europe - that's Rutland Water near Oakham.

The 3,100 acre lake provides water for domestic and industrial consumption as well as being a popular recreational facility.

There is a nature reserve at the western end of the lake, two adventure playgrounds, water museum, fishing facilities - and cycle hire.

Visitors can cruise around the reservoir on the Rutland Belle; there are over 2,000 acres of water available for sailing; and the lake is one of the best inland venues for windsurfing in the country.

for windsurfing in the country.

Future plans for the area include a nine hole golf course, a butterfly centre and a new fishing lodge.

Other Leicestershire attractions:

Stoughton Farm Park, opened in 1989 by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, tells the story of British farming.

Twycross Zoo, near Market Bosworth, closes only on Christmas Day. Battlefield Steam Railway Line and



Cadeby Light Railway are both near Market Bosworth.

Horsedrawn Carriage Services at Hinckley offer a four-hour country bus trip.

Stately Stanford Hall, Kirby Muxloe and Ashby De-La-Zouche castles should not be missed.

Leicestershire info: 0533 511333

## PICTURED ABOVE:

Normanton Church stands right on the edge of Rutland Water, in Leicestershire. It was made into a water museum when the largest man-made lake in Western Europe was created.



#### IT'S IN RUTLAND...

Even if the map says it's Leicestershire! The Buttercross in Oakham is surrounded by fine buildings typical of this attractive town.

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