

Lincolnshire *free press*

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12

 -page Spalding
Flower Parade
souvenir special

Also inside: Your usual Lincolnshire Free Press



South Holland Flower Queen Rebecca Rayner and the flower queen float which led the parade.

Parade out of this world

PLANET Earth was celebrated in all its glory when the 49th Spalding Flower Parade rolled into town in a riot of colour.

Thousands of people lined the streets to watch the out of

this world festivities involving decorated floats, carnival dancers and trailer bands as they wove their way along the three-mile route.

After an overcast start the parade left Springfields' arena under bright sunshine

with the float carrying South Holland Flower Queen Rebecca Rayner and her deputy Joanna Coaton out in front.

The businesses and groups taking part used the theme to come up with some colourful creations - including

Flamingo Holdings' polar ice experience, which featured a polar bear, Bakkavor's tropical rain forest and the Friends of the Parade who brought the age of dinosaurs to life.

The musical trailers, now

in their third parade, entertained the crowds as schoolchildren, drama groups, and brass bands played music from around the world to tie in with this year's theme.

More than 300 people took part in the carnival, bringing

a high-octane street party atmosphere to the occasion.

For the first time since 1995 Spalding Flower Parade followed a shorter route to end at the Sir Halley Stewart Field, instead of returning to Springfields (see page 2).

SPALDING FLOWER PARADE 12-PAGE SOUVENIR 2007



Barry Drew (right) receives the award on behalf of grower Vic Smith from the master of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners William Fraser.

Photo: 050507m200

Top honour for loyal tulip grower

MOULTON Chapel tulip grower Vic Smith was honoured for his long-time support of Spalding Flower Parade with the Worshipful Company of Gardeners' Award.

Mr Smith, of M L Smith and Sons, has supplied flower heads for floats for the past 30 years.

He said: "It is an honour to have been chosen to receive the award. We have been involved with the parade for about 30 years supplying the float heads."

Unfortunately Mr Smith was unable to attend the ceremony to receive his award but chairman of Spalding Flower Parade and Carnival Trust Barry Drew accepted it on his behalf.

Mr Smith runs M L Smith and Sons with business partner Peter Deaton.

Mr Smith's sons Leon and Julian are both involved in the business.

Parade organiser David Norton said: "Without Mr Smith's co-operation in letting the parade use his tulip heads and the fact that he still stays loyal to the tradition of growing his own tulips, the parade would not be looking forward to its 50th birthday next year."



Flower queen Rebecca Rayner (left) and deputy Joanna Coaton. Photo: 0505071m206

Parade floats return 'home' for first time in 12 years

From front page

The parade route was shortened this year to allow for another big change - the grand finale at Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field.

Floats lined up at their historic home for the first time since 1995 to a rousing rendition of I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing.

Spalding Flower Parade and Carnival Trust chairman Barry Drew said it had been a wonderful day and a great experience to build on.

He said: "It was great and everyone really seemed to be enjoying themselves."

"I don't know if it was because of the shorter route

but it felt like there were more people here.

"It has been a really good first year for the trust.

"The carnival was wonderful. I must thank everyone involved."

Insp Tony Smith, of Spalding Police, said that the day had been relatively trouble free with only a few

minor incidents.

He added: "Everyone had been very well-mannered and there have been no real problems."

Charity collectors from the Rotary Club and Lions International were pleased with the generosity of visitors.

Next year Spalding will

be celebrating its 50th parade, which will coincide with a six-week TulipMania Festival when the World Tulip Summit will be held in the town.

Next year's anniversary parade will be held on Saturday, May 3, and the theme will be Thanks for the Memory.

Chairman's delight at first parade for trust

PARADE organisers were delighted with how the event came together with a spectacular grand finale at Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field.

Speaking at the end of the festivities, Spalding Flower Parade and Carnival Trust chairman Barry Drew said he was thrilled with the culmination of everyone's hard work during the trust's first year in charge.

He told the Lincolnshire Free Press: "I think the whole thing looks wonderful. The floats look more vibrant than in previous years."

"Everyone seems to have enjoyed it all.

"Apart from a few hiccups with a couple of the tractor units, it has gone very smoothly."

"I am really pleased with how it went in the trust's first year and hopefully we can build on it for the 50th anniversary."

Parade organiser David Norton said that he had hoped more people would have been at the Sir Halley Stewart arena to see the finale but was pleased with



Vibrant: Spalding Flower Parade and Carnival Trust chairman Barry Drew was thrilled with the 2007 parade.

Photo: 505073w759

how the parade went.

He told the Lincolnshire Free Press: "It was good to see, given a new experience

by bringing the parade back to Sir Halley Stewart, that it worked out extremely well.

"I was disappointed that

more people didn't come to the arena to enjoy it.

"Hopefully if word gets round this year it will get

better when it comes to the 50th parade next year.

"It was good to see everyone enjoying themselves."

Amazing day for 'royal' stars

"AMAZING" was how South Holland Flower Queen Rebecca Rayner described her big day.

Thousands of people waved and cheered as Rebecca and her deputy Joanna Coaton made their way through Spalding on a regal flower float.

Spalding High School student Rebecca (18) and Joanna (17) were chosen at a glittering ceremony in the town's Loaded nightclub in March.

Rebecca, of Moulton Chapel, was over the moon with the parade crowd's response.

She said: "It was amazing. There were so many people and we had so much support. We had a really good time."

"Children's faces would light up when we waved. I don't think any-

thing will beat today except my wedding day."

Although Rebecca was a little nervous before the parade left Springfields Exhibition Centre, it turned out well.

She said: "It was an amazing day and more than I had expected."

The day was also incredibly special for Spalding Grammar School sixth former Joanna.

The Spalding teenager said: "The support from people was amazing."

"Everyone was clapping and waving and the children were so excited. When people wave back it really pushed you forward. We are never going to have a day like this again."

Both girls gave thanks to flower queen contest organisers Jan Whit-

born and Chris Carter.

Spalding Flower Parade was an interesting experience for Miss Jersey Battle of Flowers Sinead Brennan.

Not only did she enjoy seeing the differences between parades in Spalding and Jersey, but she was astounded by the size of the crowd lining the parade route.

Speaking shortly her car arrived at the Sir Halley Stewart Field Sinead said: "It was fantastic."

"I can't get over how many people there were. Every time we turned a corner I thought that would be it but there were thousands more."

Lincolnshire Free Press and Spalding Guardian's Prince and Princess had a fantastic

time during Spalding Flower Parade.

Prince Cameron Sleight (9) and Princess Zara Byrd (10) enjoyed waving to people lining the streets as they drove past.

Zara and Cameron were chosen from 100 hopefuls during a competition at the Fun Farm, Weston, to take pride of place in the parade.

Cameron, of Whaplode, said: "It was fun. Waving and seeing the people was fun."

Both Cameron and Zara, of Spalding, enjoyed ACT II Theatre Company's Fire float.

Sara said of the day: "It was exciting and I had a really good time."

The pair rode around the three-mile route in a car supplied by Taylors Vauxhall of Spalding.



Lincolnshire Free Press princess Zara Byrd and prince Cameron Sleight. Photo: 050507w266

Parade photographers: TIM WILSON AND MIKE DAVISON
Reporters: KATE BARNEY, VICTORIA FEAR AND RACHEL MAYFIELD

SPALDING FLOWER PARADE 12-PAGE SOUVENIR 2007



Parade ringmaster, Chris Chew waves at the crowds who gathered to watch Spalding Flower Parade.

Photo: 0505073w463



The Breaston Highlanders entertain the crowds during their tenth appearance at Spalding Flower Parade.

Photo: 0505071w215



These attendants kept South Holland Flower Queen, Rebecca Rayner, company on her float. Pictured are: front (from left) - Lacey Price (9), Georgia Ladbroke (10), Gabrielle Bryant (10); back - Meesha Clifton (9), Caitlin Earl (9) and Kloe Davis (9). The girls were chosen through the Lincolnshire Free Press Prince and Princess competition.

Photo: 505073w379

Below - The Tulip Radio Girls looking glamorous on the Air Waves Float.

Photo: 505073w347



Thomas and Emily Parker find out the latest on Spalding Flower Parade using a mobile phone. Both were on the Global Communications float.

Photo: 505073w298



Left - Battle of the Bands winners Give Way and Brassphemy added to the carnival atmosphere on the Air Waves float entered by Tulip Radio and sponsored by Interserve Projects.

Photo: 505073w222

SPALDING FLOWER PARADE 12-PAGE SOUVENIR 2007



A fantastic train pulls Planet Earth around Spalding Flower Parade on South Holland Rotary Club and Spalding Lions' Collection Float.
Photo: 0505071m257



Banging the drum are the Long Eaton Militaires.
Photo: 0505074w132



Adele Martin with Peter Rabbit on the Lincolnshire Garden float.
Photo: 0505073w292



The Noah's Ark float, built and prepared by Spalding and District Young Farmers' Club, gets a warm reaction from the crowds.
Photo: 0505071m665



Musicians and youngsters on the ACT II Theatre Group's second mobile stage entertain visitors to Spalding Flower Parade.

Photo: 0505071m264



Visitors welcome Holbeach and Spalding Scouts on their 100 Years on the Planet float.

Photo: 0505171m272



The World's Communities Together Float receives a fantastic response from visitors.

Photo: 505073w499



Left – The Lincolnshire Free Press and Spalding Guardian's Princess Zara Byrd (10) and Prince Cameron Sleight (9) have a fantastic time at the Flower Parade travelling in a decorated car supplied by Taylors of Spalding.

Photo: 505073w257



Meet the Flintstones! Students from the Glead Boys' School, Spalding, take visitors back to the stone age.
 Photo: 505073w603



Polka Dot Productions performers welcome visitors to the carnival.
 Photo: 505074w205



Adding a tropical feel to the parade are the Elloe Community Samba Band.
 Photo: 505073w824



Football dreams was presented by Spalding and District Youth Clubs.
 Photo: 0505071m359



South Holland youngsters have a fantastic time taking part in the Carnival procession.
 Photo: 505073w818



Waving from the Fen Falcons of Holbeach sound vehicles and float is a member of the Holbeach Chapter of the Red Hat Society.
 Photo: 505074w210



The Myths and Legends Float entered by Ayscoughfee Hall School proved to be a roaring success.
 Photo: 505073w747



This South Holland youngster has fun bouncing round during the carnival procession.
 Photo: 505073w799



The Carnival procession adds to the party atmosphere of Spalding Flower Parade.
 Photo: 505073w619



ACT II Theatre Group musicians rock the crowds.
 Photo: 505073w281

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COMING SOON

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The 13th Coventry Scout Band makes its 42nd consecutive appearance at Spalding Flower Parade.

Photo: 505074w155



The Polar Ice Float proved to be very popular with the crowds.



Michael Waredell plays the trumpet during the set of traditional Austrian Oompah band, Die Apfeltizers Band and Dancers.

Photo:
505073w213



The float entered by Spalding Gleed Boys' School students represented Law and Order. The musicians pictured (from left) are - Harvey Cooper, Rachael Vidler, Daniel Mason, Chris D...

SPALDING FLOWER PARADE 12-PAGE SOUVENIR 2007



Myths and legends were presented by Spalding Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society.
Photo: 0505071m288



Members of Long Sutton and District Cycle Club proved to be a popular attraction during the parade.

Photo: 505075w131



Clowns Donna Coles and Jean Darrigan had a busy day collecting money for a good cause.

Photo: 505073w407



Lyndsay Brabyn had a busy time handing out sweets to the crowd from the Rainforest float.

Photo: 505073w400

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Spalding
Ambassadors
make their
first
appearance
at the parade
as a marching
band.
Photo:
0505071m298



Wind blows
through the
parade thanks
to the mobile
stage float
entered by
staff and students
from The Shaw
Trust.
Photo: 505074w710



Visitors were urged to send in a text vote for
their favourite float and the results will be
announced shortly. Voting continued yesterday.



Miss Jersey Battle of Flowers Sinead Brennan
waves to the crowds. Following her car was the
second South Holland Rotary Collection vehicle.
Photo: 505075w152



Caveman Joshua Doades goes back to the Age
of the Dinosaurs thanks to the Friends of
Parade float (above).
Photos: 505073W370 and 505073W715

Hattersley at parade

POLITICIAN Roy Hattersley was at Spalding Flower Parade.

The former deputy leader of the Labour Party was seen chatting to National Farmers' Union members at Springfields Exhibition

Centre. He was here to research for his column in a national newspaper.

Parade organiser David Norton said: "For someone like Mr Hattersley to be interested in us shows we are still doing lots right."

SPALDING FLOWER PARADE 12-PAGE SOUVENIR 2007



Flower Queen Rebecca Rayner and deputy Joanna Coaton present the award for the most festive display to Dryden's staff Jason Coates and Nadia Hamdan.

Photo: 0405074m10



Flower queen Rebecca Rayner and deputy Joanna Coaton present the award for the most artistic display to Vivian Crampton and Elaine Greene, of Maiden Flowers.

Photo: 0405074m17

Best dressed windows in town

TWENTY five businesses entered this year's Spalding window dressing competition, making choosing the winners no easy task.

But after careful consideration by the judges, Dryden's jewellers won the most festive display, Maiden Flowers Florist scooped the award for most artistic display and Upstage won the most original display category.

Dryden's, of Market Place,

used its display to show the four seasons and included many of the products sold in the shop to complement the colour theme.

Rather than buying a globe to fit the parade theme Planet Earth, artistic staff at Victoria Street florist Maiden Flowers made their own.

Created from moss and other materials, the globe was the centrepiece of their display.

Station Street shop Upstage went for a recycling theme,

creating its display entirely from rubbish and focusing on a catwalk-style dress made from bin bags.

Runner-up prizes went to coffee bar Serendipity (most original display), Chambers Hair Design (most artistic display) and Fun Junction (most festive display).

Serendipity, of Bridge Street, titled its display Food 4 Thought and used items such as eggshells and toast to make a display based on recycling. Victoria Street salon Cham-

bers went for a nature theme, depicting trees with birds and included products from the salon, such as wax to create a hedgehog and a tin of hair-spray for a rabbit.

Toy shop Fun Junction in Swan Street used animals of the world for its display.

Noah's Ark with animals coming out two by two, specially-made banners and a half finished jigsaw of the earth showing the damage being done to the environment were focal points of the

store's display.

It is the first year the competition has been organised by Spalding Town Centre Partnership and chairman Chris Elliott was delighted with the response.

He said: "We are very pleased because there were more entries than ever before and double the number from last year.

"The most pleasing thing is that everyone followed the brief and didn't buy items for the displays. They used their

own materials."

Entrants were asked to decorate their windows on Spalding Flower Parade's theme Planet Earth.

The winner of each category was presented with a trophy and four return tickets for Spalding Water Taxi.

Mr Elliott was joined by Marion Walker and Jo Fox, of Spalding and District Arts and Crafts Society, and South Holland Flower Queen Rebecca Rayner and her deputy Joanna Coaton to judge the shops.

Spot fines curb bad behaviour

SPALDING police reported a relatively trouble free day.

Insp Tony Smith said: "Everyone has been very well-mannered and there were no real problems.

"We issued some on-the-spot fines for minor public order offences but all in all it has been a fairly good day.

"On-the-spot fines are a proven method of discouraging anti-social behaviour."

He said the number of arrests on Saturday was fewer than double figures.

Spalding's new CCTV cameras were up and running for parade day.

Cameras in Broad Street, Herring Lane, Bridge Street, Hall Place and The Crescent recorded crowds and will be reviewed by police to help with security measures in future years.

St John Ambulance members gave their time to ensure parade day ran smoothly throughout the town and at Springfields. Divisional officer Phil King said: "We've had a pretty good day.

"The weather was reasonably cool, which really helped us.

"We were fairly busy for a while after the parade had finished but the day went relatively smoothly."



Flower queen Rebecca Rayner and deputy Joanna Coaton present the award for the most original display to Fred Greenfield, of Upstage.

Photo: 0405074m19



Flower queen Rebecca Rayner and deputy Joanna Coaton present the runner-up award for the most original display to Janice Shelton, of Serendipity.

Photo: 0405074m19



Flower Queen Rebecca Rayner and deputy Joanna Coaton present the runner-up award for the most festive display to Anthony and Paula Howling, of Fun Junction.

Photo: 0405074m10



Flower queen Rebecca Rayner and deputy Joanna Coaton present the runner-up award for the most artistic display to Charlotte Fox, of Chambers.

Photo: 0405074m12

SPALDING FLOWER PARADE 12-PAGE SOUVENIR 2007



Hitting the right note with the crowd are the Derby Midshipmen.

Photo: 505074w198



Above: Mother Nature was represented by Flowers 'N' Things.

Photo: 505074w160

Polka Dot Arts performed on their Education mobile stage.

Photo: 505073w573



Noah's Ark was also represented by this float entered by the Lighthouse Pentecostal Church, Spalding.

Photo: 505073w73



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