

LIFE IN LINCOLNSHIRE

News from around the county

RAF WADDINGTON CELEBRATES 50TH YEAR OF FREEDOM

Lincoln city centre came to a standstill as shoppers couldn't help but avert their attention to the magnificent spectacle of RAF Waddington's Freedom of Lincoln Parade. The occasion marked the celebration of fifty years since the station was granted the Freedom of the City; an honour to receive and testament to the enduring relationship between the city, its population and RAF Waddington. One hundred and twenty airmen and women led by Wing Commander Simon Prior marched through the city accompanied by the RAF Waddington Pipes and Drums and RAF Waddington's Voluntary Band who had to compete with the applause emanating from the crowds.

SPALDING FLOWER PARADE

Tens of thousands of people descended on the town of Spalding to

enjoy a colourful display of decorated floats, marching bands and carnival parade in the warm sunshine.

Following last year's parade, the organisers had announced that, for reasons which included lack of sponsorship and the pressures of 'health and safety', the town's annual flower spectacular would not continue.

But the 2009 Spalding Flower Parade – with the full backing of both Lincolnshire County Council and South Holland District Council, local organisations and many enthusiasts – was resurrected and on its 50th anniversary rose magnificently from the ashes.

This year, many of the decorated tulip floats were tributes to some of the most memorable seen over the years, including the Magic Roundabout and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. And now the future of the world famous parade looks secure.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the parade, a DVD

photo colour slide show 'Looking Back 1959-2008' has been produced.

It includes over 350 photographs selected from the past fifty years of parades set to a soundtrack of music from the album 'Tulips'.

The DVD costs £10 postage free and all proceeds go to the charity Action Medical Research. Sales of the DVD have already raised over £3000 for the charity.

It can be purchased by sending a cheque for £10 to Spring Colour Publications, 13 Birch Grove, Spalding, PE11 2HL or by downloading an order form at www.spaldingflowerparade.co.uk

SAVE OUR SAUSAGE

The Lincolnshire Sausage Association has set up a Number 10 petition to support the Lincolnshire Sausage application for Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) for Lincolnshire sausages.

The link can be found



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BUTLINS MASCOT BILLY, THE MAYOR OF SKEGNESS, CLLR. NEIL PIMPERTON, REDCOAT LAURA PYATT, MAYORESS OF SKEGNESS RITA PIMPERTON, WATER LEISURE PARK EMPLOYEE AND LCLR SPOKESMAN JOHN CHAPPELL, REDCOAT DEANO JONES.

MAY 3. 2009 LINCOLNSHIRE COAST LIGHT RAILWAY Official Re-Opening



at <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/LincsSausages/> and reads:

“We the undersigned petition the Prime Minister to support Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) status for Lincolnshire Sausages”

PGI status for Lincolnshire sausages would mean that they could only be manufactured in the historic county of Lincolnshire according to the specified criteria – well recognised in the county of Lincolnshire but misrepresented outside of the county. This would support the numerous small producers that we have in the county and prevent inferior products from reaching the market.

The application has been put out for national consultation and has resulted in a number of objections from manufacturers outside of the county. The Lincolnshire Sausage Association awaits details of these objections so that they can put in an official response.

In the meantime we would like as many supporters to sign the petition as possible.

BACK ON TRACK

It was Mission Impossible in

railway terms - to bring back to life the last “real public transport” narrow gauge railway to be built in England - as recently as 1960 - and one which was the first ever to be built by railway enthusiasts, blazing the trail for the many lines which are now at the heart of tourism in much of the British Isles.

The rather eccentric, absolutely delightful and little known Lincolnshire Coast Light Railway finally hung up the “Closed” sign in 1985 and those who knew and loved it feared it was lost and gone for ever.

Undaunted and without any money or facilities, a handful of its supporters set out to find a new home and rebuild it -- so on Bank Holiday Sunday 3 May, after surmounting what seemed impossible odds, the Lincolnshire Coast Light Railway reopened at its new home near Skegness where that ultimate icon of the British seaside, the Jolly Fisherman, with the Mayor of Skegness and Redcoats from the nearby Skegness Butlin’s Funcoast World, sent the first train and its passengers on their way on the revived line.

LINCOLN GRAND PRIX

A crowd of 16,000 spectators witnessed Russell Downing take a spectacular victory in the Abstraction Lincoln Grand Prix just edging out Ian Wilkinson and Chris Newton.

Rotherham-born Downing, 30, has said in the past that he would be happy to trade any other calendar event win for the Lincoln Grand Prix but this is an unlikely episode as he has now notched up a total of three wins here.

Almost 200 riders battled it out around the streets of Lincoln for eleven laps of the eight mile course which took in the gruelling 1:6 climb of Michaelgate. Despite some early attacks and a few clear breaks it wasn’t until the final lap that the decisive break was made as Downing surged up the Michaelgate climb for the penultimate time with Newton and Wilkinson in pursuit. A chasing group could not catch the trio as they pulled further ahead over the final few miles.

Downing managed to avoid a last lap disaster when he nearly clipped a spectator on the final climb but he managed to hang on to cross the line first in Castle Square.

Over £4500 worth of prizes were up for grabs, including a winning pot of £800 together with the Roy Alan Hart Memorial Shield. The 54th Lincoln Grand Prix was organised and promoted by Velo Club Lincoln.

