

Parade here for years to come

SPALDING Flower Parade will continue for many years to come if parade organiser David Norton has his way.

Mr Norton feels this year's parade was a success, although he echoes Mr Hanson's comments (below) about the lack of people at the Sir Halley Stewart Field for the finale.

He feels it is important to continue with the parade which he describes as "a unique and exciting event for an English market town" and "makes Spalding special".

He said: "As an event the parade has started to change from the traditional parade of the '70s and '80s by the fact that the floats, while still impressive, are not the same as in early parades.

"This is partly down to the fact that the industry is changing and there are not the tulip growers or big local sponsors that there used to be.

"We have embraced several new parts to the parade, including the musical mobile stages, which give the youth of South Holland a chance to participate, and the carnival element which brings in the junior generation."

Mr Norton said he believes the parade moves with the times and this will keep it fresh and alive



David Norton.

for participants and visitors.

He added: "Spalding is not Rio or Nice or any other major city with carnival or float events but we have a uniqueness.

"Many events don't make it to 50 years and continue to attract the audience numbers we do.

"It's important to carry it on for the sake of previous organisers, volunteers and the people who have made it happen and still have enthusiasm for it."

Plans are underway for next year, which sees the 50th anniversary of the parade, when the theme will be Thanks For The Memories.

Mr Norton said: "We may try to recreate some of the more memorable floats from over the

50 years, those that have stuck in people's minds, and we have plenty of other events planned."

● THE Flower Parade clowns (members, wives and families of South Holland Rotary, Lions and Welland Centenary Rotary) managed to collect a massive £6,000 over the weekend.

The money will be divided between the parade and Rotary and Lions' charities.

● CONGRATULATIONS to Holbeach and Spalding District Scouts whose float 100 Years on the Planet was voted the audience's favourite.

The group, whose float featured the scout movement's founder Baden Powell, will now receive £100 for their chosen charity.

The idea of a text vote for spectators' favourite float was new this year and visitors were encouraged to vote for the float they considered to be the best.

Everyone who voted went into a prize draw and the winner, who will receive either £150 shopping vouchers to spend at Springfields Outlet Shopping Centre, a two-night short break in one of Lincolnshire's top hotels or a new state-of-the-art mobile phone from Grimstone Communications Ltd in Spalding, will be announced shortly.



Holbeach and Spalding District Scouts' float, which featured founder Baden Powell.