



PRESS RELEASE

8th September 2017

Retford Christmas Market/Christmas Lights Switch-On Sunday 26th November 2017

The Retford Business Forum Christmas Market Team is busy putting the final touches to this year's Retford Christmas Market/Christmas Lights Switch-On which will be held on Sunday 26th November 2017, from 9.00am to 6.00pm, in and around the market square in Retford.

As well as the usual star guest – Santa - brought to us by Retford Lions, an open-air church service, fireworks, and "Santa's little helper" and Jo Jingles switching the lights on, there will be many new attractions this year. Details are currently being worked out, but here is the latest list:

- Pilgrims Fun Run - 5k, so great for everyone – it's like a Santa run, but reflecting the famous local people who became and supported the Mayflower Pilgrims. Watch out for separate announcements about the Pilgrims art exhibition at Babworth church on the weekend 18th and 19th; the lantern parade, Illuminate Civic Service and '400' on 21st; as well as the Thanksgiving Dinner at Spencer's on the Square on 23rd November.
- Prima Party and Junk Yard Circus will be entertaining old and young in the Buttermarket with appearances from singing princesses Elsa, Belle, Aurora and Merida as well as mascots Chase, Marshal, Lego Batman, Kevin the Minion, Spiderman, Superman – Man of Steel, and Batman. There will be a photo booth with timetabled appearances for some of the characters plus a clown balloon twister, face painter, magician, and for the much smaller visitors, a soft play area.
- Bassetlaw Museum will be open with children's Victorian decoration-making; the Grove will have an even bigger Star Festival; and St Swithun's is holding a Christmas Tree Festival, hoping for a 100+ trees. The Hub will be open with creative activities and the Pilgrims Centre, and there will be a car display on Grove St. A collect-the-stamp trail will be promoted around these attractions with a free prize draw for completed entries.

Retford Business Forum (RBF) has delivered the Christmas Market and Lights Switch-on for the last three years, supported by Bassetlaw District Council, local businesses and societies, and in 2016, the Big Lottery. It is a community event run for the people of Retford and the surrounding villages, and visitors have been welcomed from Doncaster, Gainsborough, Harworth, Lincoln, Mansfield, Newark, Nottingham, Rotherham, Sheffield, Tuxford, Worksop..... and far beyond.

The support of local businesses is vital to the success of the event and the team is currently seeking sponsorship for this year's event – to make it bigger and better than ever!

Notes for Editors

Retford Business Forum is run by volunteers from Retford's business and community-interest enterprises. We are passionate and committed to ensuring that Retford and its surrounding villages prosper today, and provide a future for their next generations.

For further information please contact Rick Brand at rickbrand@hotmail.com or 01427 891376