

In Focus

# New board aims to boost Retford Town Centre



A new partnership board has been created to drive forward initiatives and improvements for Retford Town Centre – and local businesses, residents and visitors are being encouraged to attend one of the drop-in sessions later this month to find out more.

The board is made up of representatives from local organisations, all with an interest in improving the town. This includes Bassetlaw District Council, Retford Business Forum, Retford Civic Society, Nottinghamshire County Council, Retford Charter Trustees, North Notts BID, North Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire Community Rail Partnership, East Midlands Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses.

Funded by the UK Government, the aim of the partnership is to deliver improvements to the town centre that were identified as part of the Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Plan public consultations, but that were not applicable to neighbourhood planning.

These comments have helped to create a 'Vision for Retford' which provides a strategic plan for the board and its subgroups to focus on. These include Marketing and Communications, Public Realm (eg street furniture), Youth Café, and Safety and Security.

If you would like to know more about the Board and its ambitions for Retford Town Centre, there is a Business Drop-In session on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October at Retford Town Hall, between 2.00pm and 7.00pm, when advisers will also be available to discuss the Shop Frontage Grant and other funding opportunities.

There is also a chance for members of the public to find out more at Retford Big Market Day on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October between 10.00am and 2.00pm.

## Retford Business Forum (RBF) members



Retford Business Forum is delighted to welcome its newest member: East Retford PCC – St Swithun's. Their vision is that everyone in Retford and the surrounding area would get an opportunity to come to know God, find freedom, discover purpose, and make a difference. Join them every Sunday for contemporary worship at the '11'. Doors open at 10.30am for coffee and donuts. Kids are welcome in the service or to join in the fun at STS Kids. Senior Leaders are Reuben and Portia Crossley – Reuben is the Vicar, and Portia is the Operations Manager. For more information contact [reuben@stsretford.org](mailto:reuben@stsretford.org).



Thanks to renewing member Nicole Olivia Cake Design, crafting bespoke modern cake designs for your special occasion, selling fresh, indulgent, and homemade bakes created to perfection! Nicole Olivia Cake Designs – All things cake. ([www.nicoleoliviacakes.co.uk](http://www.nicoleoliviacakes.co.uk))



Congratulations on a successful 20<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration to RBF member Limited2Art and a great demonstration by brilliant artist Tracey Krupianka who will return on 16<sup>th</sup> November for her first solo exhibition and a prize draw in aid of Bassetlaw Hospice. Long-time RBF members Createlrn Ltd will also be 20 years young in October 2024 - many congratulations to Jon, Michelle and all of the team

## Retford Business Forum

Retford Business Forum (RBF) is looking for your help – if you would like to volunteer for a few hours or to help run RBF, please contact [chair@retfordbusinessforum.org.uk](mailto:chair@retfordbusinessforum.org.uk)



Retford Business Forum (RBF) events are delivered in partnership with North Notts BID, and Bassetlaw District Council. To find out about RBF membership, and to support them (for only £24.00 per year), please contact [membership@retfordbusinessforum.org.uk](mailto:membership@retfordbusinessforum.org.uk).

# What's On this October

## Retford Big Market Day



### Saturday 19th October 2024

Retford Market Square and Town Hall (Buttermarket) and Town Centre

### Farmer's Market (open until 1.00pm), Craft Market and Traditional Saturday Market (open from 8.30am to 2.30pm)

(These markets are organised by Bassetlaw District Council)

### Want to have a craft stall?

Great rates available including a half-table and insurance for £10 – contact 07725 768392 on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, or visit Online Business Services at [www.bassetlaw.gov.uk](http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk)

### Entertainment from The Joker's Mask-Making and Boggart Workshop on the Market Square – just what you need for Halloween



## Save the dates!

**Retford Big Market Day 16th November 2024** – not just one but two elvish festive stilt-walkers! **Illuminate – Winter Festival of Light – 12th December, 4.30pm to 7pm** – Rumour has it Santa will be popping along. **Retford Big Market Day 21st December 2024** – Santa's Grotto will be on the Market Square – for any late requests, plus Hathersage Brass Band



## Sunday 24th November, 10am to 6pm

## Retford Christmas Market & Lights Switch-On



### We have been in touch with the Elves and everything is on schedule for Santa's big occasion of the year.

### On the programme so far

A massive selection of over 125 brilliant stalls, including interiors by Decor Clever, Persian Rugs and Mexican clothing on the Market Square, in the Town Centre and In the Town Hall – something for everyone – at great prices as well! Plus:

- The Grove Methodist Church's Star Festival will be on 23rd and 24th November from 10.00am to 5.00pm
- All the fun of the fair with the giant slide and much, much more
- On stage, the day starts off with the Churches Together in Retford Carol Service at 10.30am led by Rev Julie Coates – everyone welcome, followed by Elizabethan Academy
- Santa arrives on stage at 12.00noon, courtesy of Retford Lions, and takes up residence in the Town Hall until he turns on the lights at 5.00pm
- In the afternoon - Fame Academy Retford, Blue Ice Cheerleaders, LCSD Dance Academy, and the Performance Hub
- From 12.00noon to 3.00pm entries to the Santa's Little Helper draw are invited outside Santa's grotto in the Town Hall
- At 5.00pm, following the Lights Switch-On, Abba tribute band ABBA Fever will rock us into Christmas until the close at 6.00pm

### More details in November

Subject to change



Retford Business Forum, in partnership with Bassetlaw District Council and North Notts BID

[www.retfordbusinessforum.org.uk](http://www.retfordbusinessforum.org.uk) Retford Business Forum

