

# Retford Arts Hub

Visitors who came here on Open Studios weekend (26/27 June) saw some changes as they went to the studios of Cath Ray, Fine Arts and Bookbinding, and Christine Howard, Painter.

They saw that we have a new name. The Hub in Retford has become Retford Arts Hub: two members of Retford Art Society – Margaret Harrod and Paul Straker, helped by their partners – have taken over the running of the community asset from Louise and Chris Daniels, who started it six years ago when the Tourist Information Centre closed.

[Photo] Margaret Harrod (front) and Paul Straker with wife Jane.

It will still fulfil its original role in that Visitor Information is available, and only local artists and artisans show and sell their work here. Some alterations have been made, and on the second floor are five studios, four of which have already been rented out. On the first floor are the workshop room and members’/friends’ gallery and a soon-to-be exhibition room/meeting room.

The ground floor is still the shop, with Thaymar ice cream as well as other local foodstuffs as before, but it now has more display cabinets and shelving – it’s an Aladdin’s cave! Ceramics, wood, glass, metalwork, jewellery, cards, cushions, hand-knitted and hand-sewn items like scarves and baby clothes, paintings – all are the work of local craftspeople and artists. This is the place to come for an interesting, unique and beautiful present.

The Open Weekend visitors were impressed. If *you* haven’t seen us yet, do come!

