RETFORD CIVIC SOCIETY
Charity No. 1004435
NEWS-SHEET No. 70 July 2026

RETFORD HERITAGE OPEN DAY

Saturday 12th September 10am – 4pm

Do you fancy having a look inside some of Retford's special buildings, including those not usually open to the general public? You will be able to find out more about Trinity Hospital, Retford Masonic Hall and the Sloswicke's Almshouse Charity dwellings on Churchgate. The iconic buildings which once belonged to King Edward VI Grammar School are now residential apartments and you could book to take a tour of the site.

In addition, there will be activities and exhibitions in other buildings – Bassetlaw Museum, Retford Library, the Majestic Theatre and Retford Arts Hub. Churches will be open – Grove Street Methodist, St Swithun's, St Michael's and St Joseph's Catholic Church.

There will be music – Retford Ukelele Ensemble, the u3a Recorder Ensemble, Harworth Brass Band, Worksop Miners Welfare Band and Retford Community Singers will be strumming, blowing and singing their stuff during the day. There will be bells – a full three hour peal will be rung at St Swithun's Church from 11am.

The September edition of Retford Life Magazine will have full details of the programme and we will be distributing a leaflet with the programme for the day and details of events from stalls on Carolgate on 5th and 12th of September. If you would be able to help on the stall please get in touch with Derek Turner on 01777 702929 or 07971 289223

Look out for posts on the **Retford Heritage Open Day** Facebook page

THANKS!

Retford Civic Society thanked Eddie Matthews for his exceptional help at the Town Hall over the past 21 years with a gift of a special bottle of whisky and our warm wishes for an enjoyable retirement. Nothing was ever too much trouble for Eddie as we all know, and he will be very much missed.

NEW STREET PLANTERS

Thanks to the efforts of volunteers during this exceptional hot spell, the new planting in the New St car park is still surviving. We continue to try to ensure their ongoing maintenance with lease holders BDC.

COMMONWEALTH GRAVES VISIT

Judith Goodall is a local Commonwealth Graves Guide, who with her husband, has carefully researched the official war graves from WW1 and WW2, which are to be found in Retford Cemetery. She is also responsible for more of these “scattered” graves in a total of ten graveyards in the area. “Scattered” in that they are to be found individually among civilian graves, unlike the large war cemeteries elsewhere.

We heard that the headstones can be recognised by the regulation type of stone and the distinctive curved shape of the top. The people, mainly young men buried in Retford, died from their wounds received in battle, sometimes six years later. Some are not from Retford, but were in hospitals nearby.

These are fascinating, moving stories and Judith recounts each one with sincerity and compassion. She led seven appreciative RCS members on a one-hour tour. If you missed out, or you know anyone who would like to join a tour, she will again lead a group on Heritage Open Day, Saturday 12th September at 10.30am. Booking is available on the Commonwealth War Graves website.

KNARESBOROUGH VISIT

Welcomed by coffee, delicious cakes and warm smiles, we were divided into 2 groups to be guided around Knaresborough by pairs of entertaining and very knowledgeable blue badge guides.

The cool breeze - remember that feeling? - in the castle grounds overlooking the River Nidd far below, was a real bonus.

The afternoon was spent exploring the town and we visited the beautiful 12th century Grade 1 listed St John the Baptist Church. Others wandered along the riverside, though I`m not sure any of the members availed themselves of the opportunity to take to the water in a rowing boat!

Altogether an excellent day, thank you Joan for your impeccable planning as always; the renowned raffle raised £125.30 for RCS funds.

Lesley Sumner

SUCCESSFUL LITTER PICK AND WEED

There was a great atmosphere as more than 20 members set out to litter pick in Retford on Sunday 20 July. The sun was shining and the light breeze made it ideal conditions for tidying up the town.

A separate group, led by Pam Barnsdale, got together to weed the new planters on Carolgate and Spa Lane. Afterwards, a large number had coffee together at The Bay Tree, sitting out next to the canal. RCS volunteers made a big difference! Thanks to all who took part.