

Retford Illuminate – Winter Festival of Light 2026

This year's Retford Illuminate – Winter Festival of Light will begin with the Retford Christmas Market and Lights Switch-On on Sunday 29th November and conclude with the Retford Big Market Day on Saturday 19th December.

The Illuminate Parade will take place on Wednesday 9th December and will feature lanterns made and carried by Retford schoolchildren, an appearance by Santa courtesy of Retford Lions, the Frost Fairy, entertainment and market stalls.

Other events taking place during the festival include the Christmas Window Competition, the Guiding Christmas Concert at St Saviour's on Thursday 3rd December, the Christmas Crank-Up at Bassetlaw Museum on Saturday 5th December, late-night shopping with shortbread and cider at Cath Ray Gallery on Thursday 10th December, and the Christmas Carol Concert at the Majestic Theatre on Friday 18th December.

Further details will be announced soon.

Retford Creative Community

Retford's Creative Community offers a wide range of activities and events throughout the year. Here is just a selection of what is coming up.



Cath Ray Gallery
58b Bridgegate, Retford
Open Monday to Saturday, 10.00am to 5.00pm (closes 2.00pm Tuesday)
cathraygallery@outlook.com
www.facebook.com/cathraybooks

- Saturday 5th September to Saturday 31st October: Exhibition of recent work by Rosemary Firth, featuring landscape collages and collagraphs.
- Every Wednesday in September, 4.00pm to 6.00pm: Mosaics and stained-glass drop-in sessions, £10.00 plus materials.
- Every Friday in September, 10.00am to 12.00pm: Slow Stitching for the Soul, £15.00.
- Weekly throughout September: Painting Flowers workshops on Mondays from 1.00pm to 3.00pm, Thursdays from 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Retford Town Centre news

and Saturdays from 3.00pm to 5.00pm. £15.00 per session.

- Sunday 6th September, 12.30pm to 4.00pm: Paint and Meditate with Fernke, £45.00. Visit rosewoodwellbeing.co.uk.
- Sunday 20th September, 1.00pm to 4.00pm: Watercolour and Embroidery with Bev, £20.00.
- Sunday 27th September: Silversmithing and Copper with Mel and Claire. Sessions at 11.00am to 1.00pm or 2.00pm to 4.00pm. £60.00.

Bassetlaw Museum
Grove Street, Retford
www.bassetlawmuseum.org.uk



- Friday 11th September: The Great Gatsby in the museum gardens. Visitors are invited to bring their own seating and picnics. Tickets are available at www.thisismytheatre.com.
- Dressed to Kill, a film noir-inspired fashion exhibition, open until October 2026.

Majestic Theatre
Coronation Street,
Retford DN22 6DX
01777 706866

boxoffice@
majesticretford.org

- Thursday 24th September to Saturday 26th September: Rebecca's Dance Studios presents Down the Rabbit Hole.

Retford Little Theatre Retford Little Theatre
Wharf Road, DN22 6EN
01777 702002
boxoffice@rlt.org.uk
• Tuesday 22nd September to Sunday 27th September: The Unfriend.

Retford Arts Hub
01777 860414
info@retfordartshub.com



- Every Friday, 10.30am to 12.30pm: Angela's Sewing Machine Workshop. £15.00 per person, including all materials.
- Saturdays, 1.30pm to 3.30pm: Chris's four-week Crochet Club. Please check for details.

- Saturday 5th September, 10.30am to 12.30pm: Tracey's Autumn Flower Arrangement Workshop, £30.00.
- Thursday 10th September, 10.30am to 1.30pm: Ian Davenport Mixed Media Workshop (inks and watercolour), £25.00.
- Saturday 12th September, 10.00am to 3.00pm: Family poppy-making and Heritage Day activities, including open studios and the Heritage of the Hub exhibition.
- Saturday 26th September: Kids' Club with Jo, £3.00 per child.

Booking is essential for all activities.

For more information, visit www.discoverretford.co.uk and www.retfordbusinessforum.org.uk.

Retford Business Forum (RBF)

Retford Business Forum (RBF) is pleased to welcome its latest member:

Carnivellos Web Development

Carnivellos Web Development provides affordable, modern websites for small businesses, sole traders and local organisations. Whether creating a first website or updating an existing one, the company builds and maintains fast, responsive websites designed to help businesses stand out online. The business also offers hosting advice and its own lightweight Carnivellos Content Management System (CMS), making it simple for clients to keep their websites up to date.

See www.carnivellos.co.uk, email ainslie.johnson@gmail.com or call 07389 781677 for more information.



What's On this September

Retford Big Market Day

Saturday 19th September 2026

10.00am to 1.00pm

Retford Market Square, Buttermarket and Town Centre

Farmers (open until 1.00pm), Craft and Traditional Saturday Markets (open from 08.30am to 2.20pm)

(These markets are organised by Bassetlaw District Council)

To book a stall contact 01909 533533 or licensing@bassetlaw.gov.uk

This month – Mr Mouse Stilton-Walker is back looking for cheese! Hathersage Brass Band returns - they're great!



Retford Illuminate Winter Festival of Light 29th November – 19th December 2026

Retford Christmas Market and Lights Switch-On

Sunday 29th November 2026

Retford Illuminate-Winter Festival of Light Parade

Wednesday 9th December 2026

Retford Big Market Day – grand finale of the year!

Saturday 19th December 2026 – The Frost Fairy, Hathersage Brass Band, free face painting, Santa, plus more...tba



Visit our website



Visit our Facebook



All subject to change



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

www.discoverretford.co.uk

Retford Business Forum CIC

**EVEN MORE
FANTASTIC FREE,
FAMILY, FUN
FROM RETFORD
BIG MARKET DAYS
IN AUTUMN 2026**

Coming up:
17th October
The Big Bird stilt-walker
21st November
TWO stilt-walking
Christmas Elves

