

Retford Town Centre Partnership Board

The Retford Town Centre Partnership Board, supported by Bassetlaw District Council, and others, has entered the UK Town of Culture 2028 competition. The entry focuses on how the community works together to celebrate the Illuminate—Winter Festival of Light, held in the town each year, and builds on its links to the Mayflower Pilgrims. Retford is a great candidate with its brilliant dance schools, art galleries, theatres, museum, book festival, and architecture. The combination of the Christmas Lights Switch-On stage performances and the Illuminate—Winter Festival of Light event provides an exciting example of how our young people, museum team, market, and street entertainment can come together to produce significant free events for the whole community.



Wish us luck! - the submission is now being considered, with a shortlist to be announced later in spring 2026.

Retford Creative Community

There are many brilliant creative activities which make up Retford's talented Creative Community. Here are just a few of them:



Bassetlaw Museum



Grove Street, Retford

www.bassetlawmuseum.org.uk

- Stories of Bassetlaw: original works by Christy Burdock, created in response to the museum's collection and the stories of the communities it serves: runs until September 2026
- Dressed to Kill, a Film Noir style fashion exhibition: runs until October 2026
- The Age of Cine: Cameras, Projectors and the Magic of Film exhibition: runs until September 2026
- Litter Art, a photography exhibition by Frank Tomlinson: Saturday 9th May to Saturday 18th July

Retford Town Centre news

Cath Ray Gallery
58b Bridgegate, Retford
www.facebook.com/cathraybooks
07803204424
raybooks@msn.com



- Open Monday to Saturday, 10.00am to 5.00pm (closes 2.00pm Tuesday)
- Open Studios: Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd May and Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th May, 10.00am to 4.00pm
 - Silversmithing with Mel Eldred (make two silver rings from scratch): Sunday 17th May, 2.00pm to 5.00pm, £50.00
 - Slow-Stitching for the Soul with Bev Ramsbotham: Fridays 1st, 15th and 29th May, 9.30am to 11.30am, £15.00 per session
 - Mosaics and Stained Glass drop-in session: every Wednesday, 4.00pm to 6.00pm, £10.00 (plus small charge for materials)

- The Greatest Show – Voices of the Vale Young Performers: Sunday 31st May



Retford Little Theatre
Wharf Road, Retford DN22 6EN
01777 702002
boxoffice@rlt.org.uk

- The Full Monty by Simon Beaufoy: Monday 18th to Saturday 23rd May

Find out more information on www.discoverretford.co.uk and www.retfordbusinessforum.org.uk.

Retford Business Forum (RBF)

RBF would like to welcome its latest member:

Retford Arts Hub
01777 860414
info@retfordartshub.com



- Open Studios: first four Saturdays in May, 10.00am to 4.00pm. Say hello, have a chat, watch resident artists demonstrating their art and maybe book onto one of the Hub's popular workshops. Artists in residence on these Saturdays will be, Gary Saddington (multimedia artist), Lesley Pearson (pen and ink, watercolours and ceramics), Mark Bloomer (acrylics and oils), and John Redfern Harris (oils and watercolour)
- Mark Bloomer will run an acrylics workshop on Thursday 21st May; suitable for beginners and improvers, all materials supplied.



Rhythm and VibeZ - Retford's very own event planning company
rhythmandvibeZuk@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/rhythm-and-vibeZ
07771 546396

Retford Business Forum is not regularly funded by anyone and is very grateful for the support given by its members and partners.

RBF needs your help

The current management team will retire in February 2027 so if you would like to help run RBF, please contact chair@retfordbusinessforum.org.uk.

Majestic Theatre
Coronation Street, Retford DN22 6DX
01777 706866
boxoffice@majesticretford.org



- Retford Musical Theatre Company present We Will Rock You (featuring songs by Queen): Thursday 7th to Saturday 9th May



What's On this May

EVEN MORE FANTASTIC, FREE, FAMILY FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT FROM RETFORD BIG MARKET DAYS IN 2026

Dates for your diary:

- 20th June** – Stilt-walking Scarecrow plus Hathersage Brass Band
- 18th July** – Punch & Judy
- 15th August** – Punch & Judy
- 19th September** – Mr Mouse Stilton-walker plus Hathersage Brass Band
- 17th October** – The Big Bird stilt-walker
- 21st November** – 2 x stilt-walking Christmas Elves
- 19th December** – The Frost Fairy plus Hathersage Brass Band plus more TBA



Walk Notts Festival 2026



Watch out for the Family Fusion Force Trail
Coming to Retford in May

Retford Big Market Day



Saturday 16th May 2026
10.00am to 1.00pm

Retford Market Square, Buttermarket and Town Centre

Farmers' Market (open until 1.00pm), Craft, and Traditional Saturday Markets (open from 8.30am to 2.30pm)

(These markets are organised by Bassetlaw District Council)

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

Fantastic Free, Family fun – this month: this month is Move More in May – why not discover a great way of exercising at the Guiding Sparks Circus Skills Workshop



Guiding Sparks Circus

FREE PRIZE DRAW WITH GREAT PRIZES

Record your organisation's moves here:
www.letsgetgoing.com/events/category/move-more-in-may/



Walking Events 1st to 31st May

A range of walking events around Notts to suit everyone.
www.walknotts.org.uk/walk-notts-festival

Don't forget!

Little Hummingbird Country Fair
Sunday 24th May 2026 10am-4pm



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**

