



PRESS RELEASE

13th November 2018

Immediate use

Retford Christmas Market & Christmas Lights Switch-On Sunday 25th November 2018

The Retford Business Forum Christmas Market Team has finalised plans for this year's Retford Christmas Market and Lights Switch-On. It will be held on Sunday 25th November 2018, from 10.00am to 6.00pm (some locations may vary), in and around the town square in Retford.

As well as the usual star guest – Santa - brought to us by Retford Lions, there will be an open-air Churches Together in Retford service, entertainment on the stage from local schools and children's groups, with fireworks, Jo Jingles, Traxie Bear, Bassetlaw Bear and "Santa's little helper" switching the lights on. There will be many new attractions this year - here are some of the latest additions:

- Steampunk comes to the Christmas Market! We are delighted to welcome a children's Steampunk experience with traditional games in the Buttermarket. The Steampunk movement is growing on Retford – go on, you know you always wanted to try dressing up!
- Pilgrims Fun Run – supporting Bassetlaw Hospice - gather at 09.15am for the judging of the best dressed 'Pilgrims' – the run is 5k, even better fun for everyone – you can walk it in the time allowed – have fun! – for booking and more information go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-pilgrim-fun-run-2018-tickets-47414075777>.
- Bassetlaw Museum will be open with lots of activities to entertain the children; the Grove St Methodist Church will have an even bigger Star Festival; and St Swithun's Parish Church is holding its famous Christmas Tree Festival, hoping for a 100+ trees this year. The Hub will be open – why not visit their Pilgrims Museum – everything you ever wanted to know about the Mayflower Pilgrims in one room! A 'Passport' collect-the-stamp trail will be promoted around eight locations with a free prize draw for completed entries. The Chocolate Kitchen is providing the prize – yummy!
- Christmas Market leaflets are available at the Hub, Bassetlaw Museum, and Spencer's on the Square.

This will be the fourth year that Retford Business Forum (RBF) delivers the Christmas Market and Lights Switch-on, supported by North Notts BID, the Rotary Club of Retford, Retford Civic Society, Retford Lions, Bassetlaw District Council, TLS Ltd, Bassetlaw Christian Heritage and other local businesses and societies. It is a community event run for the people of Retford and the surrounding villages, and visitors have been welcomed from all over Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and South Yorkshire..... and beyond!

The support of local businesses is vital to the success of the event and the team is always looking for sponsors – to make it bigger and better than ever – every year! **We are now looking for sponsors for our 2019 event** - whether you just want to give something back to the community or want to raise the visibility and awareness of your brand, please get in touch – we would be delighted to hear from you. Contact chair@retfordbusinessforum.org.uk

Notes for Editors

Retford Business Forum is run by volunteers from Retford's business and community-interest enterprises. The Forum is not regularly funded by any organisation and relies on its members and sponsors for support. It is passionate and committed to ensuring that Retford and its surrounding villages prosper economically and through improved social wellbeing.

Attached are some images from last year's events

For further information please contact Rick Brand at rickbrand@hotmail.com or 01427 891376.