



PRESS RELEASE

15th November 2019

Immediate use

Retford Christmas Market & Christmas Lights Switch-On

Sunday 1st December 2019

Retford Business Forum's Christmas Market Team and North Notts BID are on target to make this year's Retford Christmas Market and Lights Switch-On event bigger and better than ever! It will be held on Sunday 1st December, 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 - delivered by Retford Lions, there will be Jo Jingles, Traxie Bear and Bassetlaw Bear, and fireworks, plus the spectacular new Christmas Lights. There will be some new attractions and some old favourites this year - here are some of the attractions:

1. New for this year, the Buttermarket will provide a great range of entertainment from Jo Jingles, Debutots, Artventurers and Kixx for young people whilst waiting for Santa, who will be in his grotto from just after midday. Refreshments will be available from Retford Mayflower WI.
2. Santa's Little Helper this year will be chosen on the day! Parents/guardians just need to complete an entry form and put it into a box in the Buttermarket between 12noon and 3pm. The winner will be chosen at random and their parent/guardian will be phoned at 3.15pm.
3. The stage has a great schedule, starting with the open air service at 11.15am, led by Revd Julie Coates, followed by entertainment from the Retford Pipe & Drum Band, Majestic Theatre School, Elizabethan Academy, Makaton Choir, The Performance Hub, Louise Clarkson Dancers, and Jessica Mary Brett.
4. The civic ceremony will take place at 4.45pm with appearances from Debbie Merryweather, Chairman of BDC, and Garry Clarkson, Mayor of Retford. The lights will be switched-on by Santa and his little helper at 5.00pm.
5. Bassetlaw Museum will be entertaining children, and the newly completed Pilgrims Gallery will be open for visitors – if you haven't already seen it, now's your chance!
6. St Swithun's Parish Church will be holding its famous Christmas Tree Festival, and Grove St Methodist Church will have an even bigger Star Festival.
7. The newly refurbished Hub will be open – why not visit their Pilgrims Museum – everything you ever wanted to know about the Mayflower Pilgrims in one room! – visit the Pilgrims Gallery to complete the experience!

This will be the fifth year that Retford Business Forum (RBF) has delivered the Christmas Market and Lights Switch-on and is the second year that the Forum has been partnered by North Notts BID who provide funding and significantly support the organisation and delivery of the event.



Sally Gilborn, Chief Executive of North Notts BID, said “We are delighted to be partnering Retford Business Forum in delivering this year’s Retford Christmas Market and Lights Switch-on – we are particularly excited by our new Christmas lights which will really bring Christmas alive in the town centre”

The Forum also welcomes the continuing support of Bassetlaw District Council, Retford Lions, Jo Jingles, EES Showhire, 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, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire..... and beyond!

The 2019 Christmas Market promises to be the biggest and best yet. The support of local individuals and businesses is vital to the success of the event and the team is always looking for supporters – to make it bigger and better than ever – every year! 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. Please 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.

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