

PRESS RELEASE

Monday 8th April 2019

For immediate use

Square Fete starts off Summer Sundays on the Square in Retford

Retford Business Forum with support from North Notts BID and Bassetlaw District Council is organising three Summer on the Square events in Retford this year. They are Square Fete (traditional English fair) on Sunday 26th May; Square Wheels (Jaguar Club and Harley Davidson Chapters) on Sunday 30th June; and Square Deal (charities and community organisations) on Sunday 28th July.

Sunday 26th May, between 10am and 4pm, sees the first of the 2019 events on the Square in Retford - Square Fete - providing great entertainment taking you back to the origins of the Charter and quality shopping for everyone.

There will be a great range of stalls bringing arts and crafts, food and drink, and more (to book a stall contact peter.hargreaves@bassetlaw.gov.uk or 07903 560732). A re-enactment of the signing of the Retford Charter will be carried out three times during the day by local theatrical favourites, Talegate Theatre.

Retford is one of the oldest boroughs in England and was mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 as 'Redeforde'. Henry I established the borough in 1105, and it gained a Royal Charter in 1246, when Henry III granted the right to a fair. This was later extended to holding a Saturday Market by Edward I in 1275.

Mediaeval musicians will play throughout the event as The Doncaster Waites, The Leeds Waits, The City of Lincoln Waites and Epworth's de Mowbray's Musicke. This was the music that the Mayflower Pilgrims heard in the streets, at weddings and civic events. There will be a variety of fascinating instruments in use from Shawms to the Hurdy-Gurdy – if you don't know what they are, our musicians will show you.

The original Leeds Waits existed from 1530-31 until they were disbanded in 1835. The City Waits were the Mayor of Lincoln's Band of Musicians (until 1857). Waites do not play the music of the courts and the aristocracy, but the music of the streets. The Waites were the original town bands and Doncaster had a band of Waites from 1457 to 1832. Retford also had a Waites band until the late Victorian era, and the badges are on show at Bassetlaw Museum. de Mowbray's Musicke play a variety of reproduction historical instruments to create the sound and atmosphere of England as it was in the late 16th century.

Summer Sundays on Retford's historic market Square continues with Square Wheels (one for Jaguar and Harley Davidson fans) on 30th June and Square Deal (support your local charities and community groups) on 28th July 2019.



Notes for Editors

Retford Business Forum is run by volunteers from Retford's business and community-interest enterprises. We are passionate and committed to ensuring that Retford and its surrounding villages prosper today and provide opportunities for everyone in the future. The Forum meets on the first Monday (except bank holidays) of the month at 5.30pm for 6.00pm at the Council Chamber, Retford Town Hall.

The Forum is currently looking for an Administrator and a Treasurer, please contact chair@retfordbusinessforum.org.uk for further details.

Photographs supplied are of the mediaeval musicians

Please note: The Doncaster Waites, The Leeds Waits, The City of Lincoln Waites and de Mowbray's Musicke are the correct spellings for the names of the musicians who are members of the Guild of Town Pipers. For more information on the guild go to www.townwaits.org.uk

Retford Business Forum would be delighted to hear from a Morris dance group and/or Maypole dance group that would like to take part in Square Fete.

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