# •Retford Books

9<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup>

IINE

2025

• Author talks, panels and more!

Retford

Book

Festival

2025

•4 Venues



### RETFORD BOOK FESTIVAL WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS & LOCAL Community for their support







Moody Direct Caroline Watson Geoff Attree Julie Malone Ordsall Primary School Whitaker Charitable Trust Christine Aram Dr Jane McNeill & Ben Derbyshire Aquatic Control Engineering

Aquatic Control Engineering Westlands Butchers Limited

School Events - We are organising eight events in schools in Retford and the surrounding villages as part of Retford Book Festival. We have been able to fund these events as part of our fundraising efforts for the festival.

### Appearing at the school events:

- Well-known children's authors JP Rose and William Hussey
- Poet Paul Cookson, and illustrator Liz Million

Tickets are available online at eventbrite.co.uk or at Wonderland Bookshop, Retford

# JAE MALONE Writing Workshop

DATE: SATURDAY 14TH JUNE 2025 TIME: 10.30 A.M. - 12.00 NOON VENUE: GROVE STREET METHODIST CHURCH (2)

> Author Jae Malone will be running a creative writing workshop for adults called "Motivation - Action - Consequences".

She will encourage the group to think about what motivates their protagonist, what actions they will carry out and the consequences of those actions.

**GET YOUR TICKETS HERE** 

WORKSHOP TICKETS: £7.50



\*Booking fee applies

## WWW.RETFORDBOOKFESTIVAL.CO.UK

## BETHANY WALKER Children's Author

DATE: SATURDAY 14TH JUNE 2025 TIME: 11.00 A.M. Venue: Grove Street Methodist Church (2)

### Do Lions Hate Haircuts?

Join children's writer Bethany Walker for a fun morning of silly stories and awesome activities, inspired by two of her books: *Do Lions Hate Haircuts?*, and *Olly Brown, God of Hamsters*. Come along and style a lion's hair, or make a spaceship for a hamster, or both!

Bethany Walker is the author of four funny children's books. Before becoming a children's writer, Bethany was a teacher and then a museum educator, working in some very weird and wonderful places.

She lives in Lincolnshire with her husband, children and a rapidly increasing number of stick insects!

### TICKETS: £5.00

**GET YOUR TICKETS HERE** 

Suitable for children aged 6+. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Tickets are available online at eventbrite.co.uk or at Wonderland Bookshop, Retford



\*Booking fee applies

WWW.BETHANYWALKERWRITER.CO.UK 🞯 BETHANYWWRITER



## **STEPHEN BOOTH** Crime Novelist

DATE MONDAY 9TH JUNE 2025 TIME: 2 OO P M VENUE: RETFORD LIBRARY

Best-selling Crime Novelist

Nottinghamshire crime novelist Stephen Booth is the author of eighteen novels in the best-selling Cooper and Fry series set in the Peak District.

His books have won awards on both sides of the Atlantic and are translated into sixteen languages including Russian and Japanese. Stephen will talk about his life as a crime writer and what draws thousands of readers into his fictional world particularly the popularity of his two Derbyshire detectives, Ben Cooper and Diane Frv. and the Peak **District locations** which inspire his books.



### TICKETS: £10.00

**GET YOUR TICKETS HERE** \*Booking fee applies

Tickets are available online at eventbrite.co.uk or at Wonderland Bookshop, Retford



WWW.STEPHEN-BOOTH.COM



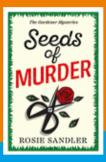
### ROSIE SANDLER Author

DATE: TUESDAY 10TH JUNE 2025 TIME: 7.00 P.M. Venue: Grove Street Methodist Church (2)

Cosy Crime with Gardening

Rosie Sandler is the author of the cosy crime series, *The Gardener Mysteries* (Embla Books) which follow gardener, Steph Williams and her fabulous dog, Mouse as they travel around the UK creating gardens and encountering the occasional dead body along the way.

Rosie has also co-authored the *Agatha Oddly* trilogy of children's detective novels.



### TICKETS: £10.00

She lives in Essex and tends her garden without pesticides to encourage wildlife. In her spare time she makes colourful clothes.

Photo credit: Kim Tobin

WWW.ROSIESANDLER.CO.UK

### GET YOUR TICKETS HERE \*Booking fee applies

Tickets are available online at eventbrite.co.uk or at Wonderland Bookshop, Retford





## ANGELA ANWYL Author

DATE: WEDNESDAY 11TH JUNE 2025 TIME: 2.00 P.M. Venue: Retford Library 1

Angela's research into music-making in Retford has covered the Victorian and Edwardian periods and beyond.

She will talk about three very significant musicians in this period, Hamilton White, John Rowland and Millicent Ward.

Scan





**TICKETS: £7.50** 

## ADRIAN GRAY Author

- DATE: WEDNESDAY 11TH JUNE 2025
- TIME: 7.00 P.M.
- VENUE: GROVE STREET Methodist Church (2)

### TICKETS: £7.50





HEROIC OR TRAGIC? Adrian Gray tells the story of two Retford people who left the town 'to do great things' and died as a result – one in an ancient castle dungeon, the other on a disease and cannibal-infested island.

Tickets are available online at eventbrite.co.uk or at Wonderland Bookshop, Retford

# JOHN HEGLEY & Paul Cookson

DATE: SATURDAY 14TH JUNE 2025 TIME: 7.00 P.M. Venue: Grove Street Methodist Church (2)

An Evening Without George And Ringo

Breaking news: John Hegley, widely known as one of the country's most innovative comic poets, finally makes it to his dream destination: Retford.

John has published several best-selling volumes of poetry and regularly sells out at the Edinburgh Festival.



PEACE Love & POTATOES JOHN HEGLEY

TICKETS: £20.00 Includes pie and peas because what is food if you can't eat it?

GET YOUR TICKETS HERE \*Booking fee applies

Tickets are available online at eventbrite.co.uk or at Wonderland Bookshop, Retford



WWW.JOHNHEGLEY.CO.UK



## LUCIE LOVATT Playwright

DATE: FRIDAY 13TH JUNE 2025 TIME: 2 00 PM VENUE: RETFORD LITTLE THEATRE (3)

Kill Thy Neighbour

Lucie Lovatt reignited her writing ambitions at forty. KILL THY NEIGHBOUR, her first full-length play, premiered at Theatr Clwvd and Torch Theatre in 2024.

Lucie has worked in West End theatre for many years as a creative producer, previously for Sonia Friedman Productions and now for Second Half Productions.

Lucie is an alumna of the Royal Court Theatre's Young Writers' Programme and completed an MA in Dramatic Writing at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, Lucie grew up in Retford and **GET YOUR TICKETS HERE** attended King Edward VI school: during that time she was a keen Tickets are available member of the online at eventbrite.co.uk **Retford Little** or at Wonderland Theatre. Bookshop, Retford

### **TICKETS: £10.00**

\*Booking fee applies

### ANNIE CHARME Romance Author

DATE: FRIDAY 13TH JUNE 2025 TIME: 7.00 P.M. Venue: The Sherwood 4

In Conversation with Annie Charme

Annie describes her books as real, raw, racy, romance. She loves representing plus size women and spreading body positivity with her curvy heroines and protective inked heroes who love every inch of them.

Annie is an avid reader of romance novels and felt that curvy, full-figured women were not featured enough in this genre.

This inspired her to write her books which have been successful on both sides of the Atlantic after winning a writing scholarship sponsored by Romance author, Lucy Score. (Inc

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### **TICKETS: £25.00**

(Includes a cocktail or mocktail & nibbles)

GET YOUR TICKETS HERE

The event will include the opportunity to buy Annie's books. The ticket price includes a cocktail or mocktail and nibbles. Space is limited for this special event so it will sell out quickly.

Tickets are available online at eventbrite.co.uk or at Wonderland Bookshop, Retford



\*Booking fee applies

WWW.ANNIECHARME.COM () @ @ANNIECHARMEAUTHOR

## JESS WILSON Journalist

DATE: SATURDAY 14TH JUNE 2025 TIME: 2 00 PM

**VENUE: GROVE STREET** METHODIST CHURCH (2)

Writing For Change: In Conversation With Jess Wilson

News UK iournalist. Jess Wilson will be joining us to discuss the power of words to change the world and successful press campaigns that have resulted in change.

Jess is Associate Editor of Fabulous Magazine and works across newspaper, magazine and digital formats.

She has worked on a number of campaigns for The Sun that have changed our perceptions and responses and helped to create a new and **GET YOUR TICKETS HERE** improved status quo.

> Tickets are available online at eventbrite.co.uk or at Wonderland Bookshop, Retford



**TICKETS: £10.00** 

\*Booking fee applies

## BEN DERBYSHIRE Author

DATE: SATURDAY 14TH JUNE 2025 TIME: 4 00 PM **VENUE: GROVE STREET** METHODIST CHURCH (2)

## Home Truths

Ben is Chair of HTA Design LLP, a leading multidisciplinary design practice specialising in housing and placemaking.

He is a Commissioner of Historic England where he serves as chair of the Historic Places Panel. He is President of the London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies, a member of the NHBC Council and a trustee of SAVE Britain's Heritage. He was President of RIBA from 2017 – 2019.

Ben has published widely in research on housing and has summarised his long career as a housing designer in a book, Home Truths, published by Hatch Editions and available from RIBA Books, effectively a primer for **GET YOUR TICKETS HERE** anyone with an interest in the planning and design Tickets are available of sustainable places online at eventbrite.co.uk which will be the or at Wonderland subject of his talk. Bookshop, Retford



### **TICKETS: £10.00**

\*Booking fee applies



# LOUIE STOWELL Children's Author

DATE: SUNDAY 15TH JUNE 2025 TIME: 2 P.M. **VENUE: GROVE STREET** METHODIST CHURCH (2)

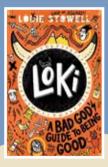
Are you a fan of Norse myths?

Have you ever wondered what Loki, the mischievous shape-shifter and cunning trickster god would be like if they were banished to Earth in the form of an eleven year old? Well, look no further - this is the event for you!

Join author and Norse myth super fan. Louie Stowell, in this interactive event to hear all about her bestselling Loki: A Bad God's Guide series. Packed full of games, doodling and awesome facts. GET YOUR TICKETS HERE this event will be perfect for ages 8+.

accompanied by a grownup but the grownups will love it too.

Tickets are available online at eventbrite.co.uk or at Wonderland Bookshop, Retford



TICKETS: £5.00

\*Booking fee applies



WWW.LOUIESTOWELL.COM

@ LOUIESTOWELL

## PAUL THOMPSON Singer & Author

DATE: SUNDAY 15TH JUNE 2025 TIME: 2.00 P.M. - 4.00 P.M. VENUE: GROVE STREET METHODIST CHURCH (2)

Beware of the Bull. A Celebration of Jake Thackray

Paul Thompson, singer and co-author of Jake Thackray's acclaimed biography, shares his passion for the comic genius of the late, great, singer-songwriter from Yorkshire.

Jake was a true original who became famous in the late sixties through his countless TV and radio appearances, singing his hilarious, satirical, irreverent, poetical and poignant songs.

Paul performs them lovingly on Nadine, a guitar once owned and named by Jake, and also gives fascinating, colourful insights into the Yorkshireman's extraordinary life. **TICKETS: £12.50** 

\*Booking fee applies

**GET YOUR TICKETS HERE** 

Tickets are available online at eventbrite.co.uk or at Wonderland Bookshop, Retford



# TOM KITCHING With Marit Falt

DATE: THURSDAY 12TH JUNE 2025 TIME: 7.00 P.M. VENUE: GROVE STREET METHODIST CHURC<u>H</u> 2

A love letter to the waterways, an∂ a rallying cry for what they can be in the future.

Documenting six months living in the London waterways community, making the long journey across England from Manchester on a traditional narrowboat built in 1937, *Where There's Brass* tells the story of the contemporary London waterways; a floating slum at worst, a bohemian, alternative, vibrant community at best.

Stories old and new interwoven with a specially composed suite of music, underpinned by Tom's long term accompanist, the brilliant Nordic mandola player Marit Fält.

Tom spent time in both Retford and Worksop busking around England as featured in his book Seasons of Change. online

Tickets are available online at eventbrite.co.uk or at Wonderland Bookshop, Retford TICKETS: £12.50

\*Booking fee applies

**GET YOUR TICKETS HERE** 



WWW.TOMKITCHING.CO.UK

@MANDOMARIT

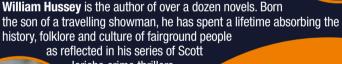
## CRIME WRITERS' PANEL

### DATE: WEDNESDAY 11TH JUNE 2025 TIME: 7.00 P.M. Venue: Grove Street Methodist Church 2

Local crime writer, Graeme Cumming will host a panel discussion about crime writing with authors Jacqui Rose and William Hussey.

**Graeme Cumming** is the author of *Ravens Gathering* and *Carrion*, thrillers which cross genres. *Borderline*, the first book in his new crime series will be released in 2025.

Jacqui Rose is the author of eighteen gritty British crime novels. She also co-writes with Martina Cole. Jacqui comes from South Yorkshire and spent her childhood daydreaming and writing plays and stories for anyone who would listen. She also writes for children.



Jericho crime thrillers. He also writes for children.

**TICKETS: £12.50** 

GET YOUR TICKETS HERE \*Booking fee applies

Tickets are available online at eventbrite.co.uk or at Wonderland Bookshop, Retford

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