

RET FORD

9TH - 15TH
JUNE
2025

BOOK FESTIVAL

- Retford
♥ Books
- Author talks,
panels and
more!
- 4 Venues



FIND US
RET FORD BOOK
FESTIVAL

**RETFORD BOOK FESTIVAL WOULD LIKE
TO THANK OUR SPONSORS & LOCAL
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Christine Aram
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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



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.

WORKSHOP
TICKETS: £7.50

GET YOUR TICKETS HERE

*Booking fee applies

Tickets are available
online at [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)
or at Wonderland
Bookshop, Retford



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!

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

TICKETS: £5.00

GET YOUR TICKETS HERE

*Booking fee applies

Tickets are available
online at [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)
or at Wonderland
Bookshop, Retford



WWW.BETHANYWALKERWRITER.CO.UK @ BETHANYWRITER



STEPHEN BOOTH

Crime Novelist

DATE: MONDAY 9TH JUNE 2025

TIME: 2.00 P.M.

VENUE: RETFORD LIBRARY 1

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 Fry, 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](https://www.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.

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



TICKETS: £10.00

GET YOUR TICKETS HERE

*Booking fee applies

Tickets are available
online at [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)
or at Wonderland
Bookshop, Retford



WWW.ROSIESANDLER.CO.UK



ANGELA ANWYL

Author

DATE: WEDNESDAY 11TH JUNE 2025

TIME: 2.00 P.M.

VENUE: RETFORD LIBRARY ①

TICKETS: £7.50

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
me



ADRIAN GRAY

Author

DATE: WEDNESDAY 11TH JUNE 2025

TIME: 7.00 P.M.

VENUE: GROVE STREET
METHODIST CHURCH ②

TICKETS: £7.50



Scan
me



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](https://www.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.

He will be joined on the Retford Book Festival stage by local hero Paul Cookson. Paul is a poet, a performer, an average ukulele player, a Retford resident and possibly most significantly, the incumbent town crier.



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](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)
or at Wonderland
Bookshop, Retford



WWW.JOHNHEGLEY.CO.UK



LUCIE LOVATT

Playwright

DATE: FRIDAY 13TH JUNE 2025

TIME: 2.00 P.M.

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 Clwyd 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 attended King Edward VI school; during that time she was a keen member of the Retford Little Theatre.

TICKETS: £10.00

GET YOUR TICKETS HERE

*Booking fee applies

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Bookshop, Retford





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.

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: £25.00

(Includes a cocktail or mocktail & nibbles)

GET YOUR TICKETS HERE

*Booking fee applies

Tickets are available
online at [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)
or at Wonderland
Bookshop, Retford



WWW.ANNIECHARME.COM



@ANNIECHARMEAUTHOR



JESS WILSON

Journalist

DATE: SATURDAY 14TH JUNE 2025

TIME: 2.00 P.M.

VENUE: GROVE STREET
METHODIST CHURCH 2

Writing For Change: In Conversation With Jess Wilson

News UK journalist, 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 improved status quo.

TICKETS: £10.00

GET YOUR TICKETS HERE

*Booking fee applies

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Bookshop, Retford





BEN DERBYSHIRE

Author

DATE: SATURDAY 14TH JUNE 2025

TIME: 4.00 P.M.

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 anyone with an interest in the planning and design of sustainable places which will be the subject of his talk.

TICKETS: £10.00

GET YOUR TICKETS HERE

*Booking fee applies

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online at [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)
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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, this event will be perfect for ages 8+.

All children will need to be accompanied by a grownup but the grownups will love it too.



TICKETS: £5.00

GET YOUR TICKETS HERE

*Booking fee applies

Tickets are available
online at [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)
or at Wonderland
Bookshop, Retford



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

GET YOUR TICKETS HERE

*Booking fee applies

Tickets are available
online at [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)
or at Wonderland
Bookshop, Retford





TOM KITCHING WITH MARIT FÄLT

DATE: THURSDAY 12TH JUNE 2025

TIME: 7.00 P.M.

VENUE: GROVE STREET
METHODIST CHURCH 2

*A love letter to the
waterways, and 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*.

TICKETS: £12.50

GET YOUR TICKETS HERE

*Booking fee applies

Tickets are available
online at [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)
or at Wonderland
Bookshop, Retford



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 *Carrión*, 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.

William Hussey is the author of over a dozen novels. Born the son of a travelling showman, he has spent a lifetime absorbing the history, folklore and culture of fairground people as reflected in his series of Scott

Jericho crime thrillers.

He also writes for children.



TICKETS: £12.50

GET YOUR TICKETS HERE

*Booking fee applies

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OUR VENUES



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