





WELCOME TO READING MUSEUM

We are delighted to welcome you to Reading Museum, and hope that you will wish to take part in some of the many activities that we have planned. Don't forget to visit our lovely shop and the Pantry café. Our building currently has scaffolding up, due to essential maintenance and repair work, but we are open as normal. Please keep an eye on our website for all the latest information. All information correct at time of printing.

Admission FREE

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday – Friday 10am – 4pm

Saturday 10am – 5pm

Closed Sundays, Mondays and

Bank holidays

Please see our website for Easter opening times

Reading Museum

Blagrove Street

Reading Borough

Council

RG1 1QH

Information:

0118 937 3400

Follow us on:    

REGULAR EVENTS

EVERY THURSDAY

Museum Surgery

Visitors can ask questions about the collections or ask for help in identifying their own interesting objects (NB no valuations can be given).

All ages, 12pm – 4pm

Drop in

EVERY SATURDAY

Bayeux Tapestry Tours

Enjoy a guided tour of the famous full-size facsimile Tapestry.

Please let us know if you would like to come along as a group so we can arrange.

All ages, 2pm – 3pm

£5.50, book online

For more information and bookings, visit www.readingmuseum.org.uk

EXHIBITIONS

SIR JOHN MADEJSKI ART GALLERY



ABSTRACT ART

Until Saturday 19 August 2023

Big, bold and colourful the Abstract Art exhibition is a joyful display of paintings and sculptures from the Reading Museum collection.

Abstract art is about much more than imitating the world as we see it. It can be an exploration of notions that all artists think about like colour,

shape, space, composition, or materials. It can be an expression of emotion. It can seduce or repel us with optical effects, and it can be the result of experiment, chance, even accident. Often it demands our attention and always it repays our investigation.

The exhibition includes works by great abstract artists like Terry Frost, Steven Buckley, Prunella Clough and Barbara Rae with examples of related ceramics and weavings.

THE WELCOME GALLERY

UNTOLD HISTORIES

Until Saturday 3 June 2023

Created by communities participating in Reading's High Street Heritage Action Zone project.



SCULPTURAL CADDY SPOONS: CONTEMPORARY SILVER

Until Autumn 2023

Reading Foundation for Art are celebrating the Bishopsland Educational Trust based at Dunsden near Reading.



Sculptural spoon by Theresa Nguyen

WINDRUSH LIVES

From Saturday 10 June 2023



Reading Caribbean Associations Group proudly presents Windrush Lives.

In June 1948, a ship named Empire Windrush set sail from far-off Caribbean Islands on the long journey to England. On board was a whole generation of enterprising young Black men and women, prepared to travel across the ocean in search of a better life through hard work in local industries and services. As British subjects they travelled with a sense of duty to the 'Mother Country' and its call for help to rebuild after the Second World War.

75 years on, this highly symbolic moment in Black and British history has indelibly shaped Reading's social and economic fortunes. With a unique display of treasured local family keepsakes, pictures and spoken word, Windrush Lives shares the living memory of the Windrush generation and their descendants in making Reading the place it is today.

EASTER HOLIDAYS



Saturday 1 April – Saturday 15 April

Museum closed on Good Friday 7 April and Easter Monday 10 April

Our Green Stories is a Museums Partnership Reading campaign, between Reading Museum and The MERL. We will be exploring environmental responsibility through all our activities this year. We will be reusing, recycling, refilling, and using natural and found objects inspired by the theme of 'Life on Earth'! **Find out more:** readingmuseum.org.uk/our-green-stories



ACTIVITY CART

Free, drop in

THE BIG GREEN EASTER EGG HUNT

Families, £2 per trail

GREEN STARS AND MOON TRAIL

Families, £1 per trail

BUG HOTEL

Tuesday 4 April

Ages 5+, Families, 1-hour sessions starting at 10am, 11.15am, 1pm & 2.15pm
£4, booking essential

SHREDDY THE SHEEP ROCKERS AND PAPER ROLL BUNNIES

Wednesday 5 April

Families, half-hour sessions
10am – 12pm & 1pm – 3pm
£1, pay on the day, drop in

EASTER EGG SEEDS BOMBS!

Thursday 6 April

Ages 5+, Families, 1-hour sessions starting at 10am, 11.15am, 1pm & 2.15pm
£4, booking essential

PLANETARY PLAYDOUGH

Tuesday 11 April

Ages 5+, Families, 1-hour sessions starting at 10am, 11.15am, 1pm & 2.15pm
£4, booking essential

LIFE BELOW WATER: WORK WITH AN ARTIST!

Wednesday 12 April

Families, drop in between 10am – 12pm & 1pm – 3pm
Free, this workshop is fully funded by Museums Partnership Reading, as part of Our Green Stories

MINIATURE HANGING GARDEN

Thursday 13 April

Ages 5+, Families, 1-hour sessions starting at 10am, 11.15am, 1pm & 2.15pm
£4, booking essential

EARTH DAY: FAMILY ACTIVITIES AT READING MUSEUM

Saturday 22 April

£1 per trail

EARTH DAY: FAMILY ACTIVITIES IN THE MERL GARDEN

Saturday 22 April

Families, drop in between 12pm – 3pm

Get Inspired. Take Action. Be a part of the green revolution!

Join teams from Reading Museum, The MERL, Nature Nurture, BBOWT and others, for creative activities and displays on the theme of 'Invest in Our Planet'. There will also be a chance to see the outcome of our recent 'Create A Buzz' project, part of national Art Fund programme, The Wild Escape.

This event is part of Museums Partnership Reading's Our Green Stories campaign.

Free, no booking required



For more information and bookings, visit www.readingmuseum.org.uk

MAY HALF TERM

**OUR GREEN
STORIES**

Saturday 27 May – Saturday 3 June

(Closed Sundays and Bank Holidays)

This week will be celebrating natural and found objects as part of the **Our Green Stories** campaign. **Find out more: readingmuseum.org.uk/our-green-stories**

ACTIVITY CART

Visit us throughout the holidays and enjoy a range of nature themed crafts and papercraft inspired by our Abstract Art show.

Free, drop in

THE BIG BLUE EARTH TRAIL

Be amazed by our planet Earth and the solar system as you search throughout the Museum to unravel the secret word.

Families, £1 per trail

PAINTED PEBBLES

Tuesday 30 May

How will you decorate yours? Create some pebble friends to take away.

Ages 5+, Families, 1-hour sessions starting at 10am, 11.15am, 1pm & 2.15pm
£4, booking essential

VICTORIAN SCHOOLROOM EXPERIENCE IN THE GATEWAY

Tuesday 30 May

Meet a Victorian schoolteacher and re-learn the '3Rs'. Please note that the Gateway has no step free access and there are uneven steps and floors.

Ages 5+, 11am and 2pm (meeting at the Abbey Gateway)
£1 per person, book online or pay on the day

RAINBOW RIBBON STREAMERS

Wednesday 31 May

All ages will love these fun streamers made from sticks and crepe paper.

Families, half-hour sessions 10am – 12pm & 1pm – 3pm
£1, pay on the day, drop in



CREATE A BUZZ OR A FLUTTER

Thursday 1 June

Create a beautiful buzzy bee or little butterfly from pinecones, wool and felt.

Ages 5+, Families, 1-hour sessions starting at 10am, 11.15am, 1pm & 2.15pm
£4, booking essential

GAIA EXHIBITION

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Saturday 10 – Sunday 18 June

Visit the fantastic Gaia exhibition in the Concert Hall then join us in the Museum to follow our fun family trails through the galleries. See our website for more details.

Booking essential go to whatsonreading.com/gaia for tickets



For more information and bookings, visit **www.readingmuseum.org.uk**

MUSEUMS, MY WAY

EVERY SATURDAY from 1 July

We have created a breakout room, designed for neurodivergent visitors, and their families. Quiet areas with tents and cushions and sensory toys will be available. Families can enjoy exploring the galleries using our sensory bags, then take time out to relax before continuing their visit.

Families, Free, drop in

SUMMER HOLIDAYS



Saturday 22 July – Saturday 2 September

ACTIVITY CART

Free, daily, drop in

BERTIE'S TREE TRAIL AND CRAFT PACK

Families, £2.50 per trail/pack

TEDDY BEARS PICNIC: GREEN TEDS ARE GO!

Wednesday 26 July

Families, 10am – 12pm & 1pm – 3pm

£2, pay on the day, drop in

VICTORIAN FOSSIL HUNTERS

Tuesday 1 August

Ages 5+, Families, 1-hour sessions starting at 10am, 11.15am, 1pm & 2.15pm
£4, booking essential



VICTORIAN SCHOOLROOM EXPERIENCE IN THE GATEWAY

Tuesday 1 August

Ages 5+, 11am and 2pm (meeting at the Abbey Gateway)
£1 per person, book online or pay on the day (35 places max per session)

OUT IN THE FORBURY: BUG CLUB

Tuesday 8 August

Ages 5+, Families, 1-hour sessions starting at 10am, 11.15am, 1pm & 2.15pm
£4, booking essential

ARTY PARTY BAGS

Wednesday 16 August

Families, half-hour sessions 10am – 12pm & 1pm – 3pm
£1, pay on the day, drop in

OUT IN THE FORBURY: BUG CLUB 2

Tuesday 22 August

Ages 5+, Families, 1-hour sessions starting at 10am, 11.15am, 1pm & 2.15pm
£4, booking essential

SLUDGE RIVER ACTIVITY

Wednesday 30 August

Ages 5+, Families, 1-hour sessions starting at 10am, 11.15am, 1pm & 2.15pm
£4, booking essential

TALKS AND TOURS

READING ABBEY QUARTER TOURS

Don't miss the opportunity to book one of Reading Museum's tours this Spring and Summer. Check our website for dates and availability for Abbey Quarter Tours, Abbey Gateway Rooftop Tours and Oscar Wilde Tours. First tour of the season will be on Saturday 1st April 2023.

All ages

From £10 per person

Book online



READING WALKS FESTIVAL

10 – 14 May 2023

Join Museum staff on one of these interesting and relaxed walks as part of Reading's first-ever walks festival.

OUR GREEN STORIES: READING MUSEUM TO READING HYDRO



Wednesday 10 May

Meet at Reading Museum reception

Adults and older children

Time – 2pm to 3.30pm

£10, book online via our website

READING – AN OPEN-AIR MUSEUM FOR ALL

Thursday 11 May

Meet at Reading Museum reception

Adults and older children

Time – 2pm to 4pm

£10, book online via our website

FROM BOSSES TO BANKSY: AN INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC ART IN THE TOWN CENTRE

Friday 12 May

Meet at Reading Museum reception

Adults and older children

Time – 11am to 12.30pm

£10, book online via our website

ABBAY QUARTER WALKING TOURS

Saturday 13 May

Meet at Reading Museum reception

Adults and older children

Time – 11am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 3.30pm

£10, book online via our website

For more information and bookings, visit www.readingmuseum.org.uk

HOW TO FIND US

Reading Museum

Reading Museum is in the Town Hall opposite the rear entrance to Marks & Spencer. The entrance is via glass doors on Blagrove Street, a two minute walk from the railway station and main bus stops.

We recommend using public transport or park and ride to reach central Reading.

www.readingmuseum.org.uk 0118 937 3400

Reading Abbey Quarter

We suggest you begin your visit at Reading Museum to see our permanent Reading Abbey displays.

The Abbey Ruins are a 5 to 10 minute walk away. They can be accessed via the Forbury Gardens or from Chestnut Walk beside the River Kennet.

Free Admission – Donations welcome; suggested donation £5.

Riverside Museum

The Riverside Museum is about a 20 minute walk from Reading Museum. It is accessible from Kenavon Drive or from the Kings Road via Gasworks Road bridge.



Reading Museum, Town Hall, Blagrove Street,
Reading, Berkshire, RG1 1QH



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

READING CLIMATE FESTIVAL 2023

GAIA: Experience Earth as seen from space

Reading Town Hall | 10–18 June
whatsonreading.com/gaia

**READING
CLIMATE FESTIVAL**

GAIA