





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. 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 (we open on a Monday in Oct half term)

Please see our website for Christmas 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

Object Handling

Join our gallery team or one of our volunteers and enjoy learning more about the objects in our Loans Collection.

All ages, 12pm – 3.30pm, 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

Museums, My Way

We have created a breakout room, aimed at neurodivergent visitors and their families. Sensory bags will also be available.

Families, Free, drop in



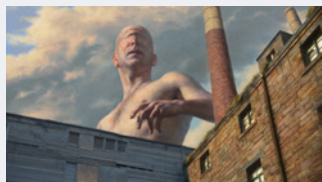
Front Cover: **Finale II, 2019** (imagined last scene of the Bayeux Tapestry), designed and embroidered by Jan Messent
Copyright Jan Messent, Now on display at Reading Museum

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

EXHIBITIONS

SIR JOHN MADEJSKI ART GALLERY

IN THE COMPANY OF MONSTERS: NEW VISIONS, ANCIENT MYTHS



**Saturday 23 September –
Saturday 24 February 2024**

Strikingly contemporary works by artists Eleanor Crook, Paul Reid and Michael Ayrton have been brought together for the first time. The works share an interest in retelling ancient myths of body difference, diversity, and hybridity.

The images of Minotaurs and other mythical Ancient Greek hybrids are contextualised by objects, texts and artworks from the University of Reading and Reading Museum collections.

Look out for the In the Company of Monsters: Art in the Dark Months programme of related talks, workshops and residencies. On Saturday afternoons, chat to students including the University Myth Club who, amongst other things, imagine contemporary endings to the stories.

(warning: parents may wish to view the In the Company of Monsters exhibition before letting younger children take a look)



THE WELCOME GALLERY

WINDRUSH LIVES

**Saturday 10 June –
Saturday 4 November 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.

Windrush Lives shares the living memory of the Windrush generation and their descendants in making Reading the place it is today.

A partnership with ACRE and AGEUK Berkshire. Supported with grants from Reading Borough Council NHLF & DLUHC.

NEW DIRECTIONS COLLEGE - 65TH ANNIVERSARY DISPLAY

Tuesday 14 November 2023 – Saturday 1 June 2024

New Directions College supports individuals in Reading to consider their return to education, enhance their skills and employability, and use their skills effectively in the labour market. This display traces the history of adult education in Reading, showcasing some of the many opportunities the service continues to provide in our communities.



TURBINE HOUSE @ RIVERSIDE MUSEUM

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS: EXHIBITION, UNTOLD HISTORIES OF PEOPLE AND PLACE

**Friday 8 September –
Sunday 17 September**

**Open daily, including weekends 10am – 6pm
Adults and older children
Free, drop in**

SMALL WORKS '23

**Friday 22 September –
Sunday 1 October**

See art where Reading's Rivers Meet - an exhibition of smaller works of art for sale, presented by Reading Guild of Artists.

**Open daily, including weekends 10am – 6pm (10am-2pm on 1 Oct)
Adults and older children
Free, drop in**

OCTOBER HALF TERM



Saturday 21 October to Saturday 28 October
DON'T MISS OUR SPECIAL MONDAY OPENING

ACTIVITY CART – ALL WEEK

Free, drop in

MONSTER MAYHEM TRAIL

All Week

Families
£1.50 per trail, pay on the day
or book online via our website

FANTASTIC BIRD FEAST

Monday 23 October

As autumn draws in it's
time to start feeding our
feathered friends!

**Ages 5+, Families, 1-hour
sessions starting at 10am,
11.15am, 1pm & 2.15pm**
£4, book online via
our website

BIG DRAW: MARVELLOUS MONSTERS

Tuesday 24 October

Join New Directions to
celebrate Reading Museum's
In the Company of Monsters
exhibition. Artists from New
Directions will be on hand
to help you create some
wonderful artwork.

**(warning: parents may wish
to view the In the Company
of Monsters exhibition
before letting younger
children take a look)**
All ages, 10am – 4pm
Free, donations welcome,
drop in



MAKE & TAKE: MONSTER MOBILE

Wednesday 25 October

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



RHYMETIME AT READING MUSEUM

Wednesday 25 October

Families, 10.30am – 11.30am
Free, drop in

LIVE STORYTELLING: MONSTER STORIES

Wednesday 25 October

In this storytelling session
for children, Dr Neil Cocks
from The University of
Reading will introduce three
classic monster tales: Circe;
Frankenstein; The Minotaur.

**Ages 5+, 30-minute sessions
at 2pm and 3pm.**
Free, book online via
our website



OBJECT HANDLING: VICTORIAN TAXIDERMISTRY

Thursday 26 October

All ages, 12pm-3.30pm
Drop in

WILD WOODLAND CROWN

Thursday 26 October

Ages 5+, Families, 1-hour
sessions starting at 10am,
11.15am, 1pm & 2.15pm
£4, book online via
our website

VICTORIAN SCHOOLROOM EXPERIENCE IN THE GATEWAY

Thursday 26 October

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



*Our drop-ins are very popular. Please be aware that we have limited capacity for events in the Museum, particularly during our busy half terms.

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

CHRISTMAS

Friday 1 December to Saturday 23 December



Ethically sourced Christmas Decorations from the Reading Museum Shop

Christmas in the Reading Museum Shop

Something for everyone! Shop our collection online or in store. We have unique, handmade, local and eco friendly gifts.

CHRISTMAS TRAIL Throughout December

Follow our fun trail through the Museum galleries. Don't forget to stop for a rest along the way and write your secret letter to Father Christmas ready to drop in our post box before you leave!

Families
£1.50 per trail, pay on the day or book online via our website

ACTIVITY CART from Saturday 16 December

Free, drop in

FESTIVE RHYMETIME AT READING MUSEUM Wednesday 6, 13 and 20 December

The popular Rhymetime sessions at Reading Libraries are now starting at Reading Museum! These sessions introduce babies and children to language, rhyme and taking part in a fun way – includes some seasonal favourites.

Families, 10.30am – 11.30am
Free, drop in

FATHER CHRISTMAS' VICTORIAN WINTER GROTTO

Can you hear his sleigh bells? Step back into Christmases past in this special Saturday event and make a traditional decoration for your home. Compose a letter then present it to Father Christmas and receive a special gift before you leave. A magical experience for those that still believe!

Families, half-hour sessions
10am – 12pm & 1pm – 3pm
£5 per person, book online (please see our website for dates)

WINTER WILDLIFE WISHING TREE

Thursday 21 December

As winter draws in and there is less food for wildlife, make a tasty outdoor garland with popcorn and dried fruit for the wildlife in your area.

Ages 5+, Families, 1-hour sessions starting at 10am, 11.15am, 1pm & 2.15pm
£4, book online via our website



The Museum will close at 5pm on Saturday 23 December 2023 and will then remain closed throughout the Christmas period. We will reopen on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

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

TALKS, TOURS AND WORKSHOPS



SPORT IN MIND SESSION: MUM & BABY MOVEMENT & EXERCISE

**Mondays from 4
September (RBC term
time only)**

Movement and gentle
physical activity for mums
and babies under 1 year.

In partnership and delivered
by Sport in Mind, the UK's
leading mental health sports
charity, these sessions are
designed to support mums
experiencing low mood,
loneliness or social isolation
to help improve mental
wellbeing and meet other
new mums.

Adults, 1pm – 2pm
For more information please
contact Laura (Sport in
Mind Local Representative)
07341267740 –
info@sportinmind.org –
www.sportinmind.org



HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS: READING ABBEY QUARTER TOUR

Saturday 9 September

11am – 12.30pm

All ages

**Free, book online via
our website**

**See Heritage Open
Days: Exhibition, Untold
Histories of People and
Place in the Turbine
House, Riverside Museum**



HERITAGE OPEN DAYS: READING MUSEUM STORE TOURS

**Thursday 14
September**

**Tours starting at 11am,
12.15pm, 2pm and 3.15pm**
Adults and older children
**Free, book online
via our website**

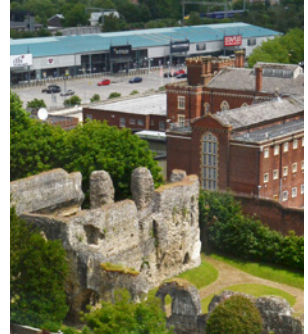


READING ABBEY QUARTER TOURS

Saturday 2 September

All ages,

**£10 per person, book online
via our website**



READING MUSEUM TOUR

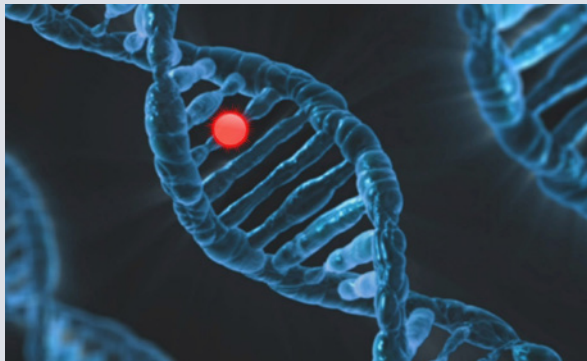
Friday 29 September

Adults, 2pm – 3pm

**Free, book online via
our website**



IN THE COMPANY OF MONSTERS: ART IN THE DARK MONTHS, PART 1 - TALKS



MAKING MUTANTS: HOW AND WHY WE BREAK GENES ON PURPOSE

Tuesday 10 October
Ages 14+, 5.30 – 6.30pm

SENSATION OR SCIENCE? MONSTERS ANCIENT AND MODERN

Tuesday 7 November
Ages 14+, 5.30 – 6.30pm

PLAYER VS. MONSTER: THE MAKING AND BREAKING OF VIDEO GAME MONSTROSITY

Saturday 25 November
Ages 14+, 3 – 4pm

UNDER THE BED AND AMONG THE DEAD: MONSTERS IN ANCIENT EGYPT

Tuesday 5 December
Ages 14+, 5.30pm – 6.30pm
£3, see website for booking details

Coming soon! In the Company of Monsters: Art in the Dark Months Part 2 – there will be activities and events for creative adults in January & February 2024.



DRAWING ON LOCATION

Friday 6 October,
10 November and
8 December

Free, booking essential.
Enrol online at:
www.newdirectionsreading.ac.uk/course_type/creative-arts-and-crafts/

 **New Directions College**
Build your future here



LOCAL HISTORY WALK & TALK: THE DAY READING WAS BOMBED

Saturday 18 November
All ages, 11am – 1.30pm
Free, book online via our website (spaces are limited, please book early to avoid disappointment)



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 Blagrave 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

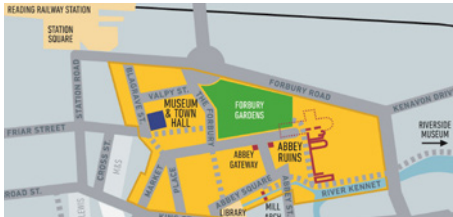
Reading Abbey Quarter

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

The 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.

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, Blagrave Street, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 1QH

