

# SPOTLIGHT ON READING ABBEY QUARTER



## PROJECT UPDATE

October 2019

### New Abbey conservation work at St James Church



More conservation work has recently taken place on another section of the Abbey Ruins. St James Catholic Church, adjacent to the Forbury Gardens, successfully applied for a repair grant from Historic England to carry out work on the parts of Ruins on their site.

The Ruins have been supported and conserved in a similar way to the Council owned Abbey Ruins. The remains consist of part of the chancel wall (which mirrors the tall standing south transept chapel wall in the Council's ruins), the remains of the north transept chapel, 'fallen fragments' beside the church and one chancel column base. The use of hot mixed lime mortar has continued on the St James Church ruins ensuring consistency across the wider Abbey Quarter. This exciting work is approaching completion and, as you can see from the photograph above, will have a long lasting effect of preserving our heritage for the future!

### Jane Austen Day – great success!

Reading Museum was pleased to present our first ever Jane Austen Day on the 27<sup>th</sup> July. As you may know, Jane Austen spent her school days here in Reading at the Reading Abbey Girls Boarding school. This was partially housed in the Abbey Gateway.

We wanted to celebrate our connection with Jane Austen holding a whole day filled with talks, tours, sewing demonstrations, a performance by Austentation and our costumed interpreters. Our Jane Austen and her school friend, Mary talked to our guests about going to school here in Reading!

## MUSEUM EVENTS

### **BIG Draw Sewing Demonstration: ANIMAL!**

28 Oct 2019

10:30am to 12:00pm

### **The BIG Draw with Reading Guild of Artists: ANIMAL!**

28 Oct 2019

10:00am to 3:30pm

### **Mummified Fish Demo!**

29 Oct 2019

10:00am to 2:15pm

### **Victorian Schoolroom Experience in the Gateway**

29 Oct 2019

11:30am to 2:30pm

### **Make & Take: Frankenstein Paper Bag Creatures**

30 Oct 2019

10:00am to 1:00pm

### **Animal Skulls - ROAR!**

31 Oct 2019

10:00am to 2:15pm

For full details see:

[www.readingmuseum.org.uk/museum/whats-on](http://www.readingmuseum.org.uk/museum/whats-on)

Keep an eye out for our **Abbey Quarter Tours** starting again in Spring 2020!

To access an electronic version of this newsletter or to find out more about the project, please visit: [www.readingabbeyquarter.org.uk/](http://www.readingabbeyquarter.org.uk/)

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## WATERFEST – STONE CARVING AND SPINNING



Reading Museum had a fabulous day at Waterfest on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June. The sun was out, for the most part, and we had a lot of fun!

People dropping by were able to meet our Museum on Wheels volunteers, make lolly-stick harmonicas and paper plate tambourines. We also had lots of people explore the 3D model of the Abbey when it was first built with our Virtual Reality headsets!

The Berkshire Guild of Spinners Weavers and Dyers showed people how to spin yarn and Andrew Hood took people back in time to carve relief patterns into stone, much like the stone that topped pillars in the Abbey!

## Down at the Abbey Music Festival

Reading Museum took Museum on Wheels and our costumed interpreters to Down at the Abbey on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September. It was an amazing music festival headed by Heavy-pop!

We had a troop of volunteers helping visitors to explore the history of the Abbey. The event was a great success following on nicely from Night in the Ruins last year.

This annual event is sure to draw crowds for many years to come!

## MUSEUM EVENTS

### Medieval Manuscripts Talk

2 Nov 2019

2:00pm - 3.00pm

### Mini Music Makers!

Every Tuesday 11:00am – 11.30am

Book on our website

### Reading at War Tour

9 Nov 2019

11:00am – 12.30pm

### Medieval Poetry Workshop: Hunts, Feasts, Battles and Storms

30 Nov 2019

10:30am – 3.30pm

## STAY UPDATED

Find the Abbey Quarter on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/ReadingAbbeyQuarter](http://www.facebook.com/ReadingAbbeyQuarter)

See regular updates on Twitter:

[www.twitter.com/RdgAbbey](http://www.twitter.com/RdgAbbey)