

SPOTLIGHT ON READING ABBEY QUARTER



PROJECT UPDATE

JUNE 2018

READING ABBEY WILL BE REVEALED!



We can hardly believe that Reading Abbey will re-open to the public on **Saturday 16 June**. We will be transforming the Abbey Quarter to highlight its exciting 900 years of history.

The event will be completely free to access. The day will begin when the Abbey Ruins are officially re-opened at 11am. The Abbey Quarter will be full of re-enactors, historical crafts, family activities and performances. You can either drop in or enjoy the whole day! In the Forbury Gardens there will be delicious street food and drink to keep you going.

Some of our highlights include:

- Reading Guild of Artists takeover at Reading Museum
- The Civil War camp and Medieval village in the Forbury Gardens
- The 'House of Sound' installation in the Abbey Ruins
- Historical crafts in the Forbury Gardens
- The afternoon children's parade
- Reading Museum pop up in the Forbury with activities, virtual-reality headsets and Abbey objects!

Don't forget to pick up a map on the day from one of our stewards so you know what is going on where and when.

The ruins will be open daily from dawn till dusk except for ticketed events, in the same way as the Forbury Gardens. They will be completely free to access but we will be encouraging donations for the future maintenance of the Abbey Quarter. Thanks to Reading Borough Council, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic England we have been able to save and re-open Reading Abbey. Through public support and venue hire we will be raising money for the constant management and maintenance of the Abbey Ruins.

EVENTS

16 June

Reading Abbey Revealed

Celebrate the re-opening of the magnificent Abbey Ruins at our launch festival.

11am – 5pm

FREE, just drop in

20 – 23 June

Cult Screens Outdoor Cinema

Enjoy a variety of films in the atmospheric Abbey.

From £10.45, booking essential

23 – 24 June

SITELINES: In Ruins

Explore the history of the Abbey Quarter as part of this unique promenade theatre piece.

£5, booking essential

8 July

Mikron Theatre: Get Well Soon

With tunes, transfusions and titters, join Mikron to celebrate 70 years of the NHS.

4pm

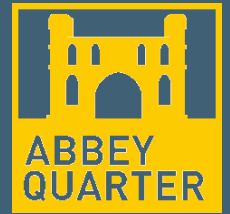
FREE, just drop in

Get the latest updates online
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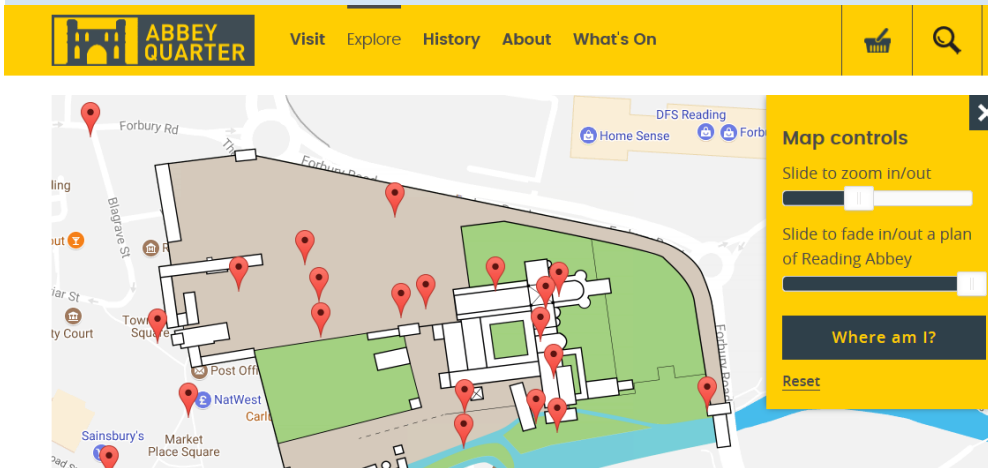


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EXPLORE THE ABBEY QUARTER



After the re-opening of the abbey on 16 June you will be able to explore the Abbey Quarter and enjoy our new information panels. We have launched a fascinating new interactive map for those of you who want to know even more!

Each point on the map provides additional information to the panels, allowing you to dig deeper into the exciting history of the Abbey Quarter and the town. Find out about the tumultuous history of Reading's Butter Market, the enigma of the Forbury Hill and how a mysterious mummified hand, found in the abbey walls by workmen in the 18th century, is believed to be the abbey's holy relic hand of St James.

The abbey was once one of the largest royal monasteries in Europe. The map has a useful overlay outline plan of the abbey which provides a sense of just how extensive the abbey was across the modern town centre. We will gradually change the stories on these pages and add more video and audio content.

If you visit the map whilst in the Abbey Quarter you can use GPS to see where you are within the former Abbey plan. Or you can visit the map at home and read the information at your leisure.

Start exploring at www.readingabbeyquarter.org.uk/explore

ABBAY ON WHEELS ROLLS OUT

Abbey on Wheels will be on tour again this year travelling out to community events across the borough to promote newly re-opened abbey.

We offer a chance for young people to decorate a tile inspired by originals found in the abbey. Stall visitors also have the chance to hold original museum objects (including a tile!) and to try out our virtual reality headset. This transports wearers to the top of the abbey gateway or the conservation scaffold to get a view of the Abbey quarter not usually seen by the general public.

Look out for us at an event near you!

EVENTS

11 – 21 July

Progress Theatre: Much Ado About Nothing

Shakespeare is back in the ruins with this great comedy.

Booking essential

14 July

Poetry Workshop: Mining the Past

Be inspired by the newly conserved Abbey in this poetry workshop.

10.30am – 3.30pm

£25, adults, booking essential

14 July and 11 August

Costumed Tours

Explore the Abbey Quarter on these fun costumed tours. Perfect for families.

11am – 12pm and 2pm – 3pm

From £3, booking essential

For our full events list or to book tickets, please visit our website or pick up the latest copy of 'Reading Arts - What's On'.



LOTTERY FUNDED

