

From: [Richard Bennett](#)
To: [Richard Bennett](#)
Subject: Reading Civic Society Items of potential interest
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Dear Civic Society members and friends

Cecil Beaton by Hugo Vickers.

I thought some might find this talk about Cecil Beaton of interest and great fun. It is being hosted by the New York Adventure Club but delivered by Hugo Vickers DL. Hugo has written the Authorised biography of Cecil Beaton and also books about the Royal Family and pops up on most TV programmes about the Royal Family within the first 5 minutes (we time it!). Knowing Hugo I am sure it will be great fun, fascinating and ever so slightly indiscreet. He tells me he lent a little sketch by Cecil Beaton of the view from his house in the West Indies to the exhibition about him which is on show at Blenheim. Thursday 26 August 6pm to 7:30pm '[Cecil Beaton: The Great Creative Kingpin of the 20th Century](#)' [Webinar Registration, Thu, Aug 26, 2021 at 1:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)



Reading Refugee Support Group – winner of the Queens Award for Voluntary Service 2019.

Reading Refugee Support Group have a Pledge Funding campaign with the Big Give to raise funds for their Advice and Drop in Services. Pledges by 5th September will be doubled by matched funding. The Pledge not taken till December. Do consider supporting. <https://rrsg.org.uk/the-big-give-christmas-challenge-2021/> and [Pledge \(thebiggive.org.uk\)](https://www.thebiggive.org.uk/). Their Christmas Carol Concert will be held in Reading Minster on 17th December with the Reading Community Gospel Choir. Tickets not up yet but they are hoping for a capacity crowd.

Reading Rock Festival 1971.



So did you go? Before our time! If so, or if not, then Reading Museum has an exhibition celebrating the 50 years of the Festival between 26 August and 29 January. [The 1971 READING FESTIVAL: For the First Time | Reading Museum](#)

Sumer is incumen in by Hilary James and Simon Mayor. This has been featured on Celtic Music Radio (Glasgow) and Mark Radcliffe's Radio 2 Folk Show [\(49\) Sumer Is Incumen In - Simon Mayor & Hilary James - YouTube](#)

Purley on Thames Festival of Art – 4 Sept 10am to 4 pm Purley Memorial Hall – Inside and outside.



A post I saw says “ *This is an exciting new venture for Purley and I really hope that those of you in the wider Reading area who are interesting in arts and crafts will come along and support it*”.

Reading Community Rowing Club Queens Award for Voluntary Service winner 2021. This is a video about its history how it works. [Reading Rowing Club](#)

Thames Lido

In 2017, a year before Thames Lido opened in October 2018 Arne Ringner took 3 groups of Civic Society members around the site explaining what they were doing and the challenges they faced. Initially the plan had been for just one group but the visit was so popular we were overwhelmed with interest. Since the Lido was opened (after 3 years and £3M) it has been hugely popular, of course during Covid it faced huge challenges. As many will recall RBC struggled to find a practical future for a very dilapidated site and various schemes had to be considered, including demolition and the local enthusiasts sought, unsuccessfully, to gain the lease of the building. Whilst they did a brilliant job in ensuring the building gained national listing I am sure their plans would never have had the vision, drive and necessary cash which has been employed to deliver the Lido project. An interesting challenge in the context of Reading Gaol.

Today the Lido announced that they have just reached 1,000 members and only have 100 more and then it is the waiting list. [\(1\) Thames Lido - Posts | Facebook](#) Great that RCS was able to have that early insight. I am fortunate to have an annual membership as a Christmas present - thanks Alison!

RCS is hosting 2 events for Heritage Open Days in the meeting room there (the Changing Room – it is bigger than it sounds);

- 11th September 6 -8pm Lloyd Turner will talk about Landlords and Conservation, A conflict of Interests? The Mayor and Mayoress have agreed to attend For info and how to book go to [Landlords and Conservation. A conflict of Interests? | What's On Reading \(whatsonreading.com\)](#)
- 17th September 6-8pm Joe Doak will talk about Looking up to History in Reading Town Centre. For information and how to book go to [Look Up to History in Reading Town Centre: Discovering the Hidden Stories Behind Reading's Buildings | What's On Reading \(whatsonreading.com\)](#)
- Tea/ Coffee and cake will feature.
- Please do share with your friends.

Reading Council seeks your views.

Libraries Consultation

As the RBC website says “ **We are developing a ‘vision’ for our library service to ensure it is forward looking, innovative and provides an excellent experience for everyone. We’ve set out a draft idea of what we hope to achieve and what we think our priorities should be. We need your help. We want to know more about how you use the library service, what you think of it, where you think our priorities should lie and what should be our future goals - for example, what improvements you would like to see in the town’s Central library**”. [Reading Libraries Consultation - Reading Borough Council - Citizen Space](#). There is an on line survey [Reading Libraries Consultation questionnaire Survey \(surveymonkey.co.uk\)](#) or drop in sessions at various libraries until 9 September .

Modular Homes for the homeless - initial batch of 40 delivered. To see Cllr Page explain go to [\(6\) Reading Council - Posts | Facebook](#), who could resist such an opportunity! As Tony outlines it is a good scheme from many points of view.

Work progresses on Green Park Station [\(5\) Reading Council - Posts | Facebook](#)

Reading West Station - Preparatory Works have started for this major project which will involve lane restrictions for more information [Work Begins To Transform Reading West](#)



Best wishes

Richard

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