



# READING CIVIC SOCIETY

Newsletter 9 August 2021



heritage open days

## Heritage Open Days 2021 10-19 Sept

Most of Reading's HODs events are now listed on <https://whatsonreading.com/heritage-open-days-2021>

There will be a printed guide which lists 25 events, a PDF of which is attached.

If you plan to visit events outside of Reading the website to go to is [Visit | Heritage Open Days](#)

### Reading Civic Society has three events to which we hope will appeal to members and also members of the public

1. 11<sup>th</sup> September from 18:00 to 20:00. **Landlords and Conservation. A conflict of interests?**

This is a talk by Lloyd Turner of Turner Property, a company which owns some 150 properties around Reading including some Listed Buildings (Hillside on Allcroft Road and Carlisle House on Oxford Road – next to Holy Trinity) and some large Heritage buildings (Locally Listed and not). The presentation has been developed especially for this Reading Civic Society HODs event. The Mayor and Mayoress of Reading have agreed to attend this event so I do encourage members to come along. It will be held in the airy Changing Room of Thames Lido. Tea/ coffee/ cake on arrival.

To find out more go to [Events | Heritage Open Days](#)

To book on Eventbrite [Landlords and Conservation. A conflict of interests? Tickets, Sat 11 Sep 2021 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](#)

2. 12+ 15 September 9:50am. Terry Dixon is leading **Castle Hill and Coley Walkabout** for us [Events | Heritage Open Days](#) The 15<sup>th</sup> is fully booked (15 people) with a waiting list and the 12<sup>th</sup> close to full. Booking via Eventbrite [HODs Castle Hill & Coley Heritage Walkabout Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)

3. 17 September from 18:00 to 20:00 **Look up to History in Reading Town Centre, a proposed Heritage Interpretation App.**

This is a talk by Joe Doak who until last year was Associate Professor of Urban Planning & Development at the University of Reading. The presentation has been developed especially for this Reading Civic Society HODs event. Joe is also the Social Media Manager for the Dorchester (Dorset) Civic Society so may have some wider perspectives to share. It will be held in the Changing Room of Thames Lido. Tea/ coffee/ cake on arrival

To find out more go to [Events | Heritage Open Days](#).

To book on Eventbrite [Look Up to History....in Reading Town Centre! A Proposed Heritage Interpret Tickets, Fri 17 Sep 2021 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Terry also has **Terry's Edible Reading Walkabout** on 16+18 Sept [Events | Heritage Open Days](#) with a few spaces left.

## Reading Civic Society Annual luncheon - Saturday 13 November 2021



We just managed to squeeze in an event at Pepe Sale in March 2020 before the world flew off its axis for 18 months (and still is). Understandably some members decided they did not wish to attend. Never the less around 40 people did attend.

We thought that by November 2021 members may be interested in meeting again for lunch.

Several committee members have therefore undertaken the truly arduous task of checking out a couple of restaurant options (oh it's a tough job being on the Civic Society Restaurant testing committee). They concluded that Pepe Sale continues to offer the best combination of food, at a reasonable price, and space.

We have therefore have made a booking for Saturday 13 November for the Reading Civic Society **"Now where were we before we were so rudely interrupted?"** lunch.

The booking form is attached for return to Clare Platts by 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021 please. We do hope we can tempt you along to this event, which we promise will not be ZOOMed. Friends are always welcome.

### Look Draw Build @ Reading Station



The June newsletter included a brief about this project which Reading Civic Society is a partner to. [Reading Station — ARCHI adventure \(archi-adventure.com\)](http://www.archi-adventure.com)

**Great Western Railway** recently issued a press release about the project may be seen [GWR grant for schools' project focusing on Reading Station \(prgloo.com\)](http://www.prgloo.com)

In Spring 2022 the project will engage some 600 year 5 children across 10 Reading Schools aiming to encourage children, and their families, to connect with architecture and public space, specifically that of Stations using Reading Station as an example.

It is funded by GWR as one of their Community Engagement Projects and Haslams Estate Agents are Gold Sponsors. We are approaching other companies for support either cash, or items which can be used in class to build model stations.

We have started to approach engineering companies and firms of Architects to assist us to deliver the project in class. Stantec, formerly Peter Brett Associates, have signed up to do so, it is new adventure for them as they usually engage in Secondary schools.

Before the end of term 6 schools from across Reading had signed up to take this project. We will work on the others at the start of the Autumn term. The project concludes in June 2022 with a display on the Reading Station Concourse of each school's best station.

## Simonds Brewery Website

Raymond Simonds has told me about the work he has recently concluded to add information the Simonds Brewery website. As he says;

***"I am pleased to report that a frustrating 3 year project has finally come to fruition. I hope it may be of interest to Reading Civic Society members. I have continued to add material to my website on a regular basis, in particular to the 'Timeline' <https://simondsfamily.me.uk/history/timeline/>***

***But this is different. About 12,000 pages of Brewery History & the Social History of Reading are now online and fully searchable in the various Staff newsletters, which were issued from 1926-1961. These may be seen;- <https://simondsfamily.me.uk/marketing/advertising/>***

***Some of the later volumes were online before, but in very low resolution format, that could not be searched. These are completely different.***

So as Raymond signs off " I hope this may interest your members." Great work Raymond.

### Old images of Reading

Graham Turner has posted to the Memories of Old Reading and History and Events of Coley Facebook pages a number of short films from the 1960s, and earlier. I believe they come from the British Film Institute Player. I thought members might be interested to view them

- He says of the first one; ***" I found this clip of film on a fashion show in an old bus in 1967. I have slowed the speed down to see the streets of Reading in the background. It shows Castle street, Minster Street, Broad Street and I cannot pick the other streets out. Can you? [Facebook](#)***
- Of this one he says ***"It shows Reading Borough council collecting abandoned cars and selling them to scrap yards in 1963. It starts with cars in Hills Meadow carpark, and a view looking towards the Thames and then looking north to Caversham. The other views are Alpine Street looking up towards Waldeck Street on the hill. I do not know who the lady is or the children. If you have any more photos or information on this please add them to this, so we can expand the film."*** [Facebook](#)
- The Odeon Cinema in Cheapside [Facebook](#),
- Running around Reading May 1938 [Facebook](#),
- Gascoines and Cundles off Berkeley Avenue [Facebook](#)

### Gentlemen Danes



Members will I hope recall that in 2009 Reading Civic Society funded the restoration of the text on the memorial to Laurentius Braag on the South external wall of Reading Minster. The funds were raised by a bring and buy sale (thank you Muriel and Brenda) and members donations. The restoration was initiated at the suggestion of Society member John Nixon.

Since the completion of the restoration John has been writing a book about the Gentlemen Danes. It tells the untold story of Danish and Norwegian prisoners on war on parole in Reading between 1807 and 1814. The biggest challenges have been to find an editor and publisher.



The book is, however, just about to be sent to the printers.

Having had the opportunity to see the finished version I am sure members will consider it to be a very appropriate, and fascinating, addition to the stories of Reading. Once I know about publication dates I will let members know.

### **Service of Thanksgiving for the Duke of Edinburgh 16 October**

I thought some members would be interested to know that there will be a County wide service to mark the life of the Duke of Edinburgh in Reading Minster on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 5pm. During September members of the public will be able to apply on line for seats. I will circulate details of how to do this in due course.

Best wishes  
Richard

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