

READING CIVIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Registered Charity no. 263959

Website: Readingcivicsociety.org.uk

Jane Austen 250 Plaque Unveiled

Saturday 28 June saw the official unveiling of a plaque commemorating Jane Austen's time in Reading.



Jane Austen, along with her sister Cassandra, spent 18 months in 1785/6 attending the Reading Ladies' Boarding School which was situated adjoining the Abbey Gateway. The Standfast Association erected a plaque in the vicinity to commemorate this fact in 2006, it was badly situated and had become illegible. To mark the 250th anniversary of Jane's birth, which was being celebrated around the country, a new plaque was commissioned, in Forest of Dean stone, and mounted in the inner Gateway in March 2025.

Reading Civic Society worked with Reading Borough Council and Reading Museum to find funding of £7,500 for the new plaque's design, build and mounting. Most of this funding was found from Levelling Up funding. The society was asked if it could raise £1,000. We did this in 3 weeks from donors which included; RCS members, the Abbey School, Friends of Reading Museum, Friends of Reading Abbey, the History of Reading Society and 13 Society members made donations of £330.

The plaque's unveiling was attended by around 30 invited guests including the Mayor, Cllr Dr Alice Mpopu-Coles, Lucy Zeal Deputy Lieutenant, Matt Rodda MP and a number of the donors to the Civic Society Appeal. The Mayor and Lucy Zeal DL gave speeches along with the Head of the Abbey School, Will Le Fleming. Imogen Haley, the Abbey School's Poet Laureate, read a poem she had written inspired by the author. More details of the event and the plaque's design and build can be found on our website. Images Stewart Turkington

Heritage Plaque Project

We now have a section on the Society website entitled 'Heritage & Plaques' ([here](#)). A working party has, over the last few years, been finding, checking and collating the various commemorative plaques around our town. The site's design and build has been funded by Reading High Street Heritage Action Zone, Paul Faulkner of Headwall Hosting gave technical support. There are 21 plaques included, each with details of how to find it and a little of the history of those commemorated, plus there is an overall map of their locations around the town. As well as these plaques the site holds information on other commemorative items around the town, but not memorials in churches or statues. We have a few of the more minor plaques to add to this second category.

Some funds have been raised. The next step in the process is to create a panel who can decide on potential new plaques on submissions made by public engagement and the process by which public engagement takes place.

Civic Society Activities

Station Hill Official Opening June 2025

A VIP reception on 19 June marked the start of the celebrations. It was attended by our Chair and members Richard Stainthorp and Caroline Pillar along with the Deputy Mayor and Matt Rodda MP. Unusually, it included the burial of a time capsule, filled by the children of the Civitas Academy, by the fountain which could be an interesting 'opening' event in 2050 for future Society members.



During the area's development Richard Stainthorp was a key member of the Advisory Group on Public Art. RCS's contribution was mentioned at the VIP event twice. Its success can be seen in the bright artworks now adorning the station's surroundings along with the new 'pocket park'.



On 21 June [Party On The Hill - Launch Event - Station Hill](#) was a free, all-day celebration.

Street Art and Nature

Talking of artwork in our town, Reading's Street Art Advisory Group is working to commission murals to celebrate the story of Reading. They will be sited on buildings on key routes into Reading. The first is to be installed this autumn on a building in Greyfriars Road. The Advisory Group have been liaising with local businesses and people on themes and to identify willing building owners. Our Society was asked to join the Group in July.

Throughout our town we have splashes of colour from murals and artwork. Those who venture around the town will see the brightly coloured ones in the underpass at Holy Brook Nook and work is now ongoing on similar artwork in Lulworth Road in Whitley Wood. These works are often funded from the Community Infrastructure Lobby (CIL) - a charge placed on new developments to support and enhance



the environment and services around any building activities.

Communities have access to a number of sources of funding, albeit they are often heavily over-subscribed and making a submission can be quite an onerous task, but rewarding if you win. The area around the Holy Brook Nook has been awarded a grant of £379,777, gained by Nature Nurture, for a three-year nature project in this area in Coley from the National Lottery Community Fund. The plan is to include community-designed artwork, wayfinding signage and social, wellbeing and family focussed events. It is so nice to see this area, which was once the hub of Reading's heavy industries and more lately rather run-down, being rejuvenated by community efforts.



The Cartwheeling Boys

In our Spring 2024 edition we gave the background to the Cartwheeling Boys artwork and its sad demise in the storms of early 2022. We understand from Ward Council sources that the broken and missing elements of the sculptures, which are in aluminium, are now being recast in preparation for their erection on the Fobney St wall of the new Central Library.

Updated Society Constitution

In response to items discussed at the latest AGM, including Education, the Society's Constitution has been updated and approved by the Committee. The latest version can be found on the front page of the Society's website under '[More about Reading Civic Society](#)'.

Reading Walks Festival 10-18 May

This festival featured 50 walks. Our Society was involved in six walks, with Terry Dixon leading four and Richard Bennett and Terry leading two tours around the Kendrick Conservation Area. Terry's four walks attracted 74 participants raising £240 towards the 3 charities he is supporting in 2025, £2,700 for 2025/26 so far; £28,258 since he started 9 years ago.

Bracknell Forest Society Walk

As a follow up to his talk to members on 12 April, on 12 June Andrew Radgick took a group of members on a walkabout of central Bracknell. Sadly only 4 members attended. Andrew showed us around the town centre explaining the major refurbishment which had been undertaken in the last 10 years. The small number of heritage buildings we saw were mainly pubs or former pubs. The art in the underpasses showed the lost heritage buildings; none had been vandalised. In June 2026 we will host Bracknell Forest Society on a walk around Reading.

Ways and Means Trust Talk 2 August



This Trust has supported adults with recurring mental ill health or with learning disabilities for the last 55 years. They box the materials for the LOOK DRAW BUILD programme. CEO Frances Woolaway BEM and Terry Spencer focussed on their history and work, and the opportunities and challenges they have faced over the years and continue to face going forward. Richard Bennett, who was at the talk commented "Whenever I go up to the Ways and Means and see the work they do I am astonished at their determination and tenacity to continue their work despite what the economic and political world throws at them and those they support". This was

our first event in the Oracle Management Suite, yet only 7 attended and donations to W+MT were £20.

What's Coming Up?

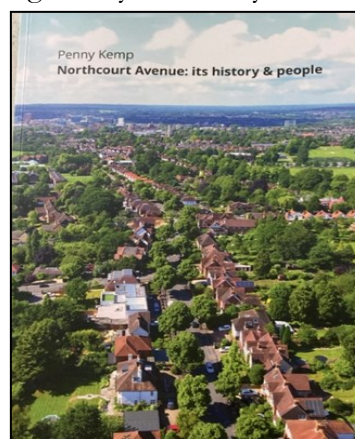
Walk along Northcourt Avenue

10 September

Our Treasurer Penny Kemp will lead a walk along Northcourt Avenue to accompany her recently published second edition of 'Northcourt Avenue: its history and people'.

For those who do not know the avenue, it grew up in the first 30 years of the 20th century on the southern edge of Reading and echoes the development of the town in those years.

Houses designed by nationally known architects of



the Arts and Crafts movement grace the west side of the avenue and the east side features iconic 1920s chalet style bungalows and semis.

Penny has researched the lives of the fascinating artists, academics, philanthropists and local businessmen whose homes were in the avenue and she will share some of those tales.

Nationally known artist Robert Gillmor, who was born in the road and lived most of his life there, contributed illustrations as have other artists, members of the Reading Guild of Artists. Fathers of Reading Civic Society, Martyn Reason and H Godwin Arnold were residents and contributed many memories to the book.

The walk for Civic Society members and friends will take place on Wednesday 10 September, meeting at 11 am and will last about an hour and a half, weather depending. After the walk we will retire for refreshments to the Kung Fu Kitchen on Christchurch Road. Bookings must be made directly with Penny (see email address below). Numbers are restricted to 15, to date 11 places have been taken.

Penny's book can be obtained by contacting her on pjkick13@gmail.com

Heritage Open Days 12-21 September



Our Society events are listed on the Heritage Open Day (HOD) website, along with 37 [other HOD events](#) happening around the town.

On **13 September** in Caversham Baptist Church at 2.30 pm we are hosting [The Royal Meteorological Society](#) whose Education

Officer will look back on their 175 year history and also forward to their challenges and opportunities. Cllr Rowland suggested some years ago that we should try to meet the Society as their offices are based on Oxford Road, Reading. Whilst a visit to their offices has not been possible we have commissioned (paid for) this presentation especially for HODs. This talk is the middle one of three in the church that afternoon. At 1:30pm Helen Lambert will tell the story of Reading Bridge and the old and new Caversham Bridges and at 3:30pm it is 'Beehives Through Time'.

Tony Page will be in the Oracle Management Suite on **Mon 19 September** at 2 pm giving us a talk entitled [Planning in Reading: From Sleepy Town to Neo City. Reflections on Successes and Failures over 50 years](#). He will give us the benefit of his 50 years in various roles as a Reading councillor and Mayor. The talk's location is very appropriate as the Oracle scheme was one in which Tony was heavily engaged ensuring that Reading had an appropriate retail site. Whilst the talk is fully booked, spaces are limited to 48, don't be put off. Please sign up to the Waiting List as it may be possible to arrange a 2nd session later in the afternoon.

Tour of Oxfordshire Churches

Sunday 5 October (Noon to 6pm)

After a year's gap Committee member Lynette Edwell has taken on the Churches Tour challenge to lead us, along with an Oxfordshire Tour guide, on an afternoon tour of three Oxfordshire churches; St Mary the Virgin at Iffley, St James the Great at Fulbrook and St Mary's at Swinbrook.

The bus will leave Trooper Potts Way at noon, returning 6-6:30 pm. There will be a one hour stop in Burford to enable members to have a wander round or have coffee or afternoon tea. The cost of the bus will be £30 per head. A flyer containing details and booking arrangements will be circulated soon.

Workhouse Talk, Thursday 6 November

Dr Margaret Ounsley will speak to us about 'Workhouses, Inns and Vestries: How the parishes of

Reading managed their poor in the 18th Century'. Dr Ounsley has lived in Coley for many years and her doctorate was on the Elizabethan Poor Law impact in Reading. The event will be at Watlington House on 6 November starting at 11 am (arrival at 10.40 am). A flyer will be circulated.

Reading Civic Society Annual Luncheon 14 March 2026

Our annual get-together will be held in 'The Rising Sun' public house in Castle Street, having had such a successful event here in 2024. Our original plan of meeting in October didn't draw sufficient responses so we decided to revert to the timing used before the pandemic. All Society members and friends are welcome. Details of timing, costs and menu selection will be shared closer to the event date.

Other Matters

Launchpad Renovation



On 31 July our Chair was invited to attend the official opening of Launchpad's newly renovated stable area in Merchant Place. [Launchpad](#) is a homeless prevention charity providing information and support in our town, started in 1979 as a soup kitchen. Since this time they have expanded their offerings and last year helped over 1,800 people. They have done an excellent job to make a safe, welcoming and flexible space for their drop in service. Rooms with dividers provide modern flexible spaces that can be hired by other users. The work was achieved by a large donation from the [Earley Charity](#), supplemented by support from donors.

Reading's Big Quiz-PACT, 2 October

How much do you know about Reading?

Committee member, Terry Dixon, asks all Society members if they "*Fancy getting together and putting in a team (of 4 people - only £10 pp) in this great unique fundraising event for Reading's wonderful PACT (Parents and Children Together) charity.*" He and his wife Jackie volunteer for the charity and have written the questions. The quiz will be on 2 October (6.30-9 pm). For full details and to submit your team, please use this [link](#).

BECOMING AN ALDERMAN (24 June 2025)

Having been elected as a Labour councillor in 1973, Tony Page was the longest serving councillor in southern England when he retired after 50 years of service. This year he was made an Alderman. But what is an Alderman? The term originates in Anglo-Saxon times where 'ealdormen' were high-ranking officials of the town who exercised judicial, administrative or military functions. Over the centuries the role has moved through being one with voting rights elected by Councillors to today's more ceremonial role. Councils in England have powers to create honorary Aldermen (or Alderwomen) and it is usually done as a reward for services rendered as a councillor.

On 24 June, Cllr Karen Rowland introduced the motion to confer the title on Tony at a special meeting in advance of a full meeting of the Council saying ***"Public service was in Tony's blood. He always appeared cool under pressure, exhibiting a calm sense of fearlessness to tackle and drive forward the most difficult decision that needed to be made for the town."*** Liz Terry, Council Leader, then listed his many achievements which include being Mayor of Reading in 2023. The proposal, on being put to a vote of the councillors, was carried unanimously. Alderman Page was then asked to sign the Book of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen, presented with an Alderman scroll and pendant by Mayor Alice Mpofu-Coles and invited to give an address to the Council. In this, Tony reviewed some of the highlights and challenges of his career ending with ***"If you want to know more you will have to come to the talk I am giving for the Reading Civic Society on the 19 September in the Oracle Management Suite"***.



In a reception in the Mayor's Parlour, Alderman Page was robed up for the first time and took part in the photo session with, from L-R, Alderman Tony Jones and Alderwoman Jeanette Skeats, both appointed in 2022, and Sir John Madejski OBE DL who was made a Freeman of the Borough in 2006.

Our Society Chair was honoured to be invited to attend this ceremony and reception. Other Civic Society members who had been invited to attend the event and the reception included Steve Woodford (Haslams) and Jill Woodford, Katrina Parker. Images Chris Forsey

REDA and City Vision News

REDA ([Reading's Economy & Destination Agency](#)) is a private and public sector partnership and has a vision to boost business and enhance visitor experience in a way that improves the quality of life for all those in the Reading region, and to enable Reading reach its full potential as a world-class destination and to achieve its [2050 City Vision](#).

We work closely with REDA on relevant local initiatives and in September our Chair took part in the REDA Business Network Re-launch aimed at providing renewed focus on local procurement, skills development, policy engagement and building a strong local business community.

REDA produces an informative monthly newsletter full of news about our town—the current and past issues can be found [here](#). This page also allows you to sign up for direct receipt of the newsletter saving you from having to diarise a time to find and read it.

LOOK DRAW BUILD in Bristol 2025

The Look Draw Build Spring Special Edition newsletter explained the overall project and the delivery to the schools in Reading during February to March 2025 ending with the exhibition in the Oracle Shopping Centre.

It also identified that, responding to the Network Rail challenge “Have you ever thought of delivering the project in Bristol?”, we would be heading down the main line to deliver the project to 9 schools in Bristol.



Following the Reading model, the first event for the schools in April was a visit to Bristol Temple Meads station for a safety on the railway briefing by Dan Pearce, GWR's Senior Accessibility Mentor (*Image left: a visit underway*).

Over 2 weeks in May we delivered station building morning workshops in 14 classes, some 420 children. They were led by RCS Members Steve Snook, Lindsey Barker and Richard Bennett, also by Brigadier Hugh Robertson, QVRM TD VR, a Signals Engineer who had taken part in Reading, and Carol Jackson Doerge DL, a Berkshire Deputy Lieutenant taking part for the first time.

Delivery in the classes was supported by 25 volunteers including STEM ambassadors from the Bristol offices of Stantec, Ridge and Partners, Mott MacDonald, Enerveo and Network Rail. (*Images left: in Baddock Wood, right: in St Peter and St Paul*).



As in Reading, there was the same enthusiasm from the children and rising to the challenge. Commuting again, on the 6:30am train from Reading to the schools, was a bit of a shock.

The final events were held on 6 June. The assessment panel, the exhibition and the briefing were held in 3 spaces of Brunel's original Station, now called the Engine Shed. The assessment panel, formed of 8 senior members of the companies we worked with, was held in part of Brunel's original Board Room. On the morning of the event we collected 12 of the models from the schools, some inevitably needed a bit of repair work (*Image left: Panel members with some of the models*). The models were put on display in the evening in “Platform 14”. This encouraged 62 people to attend the briefing (*Image below left*) and reception, including 40 parents, teachers and children from 5 of the schools.



We were honoured that the briefing and reception were attended by a representative from the Lieutenancy of the City and County of Bristol, Mr Stephen Parsons MBE DL. “Mr Brunel” from SS Great Britain complemented the Railway Heritage theme (Railway 200) we were reflecting.



The winning class, from Our Lady of the Rosary School, is based in north Bristol in one of the less affluent areas of the City. They will take their prize, a visit to SS Great Britain, in the Autumn Term. Cotham School received a Highly Commended award. Their model was brilliant but it was 4 times bigger than any other model, they had gone over budget using additional materials and taking more time - they were just so keen!

Feedback from parents and schools who attended the event was hugely positive. A partner from Ridge said **“I hope you do this again next year, if you do count us in”**.

So what did it all cost? Grant funding, from 4 sources, totalled £15,000. The forecast expenditure, if both winning schools take up their prize, is just under £15,000. (£7,000 Reading, £8, 000 Bristol.)

Adam Sowan

We were so sorry to hear of the death of Adam Sowan on 29 June this year at the age of 81. Adam was very active in the Reading Civic Society and a great source of information for us, and others, on many aspects of the history, culture and heritage of Reading.

Having joined the Society in 1983, Adam became a committee member and newsletter editor from 1998 to 2020.

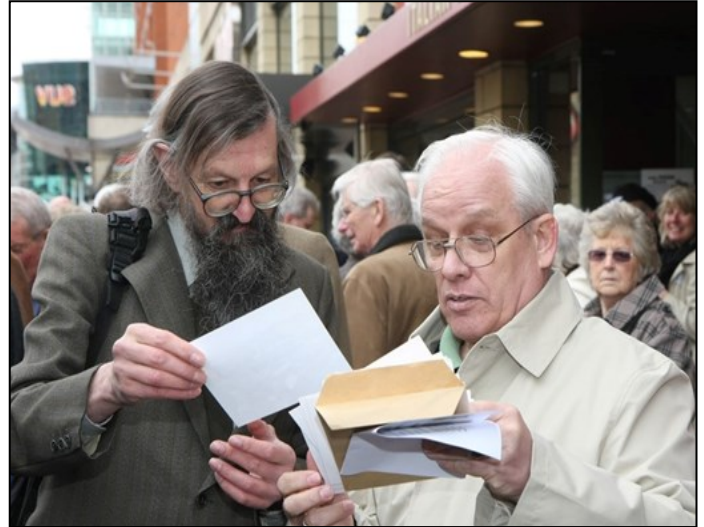
He was always ready to share his knowledge through the books he wrote and via the very interesting walks he led around the town. One of his walks tackled the difficult subject of “Unbuilt Reading”, describing things which were not there and which did not happen, but Adam managed this skilfully and we shared his regret that a proposed 1794 terrace by Soane never materialised. But we saw the drawings which also appeared in Adam’s book about Soane in Reading, “A Mark of Affection: the Soane Obelisk in Reading”.

Ah, the books! I am sure we all have some of them on our bookshelves, ranging as they do over many subjects: origins of street names from A-Z; places of worship; Reading station in all its incarnations; the Holy Brook, and the much-maligned Reading in literature. They are all beautifully produced by Reading publisher Two Rivers Press with which Adam and his partner, Barbara Morris, have been so closely involved for many years.

One of Adam’s great interests and areas of expertise was Reading’s 4th B – bricks, the subject of his last book “Bricks and Brickwork in Reading”. This book glories in the hugely varied patterns and colours of brickwork in Reading – we are so lucky to have it!

To quote Muriel Parsons ***“An inspiring man. We usually collected his book titles from his house and we were always made welcome. Think I met him originally through The Rising Sun, Saving the Huntley and Palmer building and The Newbury Bypass!!! Not necessarily in that order! Years ago!”***

Helen Lambert ***“Adam’s knowledge on brickwork was amazing. I remember from one of his walks a new building where he had persuaded the developers to simulate a***



Above, Adam being shown the 360° photographs of the Mill Lane area taken with a Glass Plate camera from the top of the water tower in 1895. This meeting with Civic Society member Ken Walker (right) led to our exhibition in 2010, “A Circle and a Century”, in collaboration with MERL, which recreated those views with new panoramic digital photographs by Chris Widdows, a hundred years on: a fascinating exercise in “compare and contrast”.

traditional bond. These things make a difference!”

And Terry Dixon ***“He did so much as a lasting testimonial in writing and recording the history, culture and heritage of Reading.”***

Adam’s interest in, and knowledge of, buildings of Berkshire were acknowledged in the latest edition of Pevsner, “The Buildings of England – Berkshire” (2010) for his contribution to a research project at Reading University in 2002, which laid the basis for many of the descriptions of the buildings.

Adam, with Barbara, was always very hospitable and kindly hosted Reading Civic Society committee meetings around their huge table on many occasions. For this and so many other things – much thanks!

Barbara has told us that there will be an informal memorial event for Adam on 27 September and Reading Civic Society Members will be most welcome.

We will advise members of the location and time in due course.

Planning Updates

John Lewis Warehouse Site, Mill Lane

Following consultation with various groups in our town, including our Society, the CAAC and the Council, the John Lewis Partnership has updated its plans for the site in Mill Lane. The overall height of the buildings has been reduced from 11 to 8 storeys, which reduces the apartments from 215 to 170, but there is still planned to be 10% affordable housing. The original plan had separate gardens for the residents and the wider community. After feedback from the police this has been amended to a space accessible for residents and users of the community part of the building only. The material design has also been adjusted to better reflect the surroundings.

More details of the plans can be found on the [JLP website](#).



The CAAC recently submitted a comment about the application which was picked up by The Telegraph. It praised the company's engagement with the community and response to feedback. However, it highlighted that John Lewis had been given an opportunity to create buildings which were better than the "usual bland and boring flat developments that are expected in Reading" and that an opportunity to deliver a "more innovative and exceptional design" that would "surprise passers-by" had been missed.

The Telegraph article may be read [here](#)

Medical provision

When we meet with developers we raise with them the issue of increasing pressure on general practitioner (GP) services from increased residential numbers and that many central Reading surgeries are in heritage buildings that are not capable of expansion.

Earlier this year, as part of the discussions on the update to the Local Plan, the Society jointly with the Eldon Square medical practice, met with Council Planners to raise this issue **"Where are the sites on the updated Local Plan in central Reading for a new medical centre?"**

The problem is finding the site.

The feedback from planners was that rarely can one developer provide the answer, instead all contribute to the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) in proportion to the size of their scheme. There is much competition for CIL funds. In addition, GP provision need co-ordination between the Council and the NHS. We understand that the plan is to increase the medical space within the revised Broad Street Mall. However, even if space is allocated, the cost of fitting out (potentially £300k) has to be funded, and of course the additional NHS staff have to be found.

New Hexagon Studio Theatre



Work has started on a new 200-seat theatre to stand next to the current Hexagon. The area can also be transformed into a standing space for 300 people. It is due to open in spring 2027. The work is starting with the demolition of the current backstage and stage door area and, as well as the new theatre, it will include an accessible entrance for the complex, a new foyer and an outside seating area. The changes are part of the wider regeneration of this area of town. The £13.7 million cost is funded from the Government's Levelling Up budget.

Central Library Rebuild



The new Central Library and Civic reception, in Bridge Street uses the £8.6 million Levelling Up funding awarded to the council. It is expected to open in 2026. The Council have canvassed views on the internal design for the new library. Katie Amos has written a short piece for the forthcoming Berkshire Local History Association newsletter that

details what is to happen, especially to the Local Studies collection.

Vastern Road

This road, which was once the bastion of ironworks, railway sidings and other industries, is receiving a bit of a residential make-over. The old electricity generating site is now to be [Reading Riverworks](#), a development of over 200 apartments by The Berkeley Group, now being actively marketed. It will be completed in Autumn 2028, image below.



Vastern Court Construction of several blocks of flats on the retail site on the station side road is expected to be completed in the next five years providing 600-1000 homes. Despite rejection by the Council and rejection of the appeal by the Planning Inspector, Michael Gove approved it.

Waterfront Square Close to Clearwater Court, between Vastern Road and the river, Packaged Living have submitted a planning application to build 254 new apartments, a new square and river side retail.

At the Caversham end, the new [Carters Court](#) from Bellway, on the site of the old Outdoor Equipment shop, is well underway. 60 homes will be provided. See image below.



Sapphire Plaza

This area probably known to many of us as the old tax office is also earmarked for regeneration. A new concept proposal has been submitted to the Council's planning process to cover both the Plaza and the Royal Court (the block of flats next door). The

developer is proposing a tall tower sited amongst lower blocks offering 320-450 apartments. The developer, Mapledurham Properties, describes it thus 'A distinctive and exceptional design is being pursued in a location that has the space around it to accommodate such a structure' - the concept design is shown below for you to make your own opinion. No detailed planning application has yet been made.



We have previously engaged with the consultants about this project.

Former Dreads Site

Eagle-eyed heritage watchers will have noticed the demolition ongoing at 71-73 Caversham Road, the site of the former Dreads hardware store and, earlier, a malting house used by the Simonds brewery.

The north wall adjacent to Northfield Road, which in good light still shows the wording 'SMALLBONE LTD', the advertising for Percy H Smallbone, a motor engineer, who used the site between 1925 and 1947, and some of the east wall (Caversham Road) will be retained.. The plan is to build 29 residential units, retail floorspace and associated car parking. The site is on the Local Listings Register (LL15), and you may wonder what benefit this gave. Well, prior to a challenge the plan had been for complete demolition of the site. Was it worth it? We can only judge when all is completed.



Planning Continued.

To find out more about the Drews site history the Historic Building Record in the planning application is fairly comprehensive and there is an article on the [Berkshire Industrial Archaeology website](#).

If you are interested in the national view of Local Listing, their history and the protection given, Historic England has recently issued a research report entitled '[Local Heritage Lists: The National Perspective](#)'.

An overview and questions about the quality of developments

According to the BBC's housing tracker Reading is expected to provide 1,028 new homes this year under Government targets, up from the average of 920 built between 2021 and 2024. Based on new Energy Performance Certificates, which seems to be a way to track new dwellings, Reading had 1,134 in this year to June and the Council had approved 62% of planning applications compared to a national average of 74%.

While we at the Society understand the pressure to build new homes in our town we shall continue to press developers and the Council to build properties that enhance our town's environment and to continually consider the provision for our often stretched infrastructure, such as GP facilities. Yet when we ask developers why their schemes are so tedious and predictable designs and where are the curves and design innovation? The answer is usually that "it would cost a flat".

This brings us neatly to

The Blandemic

You might have heard on Radio 4 this week a programme by Thomas Heatherwick about uninspiring buildings and how to reclaim joy in our cities. He highlights that we have lost the soul in our buildings and we can and should do better. Its all about money. Every £1 invested in a building has to generate a return. It requires the public to engage, and not just whinge on Social Media.

The link to the programmes is [HUMANISE](#)—they are well worth a listen.

Contributions to the Newsletter

We welcome articles and news on topics of interest to Reading - current and heritage. Please send contributions to the Newsletter Editor - contact details below.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2024 - 2025

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Newsletter:	Jo Alexander-Jones, email: joalexanderjones@gmail.com
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