



Agenda

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Minutes of AGM 15 March 2025**
- 4. Chairman's Report for the year to 31 December 2025**
- 5. Terry Dixon's Walks**
- 6. Membership Report**
- 7. Hon Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts for the year to 31 December 2025**
- 8. Election of Officers & Committee members**

- **Nominations from the membership**
- **Election of the Chair**
- **The following have confirmed their willingness to continue to serve;**

Alison Bennett (Membership)

Penny Kemp (Hon Treasurer) (T)

Jo Alexander-Jones (Newsletter Editor & Minutes Secretary)

Lynette Edwell, Amanda Martin (T), Clare Platts (T)

Terry Dixon (T), Stephen Snook and Richard Stainthorp (T)

Trustee (T)

- 7. Election of the Examiner of the Accounts**
- 8. Looking Forward**



Chairman's review of the Year



Events run & taken part in

- 28 March Reading Station 185 years
- 12 June Bracknell Forest Society walk of Bracknell – 4 attended
- 19 June 2025 Opening of Station Hill & Art Work launch - VIP reception
- 24 June Attended Election of Tony Page as an Alderman + Reception
- 28 June Jane Austen Plaque reveal
- 2 August Ways & Means Trust Talk - Oracle Mgt Suite – less than 10 attended
- 10 August Northcourt Avenue Walk – Penny Kemp – 21
- 13 Sept HODs “The Royal Meteorological Society at 175 years” - Caversham Baptist Church- 90
- 19 Sept HODs “Planning in Reading” Tony Page - Oracle Mgt Suite, 2 sessions - 60+
- 5 October 4* Oxfordshire Churches a wandering bus ride - 20
- 6 November Workhouses, Inns & Vestries – Margaret Ounsley - 35
- 19 November Unveiling of Milestone start of Camino Ingles Chestnut Walk
- 20 November Reading University Community Engagement
- 27 November Announcement of new Bishop of Reading – Reading Minster
- 16 December Jane Austen 250th Birthday - Abbey School - 15 members attended

Planning



- John Lewis Warehouse site. RB spoke in support (RCS & CAAC). Consent given in Oct 25
- NHS Capacity
 - West Berks / Oxon CCB has never raised concerns about the capacity of medical practices to take on the massive increase in population in the town centre.
 - With Dr D'Cruz (Eldon Sq medical practice) on line meeting with Hd of Planning & reps from the CCB to highlight challenges faced by practices in old buildings not suitable for extension.
 - Challenged the council to identify a suitable site in the revised LTP for a new large central MP. No funding to solve it
 - Finally the CCB has objected to large new builds based on lack of capacity of practices
- 7+8 Nov encouraged members to attend Public Exhibition about Phase 3 of Station Hill (600 flats). Some of Committee attended private view
- Jan 2026 Chased up Thackeray about progress on Queen Vic Place develpt.
- Feb 2026 will meet with Thames Lido team, Tony Page and Opus Works about their planning issue re limited parking expansion
- Mainly work with the CAAC on their planning comments

Participation / Engagement

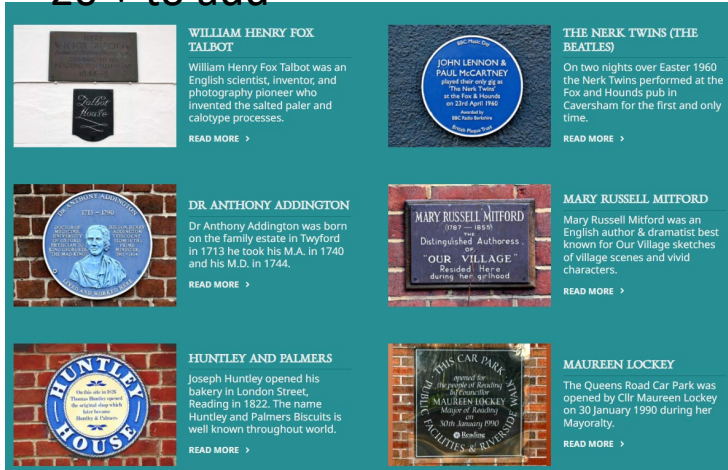
- First Friday Club – large networking events for local groups (Bills, Cote, Vino Vita, Penta)
- Arts and Heritage Forums 3 monthly. Included in discussions on:
 - 2029 City of Culture Expression of interest
 - REDA's ideas to develop large street art
 - Presentation about Look Draw Build and Blue Plaque Projects
- 6 RCS members are members of the Conservation Area Advisory Committee. Contribute to the development of updated Conservation Area Appraisals and comments on planning applications
- Autumn took part in discussions in Birmingham about the future of Civic Voice (National Charity for the Civic Movement in England)
- 20 June Friday Friends Tilehurst presentation - Work of the Society
- 20 November Reading University Community Engagement
- Jan 26 met Cllr Micky Leng to discuss a variety of issues including planning
- Jan 26 took part in discussions about RCS proposal to submit Expression of Interest to be City of Culture 2029
- Terry's walk of Kendrick CA goes into London Rd University site. Led to questions why the clock was not working. Follow up with Community Engagements Manager led to it being restarted
- 8 January 2026 Rotary Club of Reading Abbey – Look Draw Build Project

Publicity

- New website further developed – adding items to the Heritage Plaque section. A further 20 to add
- Newsletter Spring & Summer 2025 & LDB Special
- Several emails to members to update them generally on what's going on and re specific events.
- Circ REDA updates to members
- New Leaflet now on 2nd run. In Library, Town Hall, Welcome Desk at Station
- Article in Chronicle 16 Oct highlighted our support for John Lewis site

Heritage Plaque Project

Website details on:
21 Panels & 8 Info Boards
20 + to add



WILLIAM HENRY FOX TALBOT
William Henry Fox Talbot was an English scientist, inventor, and photography pioneer who invented the salted paper and calotype processes.
READ MORE >

THE NERK TWINS (THE BEATLES)
On two nights over Easter 1960 the Nerk Twins performed at the Fox and Hounds pub in Caversham for the first and only time.
READ MORE >

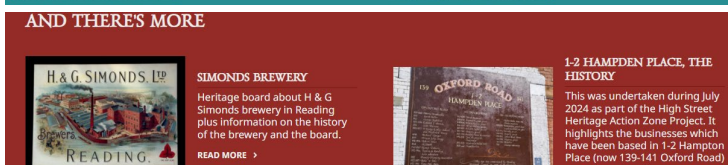
DR. ANTHONY ADDINGTON
Dr Anthony Addington was born on the family estate in Twyford in 1713 he took his M.A. in 1740 and his M.D. in 1744.
READ MORE >

MARY RUSSELL MITFORD
Mary Russell Mitford was an English author & dramatist best known for Our Village sketches of village scenes and vivid characters.
READ MORE >

HUNTLEY AND PALMERS
Joseph Huntley opened his bakery in London Street, Reading in 1822. The name Huntley and Palmers Biscuits is well known throughout world.
READ MORE >

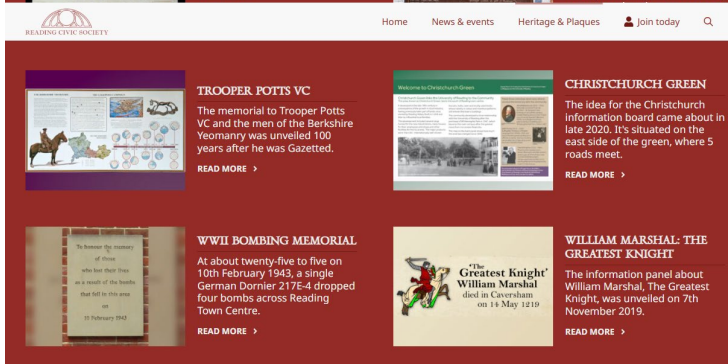
MAUREEN LOCKEY
The Queens Road Car Park was opened by Cllr Maureen Lockey on 30 January 1990 during her Mayoralty.
READ MORE >

AND THERE'S MORE



H & G SIMONDS LTD
Heritage board about H & G Simonds brewery in Reading plus information on the history of the brewery and the board.
READ MORE >

1-2 HAMPDEN PLACE, THE HISTORY
This was undertaken during July 2024 as part of the High Street Heritage Action Zone Project. It highlights the businesses which have been based in 1-2 Hampton Place (now 139-141 Oxford Road)
READ MORE >

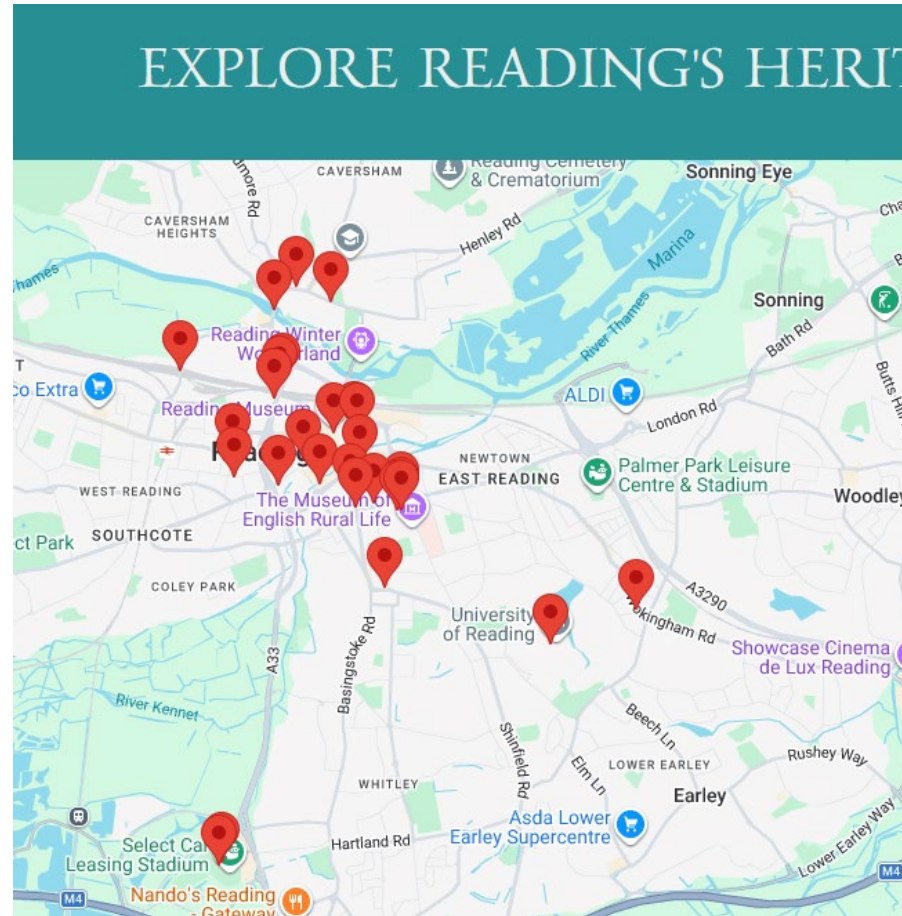


TROOPER POTTS VC
The memorial to Trooper Potts VC and the men of the Berkshire Yeomanry was unveiled 100 years after he was Gazetted.
READ MORE >

CHRISTCHURCH GREEN
The idea for the Christchurch Information board came about in late 2020. It's situated on the east side of the green, where 5 roads meet.
READ MORE >

WWII BOMBING MEMORIAL
At about twenty-five to five on 10th February 1943, a single German Dornier 217E-4 dropped four bombs across Reading Town Centre.
READ MORE >

WILLIAM MARSHAL: THE GREATEST KNIGHT
The information panel about William Marshal, The Greatest Knight, was unveiled on 7th November 2019.
READ MORE >



Committee of 4

Long list of ideas

Developed the principle of a scheme to consider & rank ideas for new plaques

Model to assess ideas being worked on

Initial Panel Members identified

Funds raised by talks and walks £2,985

Further sources to be identified

Each plaque costs around £800

Information Panels £5,000 & need more space

Public consultation on ideas



28 June 2025



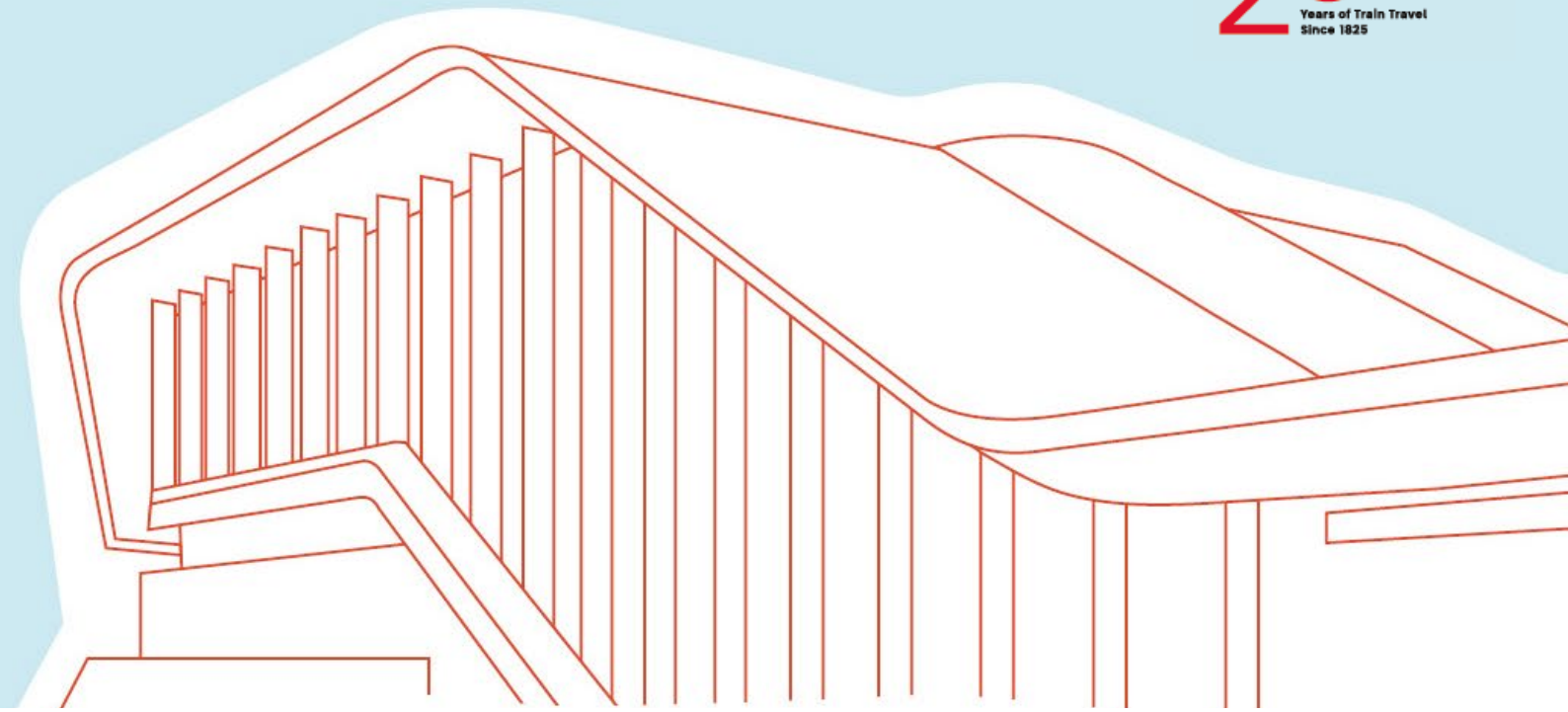
Joint project with RBC Over 2 years
Cost £7,500. RCS contribution £1,000



£500 Abbey School, £250 Friends of Reading Museum, £100 FORA, £50 HORS
£330 from 13 members. Balance to Heritage Plaque project

LOOK DRAW BUILD

@ Reading & Bristol



Delivered by ARCHI-adventure, in partnership with Reading Civic Society

Funded by



Awards programme funded by the Department of Science and Technology

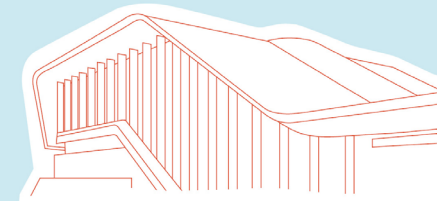


The Earley Charity

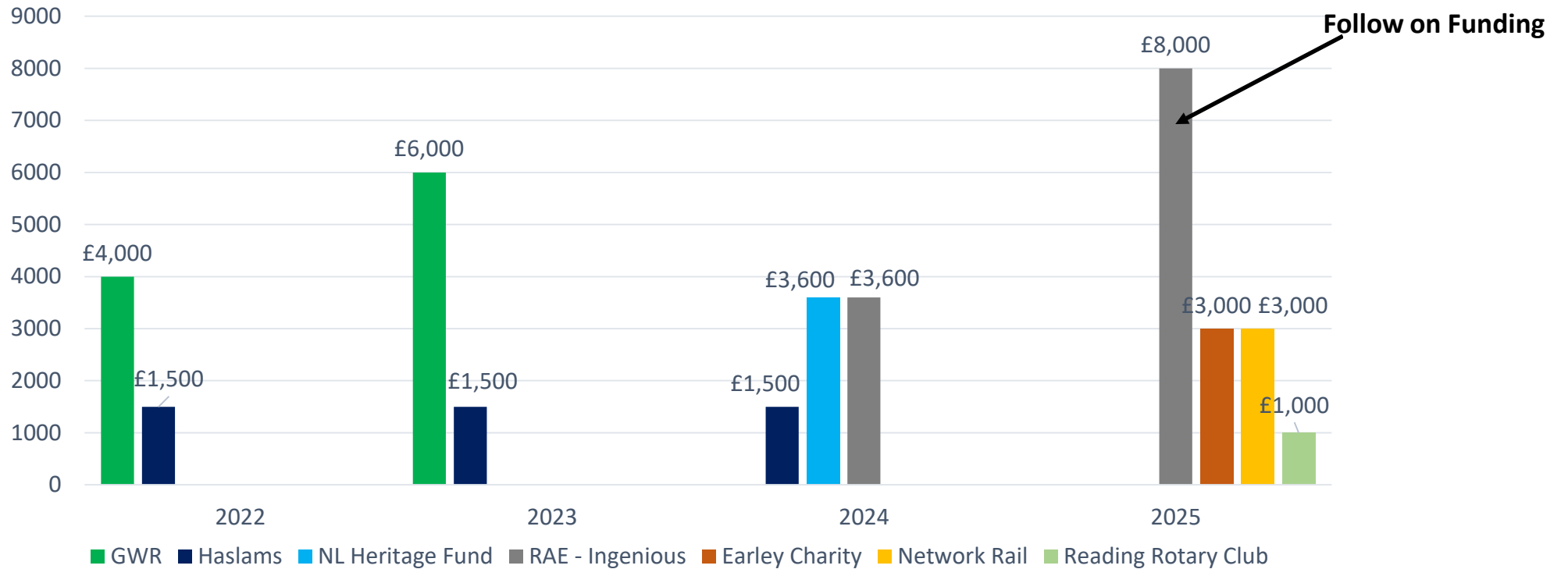


Delivery Partners



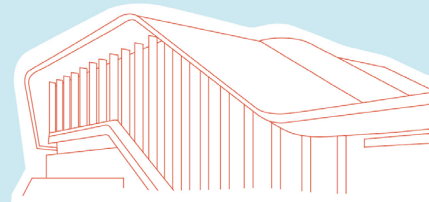


FUNDS RECEIVED – 2022-2025



***Funding already secured for 2026 £16K (GWR)**

FUNDING

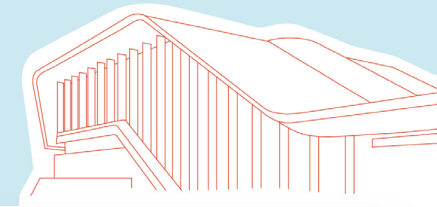


Reading Station 2022 - 2025



Bristol Temple Meads 2025

2025 - EXTENDING THE MAIN LINE



READING

- Calcot Primary School,
- Hillside Primary School
- Manor Green Special School
- Micklands Primary School
- New Christ Church Primary School
- New Town Primary School
- St Anne's Catholic Primary School
- St Edward's Prep School
- The Avenue Special School
- Whitley Park Primary

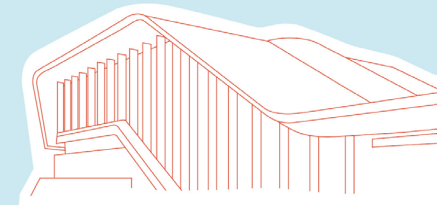
BRISTOL

- Badocks Wood E-ACT Academy
- Christ Church CE Primary Academy
- Compass Point Primary School
- Cotham Gardens Primary School
- Our Lady of the Rosary RC Primary School
- Sea Mills Primary School
- St Peter and Paul RC Primary School
- Stoke Bishop CE Primary School
- Two Mile Hill Primary School

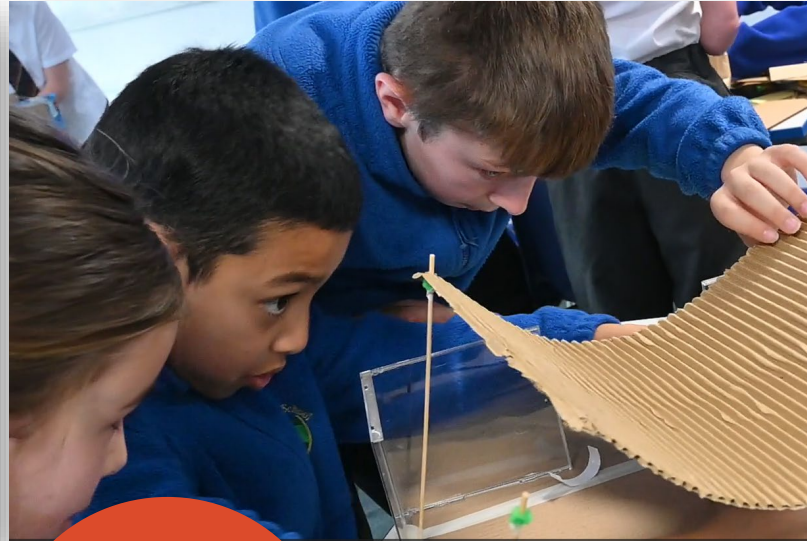


**co-ordinated our contact with the Bristol schools*





**30 workshops
delivered**



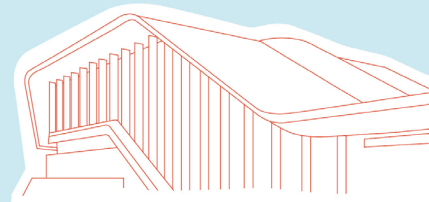
**900 students
engaged**



**300 models
built**

Photographs by Chris Forsey

IMPACT



GOLD
Hillside
Primary

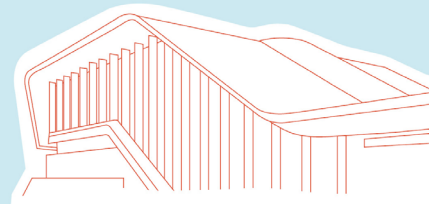


SILVER
Calcot
Primary



BRONZE
Micklands
Primary

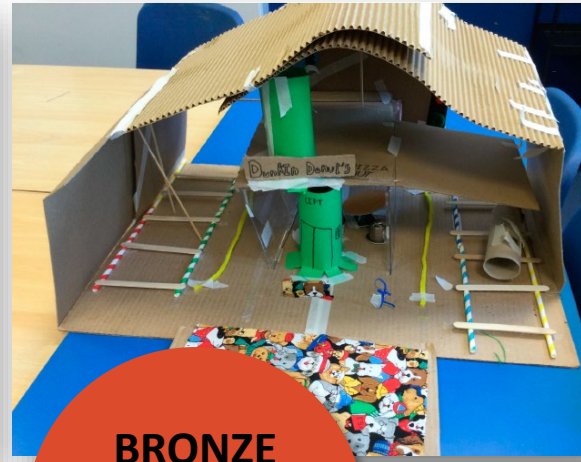
WINNERS - READING



GOLD
Our Lady of the
Rosary



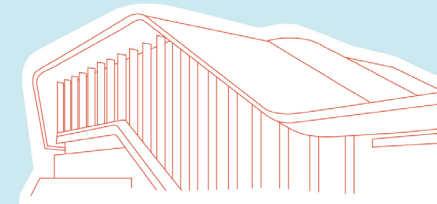
SILVER
Sea Mills
Primary



BRONZE
Two Mile
Hill Primary



**HIGHLY
COMMENDED**
COTHAM
GARDENS



Project Reception – Haslams

27 MARCH 2025

39 Attended



Project Exhibition – Oracle Shopping Centre

29 MARCH 2025

Engaged around 50 including model builders / parents



PROJECT RECEPTION AND EXHIBITION / READING

**LOOK
DRAW
BUILD**

@ Reading
Station

Engaging young
people in architecture
and engineering

Images the Late Chris Forsey

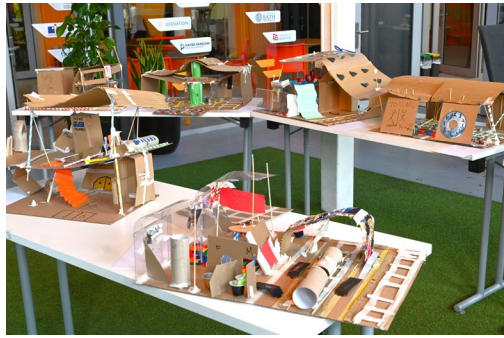
Panel

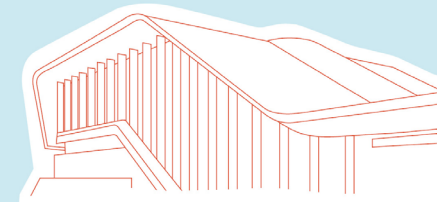
Reading - Haslams Offices review teacher's summaries in office

Bristol - The Engine Shed Brunel's Boardroom

Review teachers summaries & review 12 of the 14 models on Platform 14

Awards Night Reception attended by 60 (including 40 children/ parents/ teachers)





READING

A visit to Didcot Railway Centre



BRISTOL

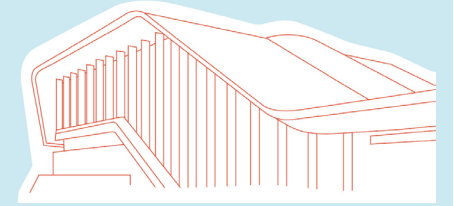
A visit to Brunel's SS Great Britain



AWARDS – TOP PRIZE

**LOOK
DRAW
BUILD** @ Reading
Station
& Bristol

Engaging young
people in architecture
and engineering



2026

£16k Grant from GWR Customer and Community Improvement Fund.

Deliver to schools in Reading & Bristol Feb to June 2026. Part of Railway 200 Celebrations

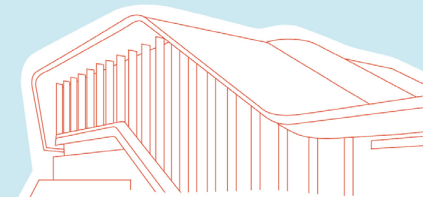
Barcelona World Capital of Architecture 2026. Project manager committed to projects at home



taking the lead. RCS supporting Partner

Greenshoots collecting loo rolls & assembling boxes for schools. RCS members also collecting items & participating in school workshops

Delivery to 8 in Reading, 5 in Bristol February to June. Companies and RCS volunteers Awards Night end June



Schools 2026

Reading

E P Collier
English Martyrs
Katesgrove
Micklands'
New Town
The Heights
Civitas (1st time)
Redlands (1st time)

Bristol

Christ Church
Our Lady of the
Rosary
Sea Mills
St Peter & St Paul
Cathedral (1st time)

Companies 2026 RCS members/Contacts

Reading

Weston & Co Architects
Stantec
Network Rail
Mott Macdonald (6-3 new)

Bristol

Stantec
Network Rail
Mott Macdonald
Ridge & Partners
Enerveo

Reading

Brig Hugh Robertson, Engineer
Jo Alexander Jones Programme Mgr
Matt Andrews Architect
Richard Stainthorp Engineer
Terry Dixon Engineer/ Project Manger
Isobel Gomez Architect
Steve Snook Engineer



Terry's Reading Walkabouts



- *Committee member Terry Dixon started Terry's Reading Walkabouts in 2016.*
- *Raised £32,480 to date*
- *Run as a not-for-profit enterprise, proceeds donated to local charities*
- *2025/26 FY has been another amazingly good year again, beyond expectations.*
- ***2025/26 total raised (as of 12 February 2026) =£6,504, allocated to Camp Mohawk & Ways & Means Trust, Models for Heroes & £190 for RCS BP Scheme.***
- *15 Influential Women of Reading Book sales raised a further £38 for Berkshire Women's Aid (total £592)*
- *9 out of the 15 Reading Conservation Areas (CA) are now covered by his Walkabouts. The plan is to cover Christchurch CA in 2027*
- *In 2025 RCS Committee agreed to sponsor the cost of his new Terry's Reading Walkabouts Sweatshirt at £20.*
- *2026/27 Financial Year charities:*
 - ***'Dingley Promise'*** (a SEND charity for young children)
 - ***'Green Health Thames Valley'*** (provide support with mental health challenges through horticulture-based activities)
 - *Also for the military charity SAAFA over the November Remembrance period*
 - *via talks to the RCS BP scheme.*



4.Membership

Alison Bennett

- Member numbers last year 150 + 2 groups (CADRA + Abbey School)
- Fees paid £1,240 (£1,410 in 2024)
- New members during the year 8 (19 in 2024)
- Membership renewals at 12 Feb 2026 97 + 2 groups
- Fees paid to date £ 845

5. Finance Hon Treasurer Penny Kemp

	31 Dec 25 Unrestricted £	31 Dec 25 Restricted £	31 Dec 25 Total £	31 Dec 24 £
Income	2,427	12,244	14,671	23,094
Expenditure	2,322	15,369	17,691	12,574
Surplus / (Deficit)	105	(3,125)	(3,020)	10,063
Timing issues				
2026 Lunch deposit	400		400	
LDB Grant for 2025 received in 2024		4,000	4,000	(4,000)
Creditor LDB Prize				(700)
Adjusted Surplus/ (Deficit)	505	875	1,380	5,363
Closing Bank Balance	8,908	8,654	17,563	20,583

Of the restricted fund balance of £8,654; LDB £4,427, Blue Plaque project £2,985, RBC Funded Website work £850, held for the CAAC £392