

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	HOUSING, NEIGHBOURHOODS & LEISURE COMMITTEE		
DATE:	5 <sup>TH</sup> JULY 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	9
TITLE:	READING 'YEAR OF CULTURE 2016'		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	PAUL GITTINGS	PORTFOLIO:	CULTURE, SPORT & CONSUMER SERVICES
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#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an update on Reading's Year of Culture 2016 at an opportune point approximately half-way through the year. The report gives a summary of the background to the Year of Culture, activity to date and planned activity through to the end of the calendar year. The report also emphasises that the Year of Culture is not an end in itself but an initial stage in a sustained programme to raise Reading's profile and reputation and to deliver the aspiration of the Culture and Heritage Strategy that:

'By 2030, Reading will be recognised as a centre of creativity with a reputation for cultural and heritage excellence at a regional, national and international level with increased engagement across the town.'

The report also therefore references the potential legacy of the Year of Culture, the strong support from Arts Council England (ACE) for our strategic ambition and some key activities and work programmes to help us make further progress.

#### 2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That Committee notes the significant progress made in developing and delivering the Year of Culture 2016 to date as set out in section 4.1 of the report.
- 2.2 That Committee notes and welcomes the proposed programme for the remainder of the Year of Culture as outlined in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 That Committee welcomes and endorses the proposals and work streams to provide a legacy from the Year of Culture as set out in section 4.2 of the report.

### 3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The multi-faceted Year of Culture is about both the outcomes for Reading as a place and delivering better quality of life for residents. The initiative contributes to achieving the following Corporate Priorities:
- ☐ Keeping the Town clean, safe green and active;
  - ☐ Providing the best life through education, early help and healthy living;
  - ☐ Providing infrastructure to support the economy.
- 3.2 Provision of cultural services is a non-statutory function of local government. The Council has for many years operated a number of cultural venues in Reading including the Hexagon, 21 South Street Arts Centre and the Town Hall & Museum (including the Concert Hall). This provision has been set within the context of a cultural strategy that sets a strategic framework for the development and delivery of cultural activity in the town not only by the Council but by a wide range of other agencies and organisations.
- 3.3 A new Cultural and Heritage Strategy 2015-2030, developed under the auspices of the Cultural Partnership, was endorsed by the Council's Policy Committee in November 2015. This reflects the strong partnership approach in Reading to the development of both the Strategy, and the Year of Culture that emerged through the strategy consultation process, recognising that it will be these partner organisations collectively that will have a key role in delivery and success. The new Culture and Heritage Strategy clearly sets out an aspirational vision for culture and heritage to play a key role in the town's future, enhancing the quality of life for residents and increasing the attractiveness of the town for visitors and investors. The Strategy envisages Reading's profile and reputation as a cultural destination being transformed over the coming years, building from a strong base of arts and heritage organisations and assets and catalysed by a Year of Culture in 2016.
- 3.4 The new Economic Development Plan led by Reading UK CIC, "Growing Opportunity" has three key objectives of raising Reading's profile, growing opportunities to strengthen the local economy and employment for local people. The further development of arts, culture and digital economy to contribute to these objectives is at the heart of the plan.

### 4. THE PROPOSAL

#### 4.1 Current Position:

As a result of and linked to the early discussion and consultation on the development of the Culture and Heritage strategy there was a recognition that whilst there is a vibrant and successful cultural offer in Reading this is perhaps not widely acknowledged. The town is not recognised more widely as a cultural destination. The consultation discussions generated are a huge amount of energy, enthusiasm and commitment. What emerged from this enthusiasm and the acknowledged need to raise the profile of cultural activity in the town was the concept of a 'Year of Culture' as a means of showcasing and enhancing the cultural offer and reputation of the town linked to further developing its wider attractiveness and continued economic success. The Year of Culture was seen as a catalyst and building block for a sustained programme to raise Reading's profile and reputation into the future.

A Steering Group was established to take forward the Year of Culture involving Reading University, Reading UK CIC, the Council and including representatives of both the Local Strategic and Cultural Partnerships. Reading UK CIC is acting as the accountable body, managing the budget, marketing and project staff / consultants.

Reading UK CIC on behalf of the Steering Group commissioned consultant Mark Prescott to pull together and deliver a structure and initial programme for the Year of Culture and subsequently appointed Zsuzsi Lindsay as Producer to further develop the programme and ensure effective delivery. Councillor Hacker, the then Mayor, also agreed to be a patron and advocate for the Year of Culture and continues in this role as a Councillor. Branding for the Year of Culture was developed alongside a 'Made In Reading' logo available to all local organisations:



The concept for the Year of Culture was to umbrella the diverse and extensive range of cultural activity and events already taking place in the town and supplement these with 12 monthly 'Pillar' activities and themes that would add value. An outline of the 'Pillars' and associated activities is attached at Appendix 1.

Whilst it would be impossible in this short report to do full justice to the range of activities and outcomes linked with the delivery of the Year of Culture to date, the aims and objectives were ambitious and at this half-way point in the programme for the year much has been achieved or put in place despite challenging timescales and limited resources. A fuller narrative and interim evaluation submitted to ACE as a condition of their grant funding to directly support delivery of the Year of Culture is attached at Appendix 2 and demonstrates the very many positive outcomes from the work to date, including significant development of new collaborations, delivery partnerships and networks.

Key achievements and points to note:

- The relationship with ACE has been incredibly positive and they have provided significant levels of support both in cash and as a critical friend. This has included a direct grant of £96,326 to support the delivery of the Year of Culture as well as a number of grants to enable local groups and organisations to deliver specific projects. With regard to the latter, direct investment from ACE to Reading based arts groups / projects increased from £127,780 in 2014/15 to £296,126 in 2015/16 (an increase of over 130%) with this level of funding activity continuing into 2016/17.
- Council grant funding through the Cultural Partnership directly to support delivery by local organisations has totalled £99,010 with 48 grant awards (these are listed and summarised in Appendix 3). In many cases this funding has helped lever ACE funding as outlined above and there has been a concomitant increase in the quality of bids and projects.
- To date, working through Reading UK CIC the Year of Culture has attracted private sector sponsorship of over £54,000. There remains time and opportunity for the businesses community to increase this in the latter part of the year! A list of current sponsors is attached at Appendix 4.

- Reading UKCIC has invested £12k in a town centre programme called Arena; a range of arts and cultural activities by local organisations in Reading.
- The Year of Culture has been well supported by media partners. This has included over 100 related articles on Get Reading, weekly support from Altreading, monthly features in #reading and on air & online support from Heart FM. Local BBC Radio Berkshire have also supported with editorial and have even organised their own Reading 2016 events as part of the programme.
- The Year of Culture has embraced involvement of the local community as well as national and international artists to deliver a programme that has engaged over 5000 people through 13 pillar events. In addition, the wider community will have held over 250 events, badged as the year of culture, by the time this report is read, having sold thousands of tickets.

In summary, to date, Reading Year of Culture: has witnessed hundreds of arts and cultural events as part of the programme for the first six months; new pillar events in every month for the Reading cultural calendar; the engagement of national arts organisations in Reading; a flowering of cultural partnerships between artists, arts groups, Reading businesses and stakeholders; the unlocking of new funding for the arts in Reading and new platforms and venues for artistic output in the town; an increase in the quantity and ambition of artistic output and a growing confidence among artists that Reading provides a supportive environment in which to express themselves.

## 4.2 Options Proposed

It was always envisaged that the profile and scale of the Year of Culture would build through the year, not least because of the greater time to plan and resource activity in the second part of the year. The programme for the rest of the year clearly reflects this, as outlined in Appendix 1 and for July - September the 'What's On' Summer guide (attached at Appendix 5 and distributed to all Councillors as well as widely across the town). There remain opportunities to further strengthen the programme in the latter part of the year, including the ambitious high impact 'Light Up Reading' programme of activities and events planned for December.

As stated in the introduction, the Year of Culture is also about the future, providing a platform for the sustained development of the town's cultural offer and ultimately to embed Reading's reputation and status as a renowned cultural hub. Catalysed by the Year of Culture there are a number of initiatives and plans in development that can support achievement of these goals, including:

- Delivery of the 'Reading Abbey Revealed' project and associated 5 year activity plan;
- Development of a Cultural Education Partnership to provide all young people with opportunities to experience high quality cultural activity, especially those who otherwise might not have access to such opportunities;
- Further development of self-sustaining networks of artists and cultural organisations within the town that have emerged or been strengthened through the development of the Year of Culture, e.g. Junction Dance, University / College collaboration.
- Refurbishment of South Street and consolidating its role in the town both as a venue and as a creative hub for original work.

- Ongoing collaboration across the Museum's sector and the potential in particular for the collaboration between Reading Museum and the revamped Museum of English Rural Life (part of Reading University) with scope to become exemplars for community engagement and interaction.
- Ongoing marketing of Reading regionally and nationally by Reading UKCIC and the Council as a great place to live, work and visit based on its quality of life and business location with the arts and culture offer at its heart.

Of particular note are the plans of Artangel to host a major exhibition in the decommissioned Reading Prison in the Autumn of this year (subject to obtaining the necessary temporary Planning Permission and Listed Building Consents). Artangel are a well-respected organisation of international repute and if it goes ahead this temporary use of the prison would be a major coup for the town. Whilst significant in and of itself, engagement with Artangel has also led to the development of proposals for an ambitious three year arts programme led by the University in partnership with Artangel, the Council and Reading UK CIC. These proposals have now been submitted to ACE as an application to their 'Ambition for Excellence' funding programme. If successful this offers an unprecedented opportunity to transform the visual arts in Reading, create a legacy for Reading Year of Culture 2016, maximise the exceptional opportunities afforded by the redevelopment of Reading Prison and the reopening of Reading Abbey Ruins, and develop partnerships that will generate a culture of artistic ambition, community involvement and audience development in the region.

## 5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 The multi-faceted Year of Culture is about both the outcomes for Reading as a place and delivering better quality of life for residents. The initiative contributes to achieving the following Corporate Priorities:
- Keeping the Town clean, safe green and active
  - Providing the best life through education, early help and healthy living
  - Providing infrastructure to support the economy.

- 5.2 A new Cultural and Heritage Strategy 2015-2030, developed under the auspices of the Cultural Partnership, was endorsed by the Council's Policy Committee in November 2015. This strategy has an over-arching ambition that:

'By 2030, Reading will be recognised as a centre of creativity with a reputation for cultural and heritage excellence at a regional, national and international level with increased engagement across the town.'

The Year of Culture is a key building block and catalyst for realising this ambition.

## 6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 Section 138 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 places a duty on local authorities to involve local representatives when carrying out "any of its functions" by providing information, consulting or "involving in another way".
- 6.2 The Year of Culture as a concept emerged from extensive consultation and engagement with residents and stakeholders as part of the development of the Culture and Heritage Strategy. There has been widespread promotion of the Year of Culture and the associated opportunities for funding both from the Cultural Partnership's grants programme funded by Reading Borough Council and from ACE.

The multiplicity of events and activities taking place as part of the Year of Culture are engaging with a wide range of residents and communities both as active participants and as audiences.

## **7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—
- ☐ eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
  - ☐ advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
  - ☐ foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 7.2 The Year of Culture covers a diverse programme of activities and engagement and aims to ensure that culture plays a full role in making Reading a vibrant, tolerant and enjoyable place to live, work or visit. The role of cultural opportunities in combating inequalities and the need to address inequalities in participation in Reading are explicitly acknowledged in the Culture and Heritage Strategy and reflected in the approach to delivering the Year of Culture.
- 7.3 It is not considered that an Equality Impact Assessment is relevant with regard to the content of this report.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 None.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The Council's financial contribution to the Year of Culture is being managed within existing resources and budget allocations. In particular the cultural grants budget has been re-focused to align with the Year of Culture enabling over £99,000 to be channeled to local groups and organisations to deliver events and activities.
- 9.2 The Council and partners such as Reading UK CIC and the University are working together with arts organisations and stakeholders to maximise the benefits of external investment into Reading to support the delivery of the Year of Culture. This has resulted in private sector sponsorship of £54,000 being secured to date alongside a significant increase in investment by ACE and substantial in-kind support from a range of private and public sector organisations.

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 10.1 Culture and Heritage Strategy 2015-30

Year of Culture 2016

Programme of Monthly 'Pillar' Events and Themes

**January - Get Fit For Culture**

A month of being brave and trying new cultural offerings. This month saw a series of Cultural Partnership funded taster workshops take place, an Audience with Sir Roger Bannister and Martyn Harry's Exercise Book.

**February - Design Reading**

Celebrating Reading's fantastic design accomplishments with Reading University's Paul Barnes and Coralie Bickford-Smith. The Reading College Design competition for Light Up Reading was started with the winner being announced in March.

**March - Reading 2050**

Looking forward to what Reading will look like in 2050. Reading UK CIC in partnership with M&G took to the streets to find out what people thought Reading's future might look like.

**April - New Writing**

A celebration of new writing with Female Arts new writing showcase at South Street, Reading Between the Lines' Henry I first look and George the Poet taking to the stage at RYND for a Q&A.

**May - The Story of Reading**

On Track the Reading Museum celebration of Reading's rail history was launched, Nesta teamed up to showcase what food, technology and medicine might look like the future and finally Lucy Worsley visited the town hall to talk about Reading's dark murderous past.

**June - Eat Reading**

A celebration of Food in Reading was helped along by a Biscuit Experience, created by Bompas and Parr, An Audience with Nadiya Hussain, and because food would be no good without a bit to drink, Water Fest partly curated by the fantastic Amy Sharrocks.

**July - Art in Unusual Places**

A larger extended original and innovative Sitelines Festival curated by South Street's John Luther.

### **August - Music in Reading**

A Different World music festival created for music enthusiasts with learning difficulties and a family World Music festival in Reading's town centre to complement the existing and acclaimed Reading Festival.

### **September - Made in Reading**

A visit from Olivier Winning Showstoppers!, community production of Ben-Hur, a collaboration between South Street Arts and the Hexagon in the form of The Great British Bump Off and an Audience with Dexter Fletcher with a special showing of Bugsy Malone, all to celebrate Reading's arts scene and cultural heritage.

### **October - Reading in Reading**

A literary festival in partnership with Reading University will take place at the end of the month, a series of talks at the library, a writer in residence and a schools competition for story writing.

### **November - Dance Reading**

A month curated by Junction Dance, the local consortium of dance groups, along with Strictly Come Dancing Reading to raise money for the Mayor's Local Charities.

### **December - Light Up Reading**

A month celebrating Reading and the end of the Year of Culture, but not an end to collaborations and partnerships. Working with local and national organisations there will be a series of light installations created across the town; A light installation created by Coralie Bickford-Smith, an Interactive light up building, a bridge installation with sound and light, a performance of people's hopes and fears for the future, an audience with Father Christmas, a rainbow village, a project created by UTC to light up the station and a shadow puppet performance (with hopefully more to come!).



## Appendix 2

### Interim Feedback on the Year of Culture to ACE

The first six months of Reading 2016 Year of Culture have been an exciting journey for the partners, arts organisations and stakeholders involved, and a steep learning curve for everyone.

Our aims at the outset were necessarily ambitious. We wanted to make a difference and were confident that the platform to create a truly memorable and threshold altering year of culture existed in Reading, but that pulling it together would require a co-ordinated partnership approach. We did not want to settle for a halfway house of small scale events and minor incremental change, despite the short lead times, disparate nature of the arts scene locally or the challenging funding targets. We believed Reading and its local arts community was ready to put itself on the map.

The dedication and commitment demonstrated over the past six months by all parties involved has shown that Reading is hungry and ready for the 'step change' and that we were right to be ambitious. To date, Reading Year of Culture has witnessed hundreds of arts and cultural events as part of the programme for the first six months, new pillar events in every month for the Reading cultural calendar, the engagement of national arts organisations in Reading, a flowering of cultural partnerships between artists, arts groups, Reading businesses and stakeholders, the unlocking of new funding for the arts in Reading and new platforms and venues for artistic output in the town, an increase in the quantity and ambition of artistic output and a growing confidence among artists that Reading provides a supportive environment in which to express themselves.

The groundwork put in over the first six months has the potential to create a lasting legacy for Reading and our work over the final six months is designed to reinforce everything we have done to date and create a platform for a future legacy.

Despite this sense of progress and achievement, the Reading 2016 partners are very aware that this process has underlined the scale of the task ahead to truly unlock the potential of Reading as a major cultural destination and home to a thriving arts community. For every success, there have been challenges, and we are keenly aware of the level of progress against the key points in our original funding application. To follow are the six points from the application laid out as targets, not all of them measurable, and progress against each:-

1: To raise the ambition and capacity of the existing cultural organisations operating within Reading through the opportunity to develop and produce

exciting new work, collaborate with extraordinary artists and engage new audiences.

For the past 9 months the arts community has been asked to respond to the 'Pillars' as laid out in the original plan for the Year of Culture. The Cultural Partnership has invested £99,010 into the funding stream for these organisations to apply. The Cultural Partnership board has seen an increase in applications and the level of ambition. Many of the organisations have been applying for more money and also using money invested by the Cultural Partnership as leverage to apply for ACE funding. This marks a growth in maturity for the arts community, one which we expect to continue to flourish.

There have been a wide range of community arts organisations engaged through the Cultural Partnership's grants programme. Supporting new organisations and new projects. Please see attached a copy of the projects that have been funded by the Cultural Partnership this year. Many of the organisations have taken risks and tried something new.

The Year of Culture has also 'umbrellered' existing activity across the town and added value as well as profile. For example, the long standing Water Fest, has seen Amy Sharrocks, curate part of the programme, to celebrate Reading's heritage as a water town, a part of history that has long been forgotten.

Many elements of the programme have and are taking advantage to involve and engage local groups and local people, such as community choirs, the WI, Acre, Readipop, Progress Theatre, the Samaritans, local schools, the youth offending team and many more. Through their involvement in various aspects of the year, the aim is to increase confidence and ambition, but also allow new audiences to experience culture in a different way.

There has been a surge in the Dance community lead by Junction Dance, which is an art form in Reading that has typically been under represented. This new panel of dance organisations has provided the leadership required in this area, for a strong new stream of art to emerge.

Reading UK CIC committed £13000 and provided public realm space to fund a free local arts programme in the town centre - engage more people and provide a platform for local artists. Catapulting local arts organisations into the public realm will help reach new audiences and hopefully encourage new people to try some of the events that are taking place in the town.

The Reading YOC has also seen a flurry of new organisations pop up, some lead by the next generation of artists, supported by existing groups who have more experience and are able to offer guidance. Nesta curated their event in Reading, but also offered local groups such as rlab the opportunity to showcase their offering to a new audience. An example of an international organisation working locally. Rlab's involvement with Nesta has unlocked their involvement in the arts as they are now a key partner in

the December Pillar and will be running a workshop in September bringing technologists together with artists, to create a piece of artwork for Reading.

For each of the speaker events, local organisations have been approached to be involved in some way, whether it is meeting or interviewing the speaker, this is a connection has been very well received. For example, young athletes met Sir Roger Bannister, who offered training advice as well as inspiration, local blogger Caroline Cook had the opportunity to interview George The Poet, Lucy Worsley agreed to do a podcast for a local new business and Nadiya Hussain will be meeting with local catering students.

Another example of collaboration, is the partnership that has been struck between Bompas and Parr and the Reading University. They have worked together to create a biscuit experience. But probably more importantly, out of this biscuit project a collaboration between Reading University and Reading College has been sparked and will hopefully continue to grow over the years, strengthening both institutions.

In addition, The Great British Bump Off is work by local professionals for local audiences and is a progression from previous successful shows for small audiences Labour Exchange, Jackson's Corner & Kapsar. With The Final Whistle and potentially a show as part of the Reading Prison project due soon too. This also marks the beginning of a partnership between Reading Arts and South Street Arts Centre, which is a first for both organisations.

There are also new commission's for local professional theatre makers - Beautiful Creatures 'The Fountain' & 'Gift', South Street in association with Benedict Sandiford & Cassie Friend 'The Final Whistle', Reading Rep 'Ben Hur', South Street & The Hexagon in association with Benedict Sandiford, Sabina Netherclift, Toby Davies & Cassie Friend 'The Great British Bump Off, Reading Between The Lines 'Henry I'.

All the above have been supported directly by funds and the opportunity that YoC has been able to offer in cash, resources and inspiration. This interaction and creation of partnerships has acted as a catalyst for the community, therefore creating more opportunities for the community to develop and produce exciting new work as well as engage new audiences.

2: To create a unified and successful promotional platform for the town's cultural activity.

There have been two paths trailed to ensure the success of this particular point. Initially, the Year of Culture, decided to support a local arts reviewing platform. However, it became clear part way through the year that there was not the resource to support that partnership at this time, as the organisation is run by volunteers, they were having difficulty covering all of the events in the town.

Therefore, a stronger relationship has been formed with Reading Arts, who have seized the opportunity of Reading 2016 to create a new website

platform with dedicated space for Year of Culture events and have committed to covering all of the events in the interim, as well as supporting with booking processes. This is something that still needs to be solidified to make sure that there is a legacy moving forwards.

In addition, the town's main media have got behind the Year of Culture. Over 100 related articles on Get Reading, weekly support from Altreading, monthly features in #reading and on air & online support from Heart FM. Local BBC Radio Berkshire have also supported with editorial and have even organised their own Reading 2016 events as part of the programme.

An avenue of Reading 2016 banners lines the town's main pedestrian street and the town's 2 shopping centres have given free promotional space.

3: To both celebrate but also engage the town's many diverse communities both as audiences but also as makers and commissioners.

The Year of Culture has endeavoured to ensure that the artists, performers, speakers have been from a variety of backgrounds to represent Reading's many diverse communities. The aim is to develop audiences from each of the communities and give them confidence to try different events.

This year saw the Reading Carnival take place after two years of absence. The event was put on by a new team, which will hopefully take the celebration forward next year to mark the significant birthday of the Carnival taking place in Reading. Similarly, and for the 1st time in Reading, the Chinese community organised a public celebration of the Chinese New Year in collaboration with Reading Museum that curated a linked exhibition on the development of the Chinese community in the town and their experiences.

In addition, Handle With Care had a diverse professional casting and included Anushka Samarasinghe as the local student performer. The audience was noticeably more diverse. SITELINES includes Rosana Cade's Walking:Holding that includes participation from the local LGBTQ community (6-10 local participants performing in the piece).

Junction Dance are prioritising diversity as the heart of the dance month looking to programme disability dance and include a local Kathak dance school. The dance programme is due to take place in November.

The cultural partnership funding has funded a project from CultureMix Arts in the first round and 2Heavy Productions as well as a Different World (a disability friendly festival) in the second. Small World Festival due to take place in August will be curated by John Luther of South Street Arts Centre and a local promoter Jack Hepplewaith who currently curates BBC Introducing, they will book from different cultural musical traditions and will be free to access removing financial barriers for difficult to reach audiences.

However, the time that it takes to develop links with each of the communities has been a challenge, particularly in view of the very broad multi-cultural demographic of the town, and the team have not directly been able to dedicate the time that is required to do this. The aim is to engage all communities by ensuring that there is a balanced and representative programme. A key part of this, as outlined above, has been the grants programme under the auspices of the Cultural Partnership which has assisted many communities engage and 'raise the bar' on existing levels of activity.

4: To significantly improve the perception of Reading's cultural and creative offer both internally and to visitors

This is a very difficult to measure. However, based on experience with local businesses and artists that come to Reading to produce work, they are positive about the town. National businesses based locally are becoming more open to the arts as a way to make the town a more attractive place to 'live, work and play'.

The feedback after the speaker events have been that of surprise that Reading welcomes the type of evenings that have been organised, but also that there is so much going on in Reading.

In terms of external artists visiting Reading, Amy Sharrocks, in particular, commented on the strength of Reading as a town, culturally, and the fact that she could feel the ambition and see the potential for its artistic growth.

In addition, Irish Theatre Maker Catherine Ireton tweeted on the 9th of June "always had great audiences #reading..." an appreciation of Reading's audiences is spreading among the artist community.

We will fully judge this at the end of the year and have planned a perceptions survey.

5: For Reading to be a place of opportunity for young artists, craftspeople, cultural entrepreneurs and administrators

South Street have agreed to take on a student looking for a placement in the arts to help them with their production of the Great British Bump Off. The Reading Year of Culture hopes that this will be an ongoing legacy for South Street, and offer routes for young people to gain experience.

The Year of Culture have also taken on two volunteers under the age of 25, one working with on developing the relationship with schools and the other working to gain marketing experience to add to her CV.

There has also been involvement with the Youth Offending Team, who are creating a walk around Reading celebrating Reading's history. They are artistically representing an unusual fact about Reading on telephone boxes and lamp posts. This has started to give young people a boost in confidence and the outlet to use their skills positively. Also the permanent nature of the artwork will have a lasting impression on the town and the young people that created them.

Through the Year of Culture, the partnerships between the University of Reading and Reading College has grown. With a commitment from both institutions to work more closely in the future. The college will be signposting graduated students to Reading University and the college will also be opening up their kitchens to the University to start producing food stuff in bulk.

There has also been the parallel development of the Cultural Education Partnership that has been catalysed and energised by the Year of Culture. Whilst in its very early stages, a very strong group has emerged leading the partnership, incorporating, local schools, the council and local arts organisations.

Finally, there have been specific elements of the programming that have been designed to spark and encourage interest from young people, such as Water Fest that has incorporated workshops for young people, a water fight and a drift. In May a local performer from the South Street Arts Centre youth theatre, Anushka Samarasinghe, played a role in Handle With Care in May and another will perform in I Do in July.

South Street's Youth Theatre are creating a brand new piece of self-written work for our SITELINES programme that sits alongside the professional programme in the print and advertising. The Girl Guides are going to be participating in The Great British Bump off alongside other community groups in a professionally produced theatre show made in Reading.

6: To demonstrably grow the audience for both homemade and toured work

It is still unclear as to whether the audiences have grown for both homemade and toured work, however, we will take stock at the end of the year.

There have been a number of key lessons learned over the last year that the YOC has been operating. The main ones being around timings, money, ambition and resource. Given the experience that YOC has had to date, ideally the team would have had more time to programme and plan the year. Budgets have been tight for the YOC, coupled with the fact that the local council is facing unprecedented financial challenges. This has thrown up some challenges around using local authority venues and also limits the number of nationally renowned artists that can be engaged.

Nevertheless we feel that with the resources available, both money and capacity, we have delivered a great deal whilst also raising the levels of quality and innovation. Despite the challenges that the YOC has faced, with a change in leadership, limited budgets and time constraints, the team have managed to involve the local community, as well as national and international artists to deliver a programme that has engaged over 5000 people through 13 pillar events. In addition, the wider community will have held over 250 events, badged as the year of culture, by the time this report is read, having sold thousands of tickets. The YOC team has seen more ambitious arts applications from the community, local business engagement, more opportunities for local artists and young artists and a diverse range of events to celebrate Reading's vibrant communities.

ORGANISATION	Round 1 Grants - Get Fit for Culture
Alliance for Cohesion and Racial Equality	To provide a series of dance workshops in January 2016, leading to a 'Disability Flash mob' event in July 2016 and a cultural performance by dancers from different cultural backgrounds as part of Diversity day in Nov 16 linked 'Dance' - the Year of culture theme for that month. <b>£250</b>
Berkshire Autistic Society	To provide a showing at RISC of a film about girls and Asperger's syndrome - 'Epidemic of Knowledge' which has been produced by a local filmmaker (Olley Edwards) who suffers from autism. This will be followed by a with Q&A with the filmmaker to discuss the issues raised <b>£500</b>
Nature Nurture	To raise the profile of Oscar Wilde's works for children and his connections with Reading through workshops in January in conjunction with Reading Museum. Workshops involve artists from theatre, puppetry and storytelling who will help children and adult gain creative skills and experience to inspire them to further explore stories with their children at home. Each workshop will culminate in a performance. <b>£2,500</b>
Reading Between the Lines	As part of a wider programme of Shakespeare workshops for schools developed in conjunction with Reading University, to offer two workshops in January to the general public to introduce a wider audience to Shakespeare as part of both the Year of culture activities and to celebrate Shakespeare's 400 <sup>th</sup> anniversary. <b>£1,000</b>
Reading Refugee Support Group	To support the costs of a Photography project celebrating the contribution of refugees to society, encouraging refugees who have come to the town to provide their own insight into Reading as a place. Photography workshops will culminate in an exhibition throughout 2016. <b>£1,000</b>
Readipop	To provide a week of free and low cost access to arts and cultural events through an Open studio programme. The week will include events, gigs and music workshops to encourage participation from both visitors to Reading and local residents including 'Sonic Cinema' - a new initiative that encourage people to view locally produced films that are interesting and artistically ambitious cinema . <b>£1,000</b>



Real Time Ltd	To set up Culture Vultures 2016, related community partnerships and to provide initial training and production. Videos will be produced to a timetable agreed with Year of Culture organisers. Real Time will provide equipment and training to about 30 young people who will create video and visuals to document Year of Culture 2016 events, creating a lasting legacy £2,500
Rising Sun Arts Centre	To provide a day of dance to promote the year of Culture and dance as a strong element of the cultural life of the town. Taster sessions will be available throughout the day at different levels from beginners to advanced, in a variety of venues, with information available on other Year of Culture and dance opportunities. £250
St Bart's Theatre	To support two performances of 'Talking Bards' over one January 2016 weekend in St Bart's Theatre. 'Talking Bards' is a series of six newly-written monologues built upon Shakespearean characters. Performances will inspire others to try their own new writing. The project connects well to other events planned for the Year of Culture, including the launch of the new after school /theatre club for children and young people in Reading, and a writing project to take place In June /July as part of the Year of Culture. It will also increase the profile of St Bartholomew's church building as a new theatre venue £1,000
<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>Round 2 Grants - Reading 2050</b>
Aldworth Philharmonic Orchestra	To fund a professional recording of 'Pictures at APO's Exhibition' audio pieces as an extension to an existing Orchestra project which began in 2015 that helps engage young composers in a public performance in January 2016, linked to an arts theme. In addition, to engage with the wider public through outreach in local communities through a programme of work that includes teaching resources, website and introductions to the orchestra £2,500
Beautiful Creatures Theatre Company	To support the costs of The Fountain artwork, a 2m high construction that fuses hydraulics, water, fire and visual effects. This part installation, part performance piece that will tour 4 communities in Reading, working with local participants to create an opening ceremony specific to their location, focusing on one of the four elements. The proposal will involve a professional artist and two performers who will support

	at least 15 local participants in each of the four locations. <b>£5000</b>
Central Berkshire Business Education Partnership	To support the costs of a series of workshops for young people to enhance their enterprising creative skills, with an emphasis on Culture and Heritage. Working with 120 young people who will form teams, young people will be encouraged to research the history of Reading and use this as a basis to solve issues that residents and/or businesses might face between 2030 and 2050. CBEBP will recruit business volunteers to work with the young people and 6 teams will pitch their ideas to a judging panel to decide the winner. Suitable plans may be put forward for implementation by the Cultural Heritage Partnership. <b>£1,875</b>
CultureMix Arts	To support the costs of a series of workshops for young people to explore and celebrate the range of diverse cultures in Reading. 30 young people will work with professional musicians to create a new musical arrangement that includes elements of various cultures and explores possible impacts on the future, culminating in a CD audio recording with launch event and performance. <b>£2,500</b>
Launchpad	To support the costs of a theatre project working in conjunction with Beautiful Creatures Theatre that will engage Reading's homeless community to develop a performance which explores the evolution of Reading town centre from the present day to 2050. This will lead to a performance to an invited audience of service users from Reading's homeless pathways. Around 20 adults will be involved in the workshops and other service users will be engaged in providing their view on Reading as a place to live which will be reflected in the final performance. <b>£2,360</b>
MAPIS	To support the costs of a graduation event for a creative programme covering all aspects of events organising and management, fashion design, heritage and Reading for young people aged 16-25. The aim of the programme is for students to create a collection of designs and a brochure showcasing the history of YMCA and the history of Reading at the graduation event. Young people are working under the scheme 'learn from the past to create a better future' and will receive a Level 2 accredited qualification in Arts. <b>£2,300</b>
Outrider Anthems	To support the costs of research and development for Song of the Crow, a transmedia work about how Man has influenced Nature in the past and our future choices for the Earth. The professional company will provide 4 work-in-progress performances at St Laurence's Church using song, movement, film and lighting to engage the audience on ecological issues. Audiences will be invited to develop the work

	through communal feedback and post-performance discussion sessions. £5,000
Reading Caribbean Cultural Group	To support a 'Think Carnival' event on Carnival and what it means, inviting keynote speakers e.g. Luton & Notting Hill to share their experiences and help local people engage in a new event for the future. £500
Readipop	To support the costs of workshop leaders and masterclasses, performance and production as part of a Festival of Music Arts and Learning. The day-long Festival will be held in March with a theme of Reading 2050 to encourage attendees to talk about future music, musicians, educators and technology, all within the content of their current work and its future direction. The programme will include talks, swapshops and workshops with live performances. It is aimed at both educators and artists that work with young people. £1,000
Real Time Ltd	To support the costs of Forward In Time Reading 2050, and intergenerational project that makes use of new technology to share the experiences of young and older residents' journeys into Reading, creating a time capsule of digital images and oral histories bringing together past stories and expectations of the future of Reading in 2050 to a wide audience. Short videos made with older people will be used as a catalyst to work with young people in primary schools across Reading, targeting those with high numbers of new arrivals in the UK. Young people will use art, video, photography and digital production techniques to explore how they see themselves growing into citizens of Reading 2050. £2,500
Rising Sun Arts Centre with Creative People	To support the costs of a creative arts project that will use a number of different arts forms, working with 20 young people (aged 10-16yrs) to explore Reading over the past 50 years and into the next 50 years, culminating in an exhibition of their work and online documentary. Students will be registered on the Explore Awards programme and participants who successfully complete the programme will be awarded a QFC Level E3 award in the arts £1,500
Tedx Reading	To support the costs of a day long event consisting of solo presentations around the Reading 2050 theme on a small stage, exposing large numbers of Reading residents to cutting edge ideas of both local and

	global significance. TEDx is a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less) from science to business to global issues. Independently run TEDx events help share ideas in communities around the world. £2,000
Viscera	To support the costs of commissioning 'Pod' - a sonic artwork by artists Mike Blow and Alison Ballard. The collaboration between two visual artists will create an innovative series of 8 air filled 2m diameter PVC spheres which provide multi-sensory experience of sound, light and touch. There will be a number of scheduled performances for audiences of 250 or more; Q&A sessions with the artists; and up to 10 sessions to introduce students and participants to the science of sound and sound art. The commission will subsequently tour the UK £5,000
<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>Round 3 Grants - Projects relating to April to August Themes</b>
Ballad of Reading Gaol/ Reading UK CIC working with Stephen Carr	To support the costs of project management and projector hire for a high profile audio visual event in October 2016. A 15 minute audio visual film on the ballad of Reading Gaol by Oscar Wilde will be projected on the walls of Reading Prison using a 24metres wide rolling loop projection in order to reach large number of Reading's population for a free spectacle. £4,800
Bastille Events	To support the costs of staging a Bastille Day event on 16/17 July in the Forbury Gardens based on music, comedy and theatre with a French theme, celebrating Reading's multiculturalism as part of the Year of Culture. £1,500
CultureMix Arts Ltd	To support the costs of 4 workshops in May and June with people who have been involved in CultureMix and RASPO to gather a compendium of community stories, cultural anecdotes and photographs of the people involved in Reading's arts and culture over the last 10 years. The booklet will be launched as part of the Black History Month Peace and Love Concert in October 2016 £2,575
A Different World Festival	To support the costs of a music festival on 6 <sup>th</sup> August at Abbey Rugby club for adults/ young people with additional needs. This would provide a safe environment with wheelchair access for individuals to experience and enjoy a small-scale music festival, mainly acoustic, with stable lighting aimed at people with disabilities who would not otherwise access Reading Festival or similar outdoor events £2,000

### Appendix 3

Female Arts	To support the costs of 2 free to attend review writing workshops in April and May; 3 free to attend playwriting workshops, in April, May and October at the Rising Sun Arts Centre, for between 10 and 20 participants for women who are new to playwriting, from diverse backgrounds; and to support the costs of a 'scratch' night of celebratory female-led performances in May. <b>£1,600</b>
Jelly	To support the costs of marketing materials to promote the workshops, events and activities as part of the Open for Art weekend from 1-3 July 2016 in order to bring arts into the public realm to engage with the community and attract new audiences for the arts <b>£2,500</b>
Launchpad	To support the costs of 10x2 hour creative sessions for 15 people with a history of homelessness to create a sculpture and 3D art work. This will be displayed at the Caversham Readipop Festival from 8-10 July. <b>£500</b>
Reading Between the Lines Theatre Company	To support the costs of 2 rehearsal/ previews on 1 <sup>st</sup> April of a specially commissioned Henry 1st play to provide insight into the development of the play, process of researching and writing and plans for performance, with selected scenes and discussions with the writer, composer, producers, and historian. <b>£2,000</b>
Reading Fringe Festival	To support the costs of a Street Theatre and Clowning Festival in Broad Street on 16th and 17 <sup>th</sup> July, culminating in a clown parade. There will be a showcase performance for children and families, followed by an evening performance aimed at children. Community workshops will take place before the event to encourage participation. <b>£2,850</b>
Reading Repertory Theatre	To provide funding for a producer and stage manager for a production of Ben Hur, adapted for the stage, at the Hexagon Theatre as part of Made in Reading in October, using 3 professional cast members working alongside a 50-strong community chorus. Reading Rep will work in close collaboration with local youth theatre companies, and Reading College to create new opportunities for cultural involvement. <b>£4,800</b>
Reading Tree Warden Network	To support the costs of the design and printing of 5 walks leaflets, and poster publicity to enrich understanding of Reading's rich heritage of trees and local places of interest as part of the Year of Culture, working with volunteer tree wardens, with launch events in September <b>£1,000</b>

## Appendix 3

Real Time Video	To support the workshops and production costs of a short film drama made by the Open Mind Project for 30 people with mental health issues to increase awareness locally about mental health issues, and how those in recovery can make a dynamic and inspiring contribution to the creative life of the town. The film will be launched in September as part of the Made in Reading theme. <b>£2,500</b>
Rising Sun Arts Centre (1)	To support the cost of participatory workshops; hire, transport and repair of giant puppet and skilled trainers and puppeteers as part of a collaborative large scale cultural project. The project will use a giant puppet, marching bands and new music and procession to explore the chalk and flint history of the town, creating a high profile celebration of the town <b>£4,150</b>
Rising Sun Arts Centre (2)	To contribute towards the costs of children's activities and musicians/ artists for a one day music and arts festival Here Comes the Sun to celebrate 25 years of Rising Sun <b>£300</b>
The Things Network Reading (1)	To support the costs of researching, planning and providing a one day workshop for artists to meet as makers and explore ways to use Reading's data as a raw material for making art. Artists will work with raw data, which may include anything from the number of currently occupied spaces in Reading's car parks to public health data, using hands on tools such as 3d printing, sensors picking up live data, minecraft and virtual reality headsets to explore how this can be incorporated in the own art to create a Reading- based artwork. Included in the costs is the sum of £500 to be used to bring the winning idea, as voted by workshop participants, to fruition to be exhibited as part of the Year of Culture <b>£2,000</b>
The Things Network Reading (2)	The Things Network is a free to use, long range, low powered wireless data network across Reading and the surrounding area The grant will support the costs of developing a device that will be installed in local arts venues to show the size of the audience at each event and allow audience members to rate the event and share it on social media by counting the numbers of mobile phones in the area as an estimate of audience size. The data will be captured via the Things Network and will use an app that generates a live heat map of Reading's venues. This is innovative technology, community- based, which will leave a sustainable legacy and support data monitoring. <b>£5,000</b>
University of	To support the infrastructure costs of a project that will use expert staff and students at the University

Reading	<p>along with internationally acclaimed artists to work with a group of 30 children aged 11-12 from Maiden Erlegh Reading School to take part in a series of workshops to produce their own performance tour, video and an illustrated community guide art book that will be hosted on the project website. The Canadian performance group Mammalian Diving Reflex will bring an original and innovative approach to involving children in contemporary art.</p> <p>£2,000</p>
	<b>THE FOLLOWING GRANTS ARE SUBJECT TO FINAL APPROVAL VIA THE DECISION BOOK PROCESS ON 5 JULY 2016</b>
<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>Round 4 Grants - Projects relating to themes for September to December</b>
2Heavy Productions	<p>To support the costs of 3 acting masterclasses at the MAPP centre as part of Black History Month celebrations to accompany a production of a new play 'Trim Workshop' which is set in a Black barbershop and is designed to appeal to a sub set of the BAME community and hopefully interest audiences of all cultures. The masterclasses/ workshops and advice surgeries objective is to equip aspiring performers with knowledge and information on their performance techniques and provide specific and general industry advice</p> <p>£500</p>
Creative Junction	<p>To support the cost of production/printing; displays; workshops and workshop materials; marketing and blogs for a photography project based on the theme of hanging laundry out to dry. The project will use the theme to connect residents from 12 different cultures and showcase 12 pieces of photography printed onto laundry, each featuring a washing line which has been photographed by Reading residents who have told their story. These will feature in local launderettes as an arts installation, with an online blog to promote engagement.</p> <p>£1,000</p>

East Reading Adventure Playground Association	<p>To support the costs of project including administration, marketing and artists' time, that uses sound recording, acoustic modelling and music technology for creative composition. The project is based on the sounds, music and acoustics of a variety of community buildings- including places of worship - and spaces around East Reading. Stage 1 will be based on field work, while in Stage 2 the recording will be used as the basis for creative compositions, with small prizes awarded. Stage 3 will be based on an interactive soundmap accessible online, as well as a physical presence via live installations at Reading College and the ERAPA building at Palmer Park from 5- 17 September. This will allow different sections of the community to experience the work either online or as a physical presence.</p> <p><b>£1,000</b></p>
Junction Dance	<p>To support the costs of community and participatory elements of a month long programme of diverse dance through November 2016.</p> <p>This will include a participatory project based at Reading Museum; a Zonation Youth workshop; a Stop Gap professional performance and workshop for local dance teachers</p> <p><b>£5,000</b></p>
Reading Between the Lines Theatre Company	<p>To support the costs of a <i>King Henry 1</i> themed event in Reading Library; an open rehearsal of the new play for the public; create an education pack to accompany a programme of workshops in schools and educational establishments.</p> <p><b>£2,000</b></p>
Reading Fringe in conjunction with Battlegroundz	<p>To support the costs of staging a one day competition showcase on 24 September 2016 at the Face Bar for DJs, street art, rap and dancers based on a hip hop theme, a dance form which has gained mainstream recognition.</p> <p><b>£500</b></p>
Reading UK CIC (in conjunction with Becci Louise)	<p>To support the costs of 8 x 1.5-2 hour workshops including poet fees, materials and marketing in libraries across Reading to encourage children and families to engage with and listen to poetry. Sessions will include storytelling, drama, learning origami, art and writing poetry in response to the poetry they are hearing and reading.</p> <p><b>£900</b></p>



Rising Sun Arts Centre	To contribute towards the costs of the planning and delivery of a 2 day 'Bookface' event at the Rising Sun Arts Centre, with payment of local authors to perform, and printing of Reading in Reading Guide and Map. Bookface is an annual event that happens at the Rising Sun Arts Centre, which provides a platform for local artists, authors, poets and illustrators £500
The Rock Academy Foundation	To contribute towards the costs of planning and hosting a one night event in a Reading venue, based on competition open to all young songwriters up to the age of 25 living in Reading who will have the opportunity to perform in front of a live audience. The event will be broadcast live via the internet on the night; bands will be given a video of their performance and they will have an opportunity to promote themselves and sell their music to audience members on the night. A panel of local promoters will judge video entries of original songs submitted by young artists. Young people helping plan the event can use the activities to feed into an Arts Award Bronze qualification. £500

Year of Culture 2016

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# What's On Summer Guide

Reading's Year of Culture  
June to September Events



Thousands of people have already taken part in Reading's wide-ranging Year of Culture 2016, enjoying great speakers such as George the Poet or Lucy Worsley, running a musical 5K, gazing into Tomorrow's Reading or celebrating the history of beer in our town, to mention just a few of the events to date.

We have a truly exciting programme for the summer months as we embrace all things foodie, theatre in unusual locations, live music and art and culture Made In Reading, all on the streets of Reading.

A founding principle of Reading Year of Culture is that it is a celebration of the wonderful cultural groups based in our town as well as an opportunity to bring new experiences to Reading audiences. This summer, there are opportunities aplenty to enjoy both our home-grown talent and some of the most exciting performers from around the UK and beyond.

## Our sponsors



Our Year of Culture wouldn't be possible without the generous support and sponsorship from many of Reading's businesses and organisations, as well as Arts Council England. We would like to thank you all for getting involved and supporting the arts in Reading.

However, our celebration of arts and culture in Reading wouldn't exist without our audience. We hope to continue to entertain you over the next six months.

**Be brave and try something new!**

Cover photograph Nathan Pask / Bompas & Parr. Designed by cream-design.co.uk

**11 June** 11am – 4pm

## Do Rivers Dream of Oceans?

The Oracle, Chestnut Walk and Forbury Gardens

A mini festival of water across Reading, curated by Amy Sharrocks. Reading is a glorious confluence of water, with the River Thames, River Kennet and the Kennet & Avon canal. As part of Reading Year of Culture a witty and thought-provoking group of live artworks and interventions will take place across the town to celebrate the real life of Reading and make space to imagine the city it is becoming. Do Rivers Dream of Oceans? is part of WaterFest.

All events are free, turn up on the day. See [reading2016.org.uk](http://reading2016.org.uk) for a full schedule of events. Amy Sharrocks is a live artist, sculptor and film-maker. For 10 years she has made work about people and water. [museumofwater.co.uk](http://museumofwater.co.uk) / [iwanttoswim.co.uk](http://iwanttoswim.co.uk)

# June

GWR Great Western Railway

**18 – 19 June** 12noon – 6pm

## Canvas of Crumbs: Reading's Biscuit Experience created by Bompas & Parr

Reading Town Hall

For Reading Year of Culture 2016, culinary design studio Bompas & Parr (the team behind the much loved Gin Cloud in London) has collaborated with the University of Reading to create Canvas of Crumbs, an interactive installation for families that celebrates our cultural obsession with biscuits and the town's proud culinary heritage as creator of many of the country's most iconic biscuits.

It's free to attend (but booking required), everyone leaves with a tasty teatime delight, and if you upload a picture of your biscuit to Facebook or Instagram with the hashtag #canvasofcrumbs you could win a host of biscuit-related prizes. [reading2016.org.uk](http://reading2016.org.uk)

**19 June** 5pm

## An Audience with Nadiya Hussein Reading Concert Hall

Over 15 million viewers saw Nadiya Hussain crowned Great British Bake Off winner in the most-watched TV broadcast of 2015 – and now she is coming to Reading for the Year of Culture. Since winning Bake Off last autumn Nadiya has been asked to bake the Queen's 90th birthday cake, been praised by David Cameron, become a guest presenter on Loose Women, a reporter for The One Show and now writes a weekly Times food column.

The special 'Audience with Nadiya Hussain' event will see her look back on how her life has changed since the nation took her to their hearts and talk about some of her favourite meals. She will also take questions from the audience and sign copies of Nadiya's Kitchen, which includes recipes such as 'Churros French Toast' and 'Bengali Korma'. **£10 / £8 concessions / £26 family ticket.** [readingarts.com](http://readingarts.com)





**11 June** 11am – 5pm  
**Reading Green Fest**  
Town Hall Square

Family activities, workshops and talks to showcase the town's environmental and sustainable initiatives as part of Waterfest.  
**Free.** [transitionreading.org.uk](http://transitionreading.org.uk)

**15 – 16 June** 5pm – 9.30pm  
**Festival60**  
Reading College

Come and enjoy the work of our talented Visual arts students at Reading College. A range of exhibitions, covering many different visual arts disciplines, music and dance performances and a catwalk celebration of fashion work. Private view will take place on Thursday 16 June from 5pm.  
[reading-college.ac.uk/festival60](http://reading-college.ac.uk/festival60)

**17 June** Short films at 7.30pm, feature at 8pm  
**Stand Up Cinema:**  
**La Grande Bouffe** (Marco Ferreri, 1973)  
Rising Sun Arts Centre

Four friends hole up in a chateau and eat themselves to death. On one level a witty and well acted comedy of overindulgence and excess, on another an allegory of decline.  
**£5 / £10** for one year membership.  
**0118 986 6788 / [risingsunartscentre.org](http://risingsunartscentre.org)**

**18 June** 10am – 5pm  
**Reading Chilli Fest**  
Broad Street, Market Place and Town Hall Square

The return: bigger, better and hotter than last year. [reading2016.org.uk](http://reading2016.org.uk)

**18 June** 8pm  
**Bandoramma / Club Velocity**  
Rising Sun Arts Centre

Local bands night with Ben Marwood, Little Red and Nick Parker performing.  
**£6** (advance) [wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com).  
**0118 986 6788 / [risingsunartscentre.org](http://risingsunartscentre.org)**

**19 June** 12noon – 6pm  
**East Reading Festival 2016**  
Palmer Park

The annual East Reading Festival returns to Palmer Park – a celebration of the diversity of our local community aimed at strengthening the connections between the people and organisations of East Reading and beyond.  
**Free.** [eastreadingfestival.co.uk](http://eastreadingfestival.co.uk)

**24 June** 8pm  
**Club Velocity**  
Rising Sun Arts Centre

Local bands night with Ethan Ash, Bear Woods, Jen Bird performing.  
**£5** (advance) [wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com).  
**0118 986 6788 / [risingsunartscentre.org](http://risingsunartscentre.org)**

**25 June** 10.30am – 3pm  
**Battle of Hastings family day**  
Town Hall Square

Family activities celebrating the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings, from University of Reading and Reading Museum.  
**Free.** [readingmuseum.org.uk](http://readingmuseum.org.uk)

**25 June** 1pm – 3pm  
**Vinyl Club**  
Rising Sun Arts Centre

We peacefully listen to two records back-to-back in their fully intended glory – followed by a short discussion about the music. **Donations** welcome.  
**0118 986 6788 / [risingsunartscentre.org](http://risingsunartscentre.org)**

**25 June** 4pm  
**A City of Foxes** by Becci Fearnley  
Rising Sun Arts Centre

'A City of Foxes' was winner of the Reading Fringe Award 2015 for 'a show that moved and impacted its audience'. **£5** show and workshop.  
**0118 986 6788 / [risingsunartscentre.org](http://risingsunartscentre.org)**

**25 June** 9pm  
**Fiesta Latina**  
Rising Sun Arts Centre

Latin dance party – salsa, tango, bachata etc. Nice vibe, friendly atmosphere. **£6**.  
**0118 986 6788 / [risingsunartscentre.org](http://risingsunartscentre.org)**

**26 June** 11am – 12noon  
**Sunday Assembly**  
Rising Sun Arts Centre

Sunday Assembly Reading is part of an international non-religious community that welcomes everyone. **Free**.  
**0118 986 6788 / [risingsunartscentre.org](http://risingsunartscentre.org)**

**26 June**  
**'Icarus iii'**  
Rising Sun Arts Centre

Contemporary art show: An evening of sculpture, painting, film and performance.  
**0118 986 6788 / [risingsunartscentre.org](http://risingsunartscentre.org)**

**2 July** 12noon & 2pm  
**In Good Hands**  
Reading College Graduate Salon

In Good Hands is a site specific show of stories and songs inspired by the world of hairdressers – of secrets, trust and our human need to share and connect. An audience of 30 people are invited to their 'appointment' at the salon where hairdresser Julie makes them feel very much at home. Over the next 60 minutes – the time it takes for a wash, cut and blow dry – a story of small dramas unfolds, through a series of 7 extraordinary, original songs performed by Catherine Ireton and Grace Kiely.

In Good Hands explores what happens when you spend time in close contact with another person and the things we tell complete strangers given the opportunity. In Tokyo hairdressers are trained to look out for signs of suicide and in Africa they are trained as aids counsellors. Why is it that people tell their hairdresser things they wouldn't even tell their best friend?  
**£12 / £10** concessions.  
[readingarts.com](http://readingarts.com)



**2 – 3 July** from 11am  
**Walking:Holding** an original performance created by Rosana Cade  
Town Hall Square

Walking:Holding is a subtle, experiential walk through your city in the hands of strangers ... The piece asks people to challenge prejudices in the flesh, and experience what it is to walk in someone else's shoes – or hands.

The performance involves one audience member at a time being taken on a walk around Reading, whilst holding hands with a series of different people, of different ages, sexes, and appearances from the local area. It is a unique and, at times, challenging experience investigating preconceptions, spontaneous personal connections, and the public's reactions to displays of different sexualities. **£5.** [readingarts.com](http://readingarts.com)

**3 July** 12 noon; 2pm  
**Beautiful Creatures – The Gift**  
Broad Street Mall

In a place where anything is possible and nothing is quite what it seems, a passing cloud grows dragon's teeth, a dark city skyline lights up like a firefly and a whole world of imagination spills out from an empty packing crate. Join Beautiful Creatures Theatre on a journey of magic, mystery, music and dance in The Gift, a stunningly visual show celebrating the power of creativity. **Free.**  
[readingarts.com](http://readingarts.com)





**5 July** 6.30pm  
**An Audience with Neil Papworth**  
 Texts and tech: celebrating innovation  
 in Reading  
 Grow@Green Park

The story of how the world's first text message came to be sent from Reading – with the man who sent it. **Free.** [reading2016.org.uk](http://reading2016.org.uk)



**9 – 10 July** 10am – 4pm  
**Pebble Gorge**  
**You're Getting Warmer in**  
 collaboration with Cat Harrison  
 and John Hunter  
**Whiteknights Campus, Reading University**

Hurry – we don't have much time! The Three and a Half Degrees Gang are on their way, and you're our only hope of slowing them down. Everywhere they go they are getting people hot and bothered. Agent Zero and Professor Helix need your help to save the Marsh Warbler bird before The Gang catch up with you. Are you up to the task of taking on this mission? You're Getting Warmer is an outdoor adventure for families and small groups, that explores the effects of climate change in the UK. Armed with a smartphone and specialist app technology, you and your family are agents for change, hunting down clues and interacting on your mission to stall the Three and a Half Degrees Gang. **£20** per group of up to 5. [readingarts.com](http://readingarts.com)

**11 July** 6pm; 7pm  
**South Street Youth Theatre**  
**Stopping**  
**A Reading Bus at a secret location**

Are you top deck or bottom deck? A bus is stranded on a school trip. No grown up's aboard. Only one phone. The meagre food they brought with them. When will it stop ...

South Street Youth Theatre presents a brand new piece of theatre loosely based on Lord of the Flies. South Street Youth Theatre offers young people the opportunity to develop their drama skills. Led by professional tutors the groups work towards performances which are then staged at South Street's main theatre space ... and beyond! **£6.50.** [readingarts.com](http://readingarts.com)



**15 – 17 July** Fri 7pm; Sat 2.30pm & 7pm;  
 Sun 12noon & 4pm. **Dante or Die**

**I Do** devised by Daphna Attias and Terry O'Donovan with writing from Chloe Moss  
**Malmaison Hotel**

Ever wanted to be a fly on the wall in the build up to a wedding? Dante or Die presents a brand new site-specific jigsaw puzzle through six rooms at the Malmaison Hotel, ten minutes before the couple say 'I Do'. The ceremony begins in ten minutes. The Best Man is practicing his last minute speech. The Bridesmaids are squeezing the Bride into her dress. Mum and Dad are seeing each other for the first time in years. Grandma is dressing her husband whilst the groom's brother is getting frisky with the maid of honour. Meanwhile, the Groom is frozen ...

Divided into six groups, you will discover the twists and turns within the plot in a different order, seeing the same ten minutes from each characters' points of view. I Do returns by popular demand to celebrate Reading's Year of Culture. **£15.** [readingarts.com](http://readingarts.com)



**19 – 23 July** Tues – Fri 6.30pm & 7.30pm;  
 Sat 2pm, 3pm, 6.30pm & 7.30pm

**The Final Whistle**  
**Home Changing Room, Madejski Stadium**

Written and performed by Benedict Sandiford. Directed by Cassie Friend. Produced by South Street. Everything rides on this. The biggest game of the season. Win and we're heroes. Lose and... You need to be able to look yourself in the eye at the final whistle. A show about family, fandom and formations. The audience will enter via the players entrance of Madejski Stadium and then go behind the scenes to the home changing room. *'Some people believe football is a matter of life and death ... I can assure you it is much, much more important than that.'* Bill Shankly. **£12.50 / £10** concessions. [readingarts.com](http://readingarts.com)



**16 – 17 July** 11am; 2pm  
**Kilter Theatre**  
**The Last Post**  
**A Red Van in Christchurch Meadows**

Surrounded by postage paraphernalia from a much-travelled life you'll meet Verity, the irrepressible heiress of an international pen-pal agency, and Red a redundant Post-Master. Witness the unwrapping of their curious love story, accompanied by live music provided by Tomaz (who arrived one day in a jiffy bag).

Following the play you're invited to stay for a tot of sherry and a rummage in the stationary supplies before hopping onto a vintage typewriter or picking up a quill to write that letter you've been meaning to send. If you need some inspiration you can pick up a postcard from the 'Friends for Pens' pin-board and write to a real life recipient who is waiting for your letter. This tour is presented by House. **£10 / £7.50.** [readingarts.com](http://readingarts.com)





**1 – 3 July** all day  
**Open for Art**  
**Reading Town Centre**

A three-day festival showcasing Reading's arts, heritage, culture and creative industries in Reading Town Centre. There will be plenty for everyone to take part in over the three-days. Some events free and some ticketed.  
**07702 422353 / jelly.org.uk**

**2 July** 12noon – 1pm  
**Classical for Charity**  
**Rising Sun Arts Centre**

A solo performance by pianist Maija Tuomi-Nikula, featuring an eclectic programme including Bach, Scarlatti, Beethoven, Philip Martin and Liszt. **£3.** All proceeds go to local charities.  
**0118 986 6788 / risingsunartscentre.org**

**2 July** 12noon – 4pm  
**Art and Heritage Activities at Oxford Road Fun Day**  
**Kensington Park, Kensington Road**

Participate in fun family art and heritage activities at Openhand Openspace's stand at The Oxford Road Fun Day. **Free/donation.** **ohos.org.uk**

**3 July** 1pm – 4pm  
**Art Space**  
**Rising Sun Arts Centre**

An informal and social session to create your own artwork. No tutor, no pressure, bring your own materials. Opportunities to see what other people are doing and discuss ideas. **Free.**  
**0118 986 6788 / risingsunartscentre.org**

**7 July** 7.30pm  
**An Evening with Susan Fletcher**  
**Waterstones**

Winner of the Whitbread First Novel Award for Eve Green, as she talks about her fascinating new novel Let Me Tell You About A Man I Knew. **Free.** **waterstones.com**

**7 July** 7.30pm – 9.30pm  
**arjeea21 contemporary art group**  
**OpenHand OpenSpace, Brock Keep, Oxford Rd**

Artists can meet other artists and bring work to discuss. Bi-monthly meet up. **£2** donation.  
**0118 959 7752 / ohos.org.uk**

**7 July** 7pm  
**Caribbean Arts Discussion**  
**Rising Sun Arts Centre**

The latest in the series of monthly discussions – discussing Guyana, 50 Years of Independence and recognising Guyana as part of the Caribbean. **Free.** **helloukc@gmail.com / risingsunartscentre.org**

**8 – 10 July** 11am  
**Readipop Festival**  
**Christchurch Meadows**

Live music over three stages, theatre, arts, comedy and cabaret, world music, bar and festival food and children's area. **Ticketed.** **readipop.co.uk**

**8 July** 8pm  
**The Big Untidy Night Out**  
**Rising Sun Arts Centre**

Another great if slightly untidy night out, featuring the return of 'Older, Wiser, Harder' and more. **£5.**  
**0118 986 6788 / risingsunartscentre.org**

**9 July** 10am  
**Bookface Bookclub**  
**Rising Sun Arts Centre**

A group for book lovers and makers. We aim to make every monthly meeting a little different with workshops, talks and space to make things. **£4.** **0118 986 6788 / risingsunartscentre.org**

**9 July** 12noon – 2pm  
**Yellow Teapot Café**  
**Rising Sun Arts Centre**

A new monthly cafe all about community, cake and tea! Also a showcase for local artists with work on display, and for sale. Everyone welcome. **0118 986 6788 / risingsunartscentre.org**

**9 July** 7.30pm  
**Nordic Summer**  
**St Laurence's Church**

Exciting and different, a choral concert by Reading Bach Choir of works by Scandinavian and Baltic composers. **£12 / £10** concessions / **£8** students and 16–18 / **£5** under 16.  
**readingbachchoir.org.uk**

**9 July** 8.30pm  
**Scarlet Vixens**  
**Rising Sun Arts Centre**

The Scarlet Vixens are back with The Summer of Love, another bonanza of a burlesque and

variety show! Join the Vixens in a shimmying shindig that will warm the coldest heart.  
**0118 986 6788 / risingsunartscentre.org**

**10 July** 5pm  
**Mikron Theatre Company presents**  
**‘Canary Girls’**  
**Forbury Gardens**

Mikron presents a tale of two sisters well and truly at war. Funny, heartfelt and tender. Bring seating and a picnic. **Free.**  
**mikron.org.uk / reading.gov.uk**

**13 – 23 July** 7.45pm  
**A Midsummer Night's Dream**  
**Caversham Court Gardens**

Come and enjoy Shakespeare's best loved comedy in the atmospheric surroundings of Caversham Court Gardens. Bring a picnic and some fizz! **£18 / £16.** **progresstheatre.co.uk**

**15 July** Short films at 7.30pm, feature at 8pm  
**Stand Up Cinema:**  
**Opening Night** (John Cassavetes, 1977)  
**Rising Sun Arts Centre**

Gina Rowlands is outstanding as the actress beginning to unravel in Cassavettes exploration of theatre, film, life and how we can get lost in all of them. **£5 / £10** for one year membership.  
**0118 986 6788 / risingsunartscentre.org**

**16 – 17 July** 10am – 4pm  
**Reading Fringe Festival**  
**town takeover**  
**Broad Street**

A weekend of music, theatre, magic and dance as Reading Fringe Festival previews this year's programme across the town centre. **Free.**  
**readingfringefestival.co.uk**

**16 – 17 July** 11.30am – 5.30pm  
**Bastille Day Reading**  
**Forbury Gardens**

The Bastille Day Reading festival is here for its 5th year. Family fayre, French cheese, music and performer's, stands, craft and fun. All welcome – vive la France! **Free.** **bastilledayreading.co.uk**

**16 July** 8pm  
**Bandoramma / Club Velocity**  
**Rising Sun Arts Centre**

Local band nights. Very special guests (tbc 1 July) and Big Zero. **£10** (advance) **wegotickets.com.**  
**0118 986 6788 / risingsunartscentre.org**

**17 July** 7pm  
**The Rock Academy Foundation**  
**Summer Concert**  
**The Jazz Cafe, Madejski Stadium**

Join our bands for a celebration of their achievements during summer term Band Experience workshops. Featuring performances from all our bands, plus a special guest performance. 14+ **£6** over 18 / **£4** under 18.  
**therockacademyfoundation.org**

**17 July** 4.30pm – 8pm  
**Milonga Sympatica featuring**  
**Tango Select**  
**Rising Sun Arts Centre**

Beautiful music – worth coming just to listen to the band play but also very danceable. Always a great afternoon of socialising and dancing. **£8.**  
**0118 986 6788 / risingsunartscentre.org**

**22 July** 8pm  
**Madcap Moonsoup**  
**Rising Sun Arts Centre**

The good people of Southcote and Earley bring you 'Madcap Moonsoup', a mashed evening of local music, mind blowing comedians and a measure of mime. Mesmerising it is!!!! **£4.**  
**0118 986 6788 / risingsunartscentre.org**

**23 July** times tbc  
**Samba Parade**  
**Broad Street**

Readipop and Beatroots are bringing a touch of the summer samba rhythms from Rio 2016 to Reading as part of Beatroots 20th birthday! If you want to be part of the parade as a drummer or dancer, contact Readipop and join Beatroots on a Tuesday evening. **Free.** **readipop.co.uk**

**23 July** 2pm – 4pm  
**Vinyl Club**  
**Rising Sun Arts Centre**

We peacefully listen to two records back-to-back in their fully intended glory – followed by a short discussion about the music. **Donations** welcome.  
**0118 986 6788 / risingsunartscentre.org**

**23 July** 9pm  
**Fiesta Latina**  
**Rising Sun Arts Centre**

Latin dance party – salsa, tango, bachata etc. Nice vibe, friendly atmosphere. **£6.**  
**0118 986 6788 / risingsunartscentre.org**

**24 July** 7.30pm  
**Alternative Queen of Reading 2016**  
pentahotel Reading

As part of the Reading Fringe, who will be crowned this year's Alternative Queen of Reading? Come and cheer the Queens-in-waiting as they perform for the judges – overseen by the incomparable Berlin Baroness. **£10.**  
**07761 972338 / alternativequeen.com**

**29 July** 8pm  
**Club Velocity presents 'A Very Deep Hole' album launch gig**  
Rising Sun Arts Centre

Local band nights. A Very Deep Hole, Not Fit For Humans and Sahara Dam. Free cake, all ages.  
**£5 (door) / £4 (advance) wegotickets.com.**  
**0118 986 6788 / risingsunartscentre.org**

**30 July** 10am – 6pm  
**ReMade in Reading**  
Broad Street and Reading Town Centre

Turning Reading town centre into a film set, Real Time will be re-making classic movie scenes in the location they should have been made in the first place, Reading ... with Reading people in front and behind the camera! Join in! **Free.**  
**real-time.org.uk**

**31 July** 11am – 12noon  
**Sunday Assembly**  
Rising Sun Arts Centre

Sunday Assembly Reading is part of an international non-religious community that welcomes everyone. **Free.**  
**0118 986 6788 / risingsunartscentre.org**

**1 – 7 August**  
Mon – Fri 12noon – 4pm; Sat & Sun 11am – 5pm  
**Paintings Exhibition**  
by John Percy  
OpenHand OpenSpace, Brock Keep, Oxford Rd

Contemporary art exhibition of mixed media paintings. Meet the artist Tuesday 2 August 7pm – 9pm. **Free.** **0118 959 7752 / ohos.org.uk**

**4 August** 7pm  
**Caribbean Arts Discussion**  
Rising Sun Arts Centre

Black History Month planning. Local artists discuss forthcoming arts projects, share ideas, talk about forms of Caribbean art, music and dance as well as upcoming events. **Free.** **hellouk@gmail.com / risingsunartscentre.org**

**5 August** times tbc  
**Dance Transport project**  
Broad Street and The Biscuit Tin, Station Hill

A modern dance performance telling the story of transport in Reading, with a secret performance on a bus and a procession of dancers leading a merry dance to Station Hill. Brought to Reading by Reading Rep. **Free.** **readingrep.com**

**5 August** 1pm – 4pm  
**Art Space**  
Rising Sun Arts Centre

Come to this informal and social session to create your own artwork. No tutor, no pressure, bring your own materials. There will be opportunities to see what other people are doing and discuss ideas. **Free.** **0118 986 6788 / risingsunartscentre.org**

**5 August** 8pm  
**Tribute Night**  
Rising Sun Arts Centre

The summer edition of Tribute Night will be a very special celebration of Tribute Night's 10th birthday. For details, check the Rising Sun website and Tribute Night Facebook page! **Donations** welcome.  
**0118 986 6788 / risingsunartscentre.org**

**13 August** 11am – 11pm  
**Here Comes The Sun Festival**  
Rising Sun Arts Centre

Now in its seventh year, the festival highlights some of the best music from Reading and from further afield, along with participatory activities for both children and adults of all ages and abilities. **£7.**  
**0118 986 6788 / risingsunartscentre.org**

**15 – 21 August**  
Mon – Fri 3pm – 7pm; Sat & Sun 11am – 5pm  
**Pulling Strings**  
OpenHand OpenSpace, Brock Keep, Oxford Rd

Contemporary art exhibition of work by Ingrid M Jensen, including interactive installation, sculpture, drawing work. Meet the artist Tuesday 16 August 7pm – 9pm. **Free.** **0118 959 7752 / ohos.org.uk**

**20 August** times tbc  
**Carnival of the World**  
Broad Street

Carnival of the World celebrates the diversity of Reading at a town centre event featuring music, dance and a procession of cultural groups that represent Reading communities including Reading All Steel Percussion Orchestra, bhangra and dhol from India, dance and carnival costumes from The Caribbean, and traditional displays from Africa and Latin America. Presented by Culture Mix. **Free.** **culturemixarts.co.uk**

**20 August** 8pm  
**Bandorama**  
Rising Sun Arts Centre

Local band night.  
**0118 986 6788 / risingsunartscentre.org**

**26 August** 8pm  
**Club Velocity**  
Rising Sun Arts Centre

Local band night.  
**0118 986 6788 / risingsunartscentre.org**

# August

**6 August** 11am – 8pm  
**Small World Festival**  
The Biscuit Tin, Station Hill

Small World Festival is a family friendly celebration of 21st Century World music, blending global beats, cutting edge world music and cultures from across our community. Featuring international, national and local talent carefully chosen and curated in a collaboration by the Year of Culture programming team, John Luther (South Street, Reading Arts) and Jack Hepplewhite (EMBEEPEE, Two Step, Purple Turtle). Expand your listening horizons with this chance to access first class, world music for free on your doorstep. **Free.**  
**reading2016.org.uk**



**6 August** 12noon – 10.30pm  
**A Different World Music Festival**  
Abbey Rugby Football Club, Emmer Green

A music festival for adults and young people with additional needs. Music starts at 2pm.  
**£20 / Free** under 10.  
**adifferentworldfestival.co.uk**



**27 August** 2pm – 4pm

## Vinyl Club

Rising Sun Arts Centre

We peacefully listen to two records back-to-back in their fully intended glory – followed by a short discussion about the music. **Donations** welcome.

0118 986 6788 / [risingsunartscentre.org](http://risingsunartscentre.org)

**28 August** 11am – 12noon

## Sunday Assembly

Rising Sun Arts Centre

Sunday Assembly Reading is part of an international non-religious community that welcomes everyone. **Free.**

0118 986 6788 / [risingsunartscentre.org](http://risingsunartscentre.org)

# September

**1 – 3 September**

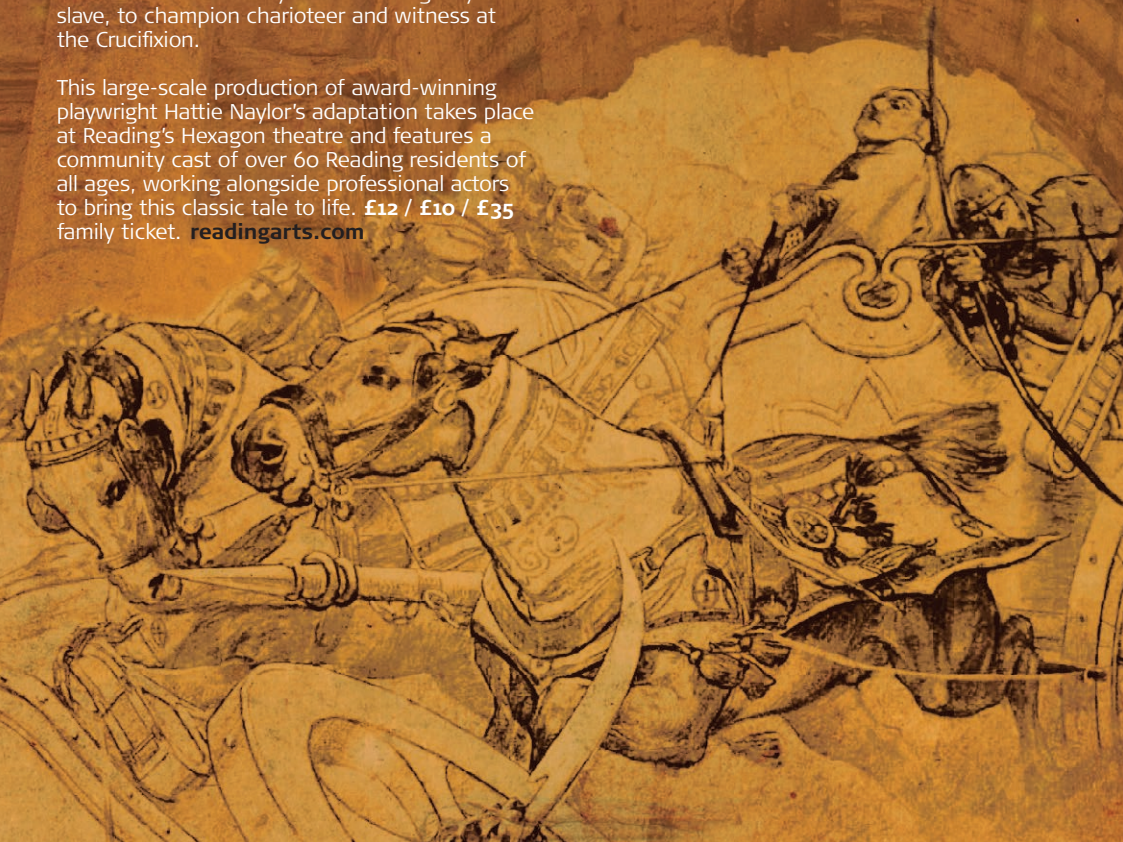
7pm; 2pm Saturday matinee

## Ben-Hur

The Hexagon

Reading Rep, in association with The Hexagon and the Year of Culture, are delighted to present Ben-Hur. Join us for the epic tale of the life and times of Ben-Hur. His extraordinary journey takes him from wealthy merchant to galley slave, to champion charioteer and witness at the Crucifixion.

This large-scale production of award-winning playwright Hattie Naylor's adaptation takes place at Reading's Hexagon theatre and features a community cast of over 60 Reading residents of all ages, working alongside professional actors to bring this classic tale to life. **£12 / £10 / £35** family ticket. [readingarts.com](http://readingarts.com)



**8 – 10 September**

7pm; 2pm Saturday matinee

## The Great British Bump Off

The Hexagon

The first theatrical co-production between The Hexagon and South Street, 'Bump Off' brings together 4 professional theatre makers and a community cast to create a fast paced comedy featuring live baking, singing and a sprinkling of murder. Set in the mythical village of Little Itching, nestled between Sonning and Wargrave on Thames. Tongues wag and rumours fly when Sir Percival Clutch is discovered bumped off in his study the night before his sponsored Bake Off to raise funds for the local church.

Co-written by Benedict Sandiford and Sabina Netherclift, and collaborating with local WIs, Girl Guides and local Reading choir 'Time to Sing', The Great British Bump Off brings together two iconic British institutions – the spinster sleuth and the amateur baking competition, in one hilarious theatrical spectacle suitable for the whole family. **£14.50 / £12.50** under 16 / **£10** groups 10+ / **£44** family of four / **£10** South Street members. [readingarts.com](http://readingarts.com)

**9 September**

6pm for vintage styling, movie at 7.30pm

## A special immersive 40th anniversary showing of Bugsy Malone and an Audience with Dexter Fletcher

The Olympia Ballroom, Shearn, London Street

Marking Reading's Year of Culture and September's 'Made in Reading' pillar, Reading 2016 will be transforming the Olympia Ballroom at Shearn into Fat Sam's Speakeasy for one night only, with a 40th anniversary screening of the much-loved

film, vintage styling from Jelly and Electric Hair and a very special guest.

We will be joined, subject to availability, by Dexter Fletcher, who made his screen debut playing Babyface aged just 10. Dexter then appeared in The Long Good Friday and The Elephant Man before starring in Press Gang and Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels. He is now established as one of the UK's leading film directors, having followed the award-winning Wild Bill and Proclaimers musical Sunshine on Leith, with this year's hit Eddie the Eagle. **£20** / group discounts available. [readingarts.com](http://readingarts.com)







**11 September** 7.30pm  
**Showstopper!**  
**The Improvised Musical**  
**The Hexagon**

Spontaneous musical comedy at its finest direct from the West End! A brand new musical comedy is created from scratch at each performance of this award-winning show as audience suggestions are transformed on the spot into an all-singing, all-dancing production with unpredictable and hilarious results.

This incredible comedy troupe never fail to impress as they create shows packed with drama, dazzling dance routines and catchy melodies, leaving delighted audiences singing all the way home. So whether you fancy Sondheim on a ski lift or Cole Porter in Poundland – you suggest it and the Showstoppers will sing it! 2016 Olivier Award Winners. **£15. [readingarts.com](http://readingarts.com)**

**28 September** 7.30pm  
**Electric Chair**  
**RYND**

The Ultimate Reading Hairdressing Competition, proudly sponsored by Electric Hair, will crown the town's best hairdresser for 2016's Year of Culture. Think that you have got what it takes to win the Reading Hairdressing Trophy? Then take part on 28 September at RYND, to see if you have the ultimate skills, to turn a plain Jane hairdo into a one that is fit for the red carpet.

The winner will be the proud recipient of the Reading Hairdresser of the Year Trophy, but also get an all expenses paid photo shoot with their model. **Free. [reading2016.org.uk](http://reading2016.org.uk)**



**8 – 11 September** 10am – 6pm  
**RG Spaces @ The Turbine House**  
**The Turbine House, Blake's Lock**  
**Riverside Museum**

A specially selected exhibition by 23 local artists with local books from Two Rivers Press, a family trail and special deals at Bel and the Dragon. Part of National Heritage Open Days. **Free. [rgspaces.org.uk](http://rgspaces.org.uk)**

**10 September** 7pm – 9pm  
**Classical For Charity:**  
**Evening Edition**  
**Rising Sun Arts Centre**

Pianist Maija Tuomi-Nikula; Carole Sevestre and her daughter Lilla on piano; Helen Cuthbertson, clarinet; Jonny Owens, classical guitar; Nicole Johnson, mezzo-soprano. **£8** all proceeds go to the Rising Sun Arts Centre.  
**0118 986 6788 / [risingsunartscentre.org](http://risingsunartscentre.org)**

**17 September** 11am; 2pm  
**Reading Scottish Pipe Band**  
**Broad Street**

The band will march and play in three locations in Broad Street from Oxford Road to Minster Street with two 1 hour performances at 11am and 2pm, ahead of a major concert on 22 October in Reading Town Hall. **Free. [readingscottish.org](http://readingscottish.org)**



**Reading to Bath from 55mins and from £12.50 each way\*** with Great Western Railway. Book in advance at **[GWR.com](http://GWR.com)**

\*Terms and conditions apply; visit [GWR.com](http://GWR.com). Single Advanced Standard Class tickets only. Not valid with other offers. Subject to availability and may not be available at some peak times. Stated journey is the minimum time available on selected services.

# Regular Events

**OpenHand OpenSpace**  
**artspeak workshops and classes**

**Mondays** 7.30pm – 9.30pm  
**Watercolour for mixed ability**

An informal class for mixed abilities with OHOS artist Anna Mitchell. **£13** per session.

**Wednesdays** 7pm – 9.30pm  
**Life Drawing**

Hosted by Jelly. The session starts promptly at 7pm, please bring your own drawing tools and paper. **£8** per session.

**Thursdays** 7.30pm – 9.30pm  
**Exploring Drawing**

For mixed abilities. Explore the formal elements of drawing using a range of tools, techniques and themes. **£13** per session.

All workshops and classes and take place in the ground floor gallery space at OpenHand OpenSpace, Brock Keep, 571 Oxford Road, Reading RG30 1HL **[annamitch@gmail.com](mailto:annamitch@gmail.com)** / **0118 959 7752 / [ohos.org.uk](http://ohos.org.uk)**

**Rising Sun Arts Centre**

**Tuesdays** 6pm – 7pm (until 26 July)  
**Open Mind**

Open Mind is a multimedia arts project for adults recovering from mental ill health. The project is running practical script development workshops and participants to plan, record, edit and distribute a short film shot entirely in Reading. **Free.**

Rising Sun Arts Centre, 30 Silver Street, Reading RG1 2ST  
**0118 986 6788 / [risingsunartscentre.org](http://risingsunartscentre.org)**



# FORBURY PLACE

[FORBURYPLACE.COM](http://FORBURYPLACE.COM)

The Forbury Place Estate offers 600,000 sq ft of prime office space across 3 buildings. Reading's newest urban business park is a desirable location for all businesses. No.2 Forbury Place offers 191,000 sq ft and completes in summer 2017.

## CURRENT OCCUPIERS INCLUDE

SSE | Osborne Clarke | Pegasystems | Yell | Convatec | PwC | BPP



ALL ENQUIRIES

DEVELOPMENT BY

