



**Friends  
of  
Reading  
Abbey**

# NEWSLETTER

**Summer 2017**

**Patrons:**

*The Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire  
The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Reading  
The Right Reverend the Bishop of Reading  
The Abbot of Douai*

*The MP for Reading East  
The MP for Reading West  
The Vice Chancellor, Reading University*

**President:** Professor Brian Kemp **Vice Presidents:** Janet Bond Leslie Cram

**MANY EXCITING EVENTS ARE HAPPENING AROUND THE READING ABBEY REVEALED PROJECT. TWO CONSERVATION TOURS WERE ORGANISED BY CRL RESTORATION DURING APRIL AND MAY WHICH WERE FULLY SOLD OUT, HIGHLIGHTING THE GREAT INTEREST IN AND ENTHUSIASM FOR THE PROJECT.**

Cliveden Conservation are working on behalf of CRL Restoration as their specialist sub-contractor to make safe the tall rubble walls by securing loose masonry, consolidating friable mortar and applying soft capping to the tops of the walls to better protect against the weather. The tour on 20 April was led by conservation architect Barnaby Wheeler who outlined the conservation methods being used and also vividly described what the interior of this once magnificent building would have looked like, bringing colour and life to the abbey ruins. A demonstration of mixing traditional hot lime mortar was given, which proved a crowd pleaser. This mix is being used to re-point the masonry to prevent further deterioration. More tours will be arranged - contact Reading Museum for details.



CRL'S order of works run as follows:

- South Transept and Treasury
- Chapter House
- Dormitory
- Reredorter
- Summer / Autumn 2018 - ruins fully open to the public, complemented by a full programme of events and activities



## SPRING LECTURE, 31 MARCH 2017

Our Chairman Peter Durrant was delighted to introduce Joan Dils to the large audience gathered at St Laurence Church in Reading's town centre, for our spring lecture. Joan's talk was based on her work editing St Laurence churchwardens accounts and focussing on the years of crisis c1520 to c1570. It was a fascinating story, recounting the effects of the reformation on the parish and how it coped with the many changes during those years.



Encouraged by the smiling faces of Joy Pibworth and Stella Cooke, people gave generously to the collection held to help cover costs of the evening. We'd like to thank those who attended for supporting the event.



Photo: Chris Widdows



Photo: Chris Widdows

## DIARY DATES for 2017

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>10 June</b>          | <b>WATERFEST, Chestnut Walk, Reading from 11am</b><br><b>Register for an Abbey Quarter tour at the FORA stand</b> |
| <b>17 June</b>          | <b>TEA AND TALKS AT TWO - Reading Museum</b>  |
| <b>22 July</b>          | • <i>Reading Abbey Gatehouse in Context</i><br>• <i>Introducing Jane Austen</i>                                   |
| <b>4 July</b>           | <b>FORA Annual Outing to Chawton</b>  |
| <b>20 May - 23 Sept</b> | <b>READING ABBEY QUARTER, Then and Now Exhibition at Reading Museum</b>   |
| <b>7 - 10 September</b> | <b>Heritage Open Days</b>   |
| <b>28 October</b>       | <b>Annual General Meeting, Town Hall, Reading</b>   |



## LATEST DEVELOPMENT - AS WE GO TO PRINT:

As part of the ongoing "Reading Abbey Revealed" project, the Abbey Gateway is placed under wraps while the restoration works are carried out.

To showcase the historic Abbey Quarter, information panels and an audio device on the hoardings will give residents an insight into the rich history of the Quarter, as well as the ongoing works and future plans for the area.



Do go along and have a look.

[www.readingabbey.org.uk](http://www.readingabbey.org.uk)

Visit our updated website, now with links to the new Reading Museum page

