

# 46th BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF MUSEUMS CONFERENCE & AGM

11, 12 & 13 OCTOBER 2019

HOSTED BY FRIENDS OF READING MUSEUM

**MUSEUM FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY**



*Reading Town Hall and Museum*



*Reading Abbey ruins and Reading Gaol*

## CONFERENCE TOURS PROGRAMME

**FRIDAY 11 OCTOBER** For those who arrive early on Friday, this is the best opportunity to visit Reading Museum. Museum opening hours are 10am-4pm Tuesday to Saturday. The museum is not currently open on Sunday. Entry to the museum is free.

**At 14:30** we are offering a 45 minute guided tour of **Reading's Bayeux Tapestry** which is displayed in a purpose built gallery in the Museum (£6).

**Also at 14:30** there is a 90 minute walking tour of the **Reading Abbey Quarter and ruins** (£8).

The meeting point for both is at the Town Hall reception.



*Reading Abbey ruins*

**SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER** There is an opportunity to visit Reading Museum during the lunch break (12.30-14:00). If you would like an **introductory 'Welcome and Wow' talk this will start at 13:15** in the museum (£2).

**SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER** Four tours are available and it is possible to do more than one if you would like to.

**10.30 Tour of Reading Abbey** extended along Chestnut Walk past Reading Gaol, with Oscar Wilde references, and on to Blake's Lock on the River Kennet (£6). Refreshments will be available at the end of the walk (at your own cost) at the Bel & The Dragon.

The meeting point is at the statue of Queen Victoria in front of the Town Hall.

## **MUSEUM FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY**

**10.30 A visit to the Museum of English Rural Life** (a Reading University Museum) which is currently working in partnership with Reading Museum as an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation (£6). The visit will include an introductory talk and an opportunity to handle objects in the Museum's collection. Refreshments (at your own cost) will be available at The MERL and also at The Dairy adjacent to the Museum.

The meeting point is the reception desk at The MERL on Redlands Road.

If after this you would like to join the Berkshire Medical Museum visit at 12.30 a guide will walk with you from The MERL.

**12.30 Visit to the Royal Berkshire Hospital Medical Museum (RBH)** (£6). The Medical Museum, in the old laundry of the RBH, is opening specially for BAfM conference delegates.

The meeting point is the colonnade at the entrance to the hospital on London Road.

The hospital is less than five minutes walk from MERL and the London Road campus of the University of Reading.

**13.30 University of Reading London Road Campus** (£6) The tour takes delegates around the University of Reading's London Road campus and includes a visit to the Museum of English Rural Life (The MERL). On the tour, various heritage buildings will be seen dating from the Georgian period through to the 20th century. These include a visit to The Acacias, a late Georgian house faced with Bath stone, which was once the home of George Palmer, co-founder of the Huntley & Palmer biscuit company in the mid-19th century. You will also see the Library building that was donated by the Palmer family and the Memorial Clock Tower, which was built to commemorate the members of the University who died in the Great War. It later included those who died in the Second World War and most recently a memorial to Lt. Col. Rupert Thorneloe who was killed in Afghanistan in 2009.

After this is a visit to St Andrew's Hall (originally built for George Palmer's son, Alfred), which was donated to the University for student accommodation and then extended in the 21st Century to house The MERL. In the museum building, which also houses the University Archives and Special Collections, guides will show delegates a selection of archive material as well as the Museum itself.

**Worried about finding your way around Reading?** Our volunteers will be available if you would like to be accompanied to travel to The MERL, The Royal Berkshire Medical Museum or the London Road Campus on foot or by bus. They can also accompany you back to the centre of Reading at the end of the visits. There will be maps to guide you in your conference packs.

### **For further information or questions:**

**By post:** Friends of Reading Museum (FoRM) c/o Reading Museum and Town Hall, The Town Hall, Blagrove Street, Reading, RG1 1QH **email:** form2019conf@gmail.com.

**Reading Museum** website: [www.readingmuseum.org.uk](http://www.readingmuseum.org.uk)

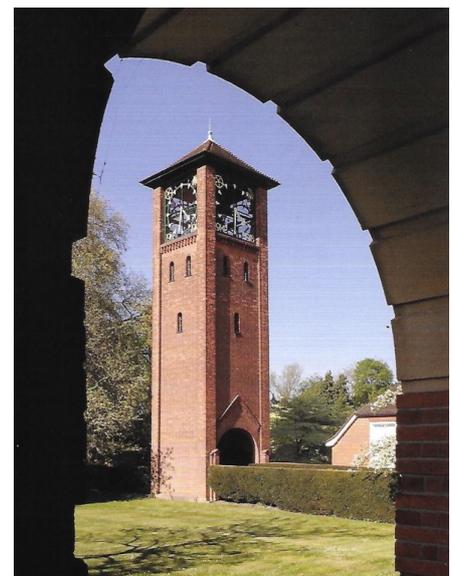
**FoRM** website: [www.readingmuseum.org.uk/explore/get-involved/friends-reading-museum](http://www.readingmuseum.org.uk/explore/get-involved/friends-reading-museum)

**BAfM** website: [www.bafm.org.uk](http://www.bafm.org.uk)

**Tourist information:** <https://livingreading.co.uk/visit/places-to-visit-in-reading>



***The Museum of English Rural Life***



***Reading University Memorial Clock Tower***



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