

APPLICATION TO JOIN THE HISTORY OF READING SOCIETY OR RENEW SUBSCRIPTION (2026)

Name(s):.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

Telephone Number:.....

Email (use of email reduces costs to the Society):

.....

I consent to the History of Reading Society
holding my personal information ☐

I give permission for the History of Reading
Society to contact me by the following methods

Email ☐

Post ☐

Telephone ☐

Date:.....

Subscription enclosed:..... (£9 per person)

..... (donation)

..... (total)

(Cheques payable to History of Reading Society)

Please tick if you will be paying by Standing
Order/Bank Transfer (this is preferable as there are
no bank charges related to this method) ☐

Please email historyofreadingsociety@yahoo.com
for payment information

The Society was founded in 1978 by a group of
enthusiasts anxious to keep the history of Reading
alive and before the public.

Our object is to cultivate an interest in the history
of Reading and the surrounding area, and to bring
together a collection of artefacts and documents
which shall be made available to future
generations. These are to be placed in a recognised
local repository.

We welcome new members to our Society, no
special knowledge required, just an interest in the
area and its inhabitants past and present. Visitors
are also welcome to our meetings for a small fee
per meeting attended.

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month
(although visit dates may vary). Talks start at
7.30pm. In August we have no meeting and June
and July's meetings are outings only available to
paid up members. In winter, December-February,
we meet via Zoom, and if we are unable to meet
face to face. Zoom meetings are only available to
paid up members.

The Society produces three newsletters a year for
our members.

We welcome donations of Reading and Berkshire
local history and interest books for our book sales.
All proceeds go to the Society.

Please keep your eyes open for book sale dates on
our monthly posters displayed at libraries and
select outlets, and our website.

THE HISTORY OF READING SOCIETY



MEMBERSHIP FORM AND PROGRAMME 2026

*We meet in the Abbey Baptist Church,
Abbey Square 7pm for a 7.30pm start
(rear of the Central Library in Kings Road)
or via Zoom (December-February)*

*If you are interested in the history of the Reading
area, why not come and join us? You will be most
welcome*

For further details please phone:-
David Cliffe (Chairman) on 0118 948 3354
Martin Leake (Treasurer) on 07469 702004
Vicki Chesterman (Secretary) on 07776 340923

Find us at www.historyofreadingsociety.org.uk and on
Facebook

PROGRAMME

2026

- 21 Jan **A WALK ALONG THE RIVER THAMES FROM PANGBOURNE TO MARLOW (ZOOM)**
Bill King
Bill's presentation will include stunning images of life along the Thames, including Reading
- 18 Feb **PHOTO QUIZ (ZOOM)**
Vicki Chesterman
How many places do you recognise in historic Reading? Test your memory with some seldom seen scenes of Reading
- 18 Mar **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** followed by **THE HISTORY OF CAVERSHAM PARK OVER 930 YEARS**
Dr Stephen Goss
Dr Stephen Goss will enlighten us on Caversham lives and buildings and their impact on English history
- 15 Apr **NORTHCOURT AVENUE: ITS HISTORY AND PEOPLE**
Penny Kemp
Penny has published an updated book on some of her fascinating neighbours and their Arts and Crafts homes
- 20 May **FROM BLACKBOARD TO MORTARBOARD: ADULT EDUCATION IN READING**
Dr Margaret Simons
Dr Margaret Simons will also include the 100th anniversary of the University of Reading's charter
- 17 June* **RISC** visit - Martin Mikhail will give us a guided tour of the building and roof garden. We will learn about the history of the building and the work of the charity

- 15 July* **HENLEY ROAD CEMETERY** visit - discover stories about people and events of Reading in the past and enjoy the peaceful grounds and statuary

***Summer guided walks and visits –
for members only**

- 16 Sept **1500 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY IN READING**
John Dearing
This talk is based on a new book by our Vice Chairman John Dearing - 'How the Good News came to Reading'
- 21 Oct **THE LAST HORSE DEALERS IN READING: OLIVER DIXON'S**
Caroline Piller
Caroline will describe how dealers, like the Eighteens, did business, including with royalty, and their demise
- 18 Nov Presidential Address: **STREET LIFE IN TUDOR AND STUART READING**
Joan Dils
We are delighted to welcome back our president Joan Dils, to bring to life one of her wonderful pieces of local research
- 16 Dec **FROM HORSE TO ELECTRIC: THE RISE AND FALL OF READING'S TRAMWAYS (ZOOM)**
Dr Richard Marks
This well illustrated talk by Dr Richard Marks will show us a lost piece of local history

ALL WILL BE MOST WELCOME AT OUR FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS

However, a small charge (currently £2) per meeting is made for non-members. If a meeting is held on Zoom, only members can attend

Annual Subscription rate for 2026 (1st Jan – 31st Dec)
£9 per person

Please return membership form to (include cheque if not paying by Standing Order or bank transfer):

Martin Leake
6 Waller Court
Caversham
READING RG4 6DB