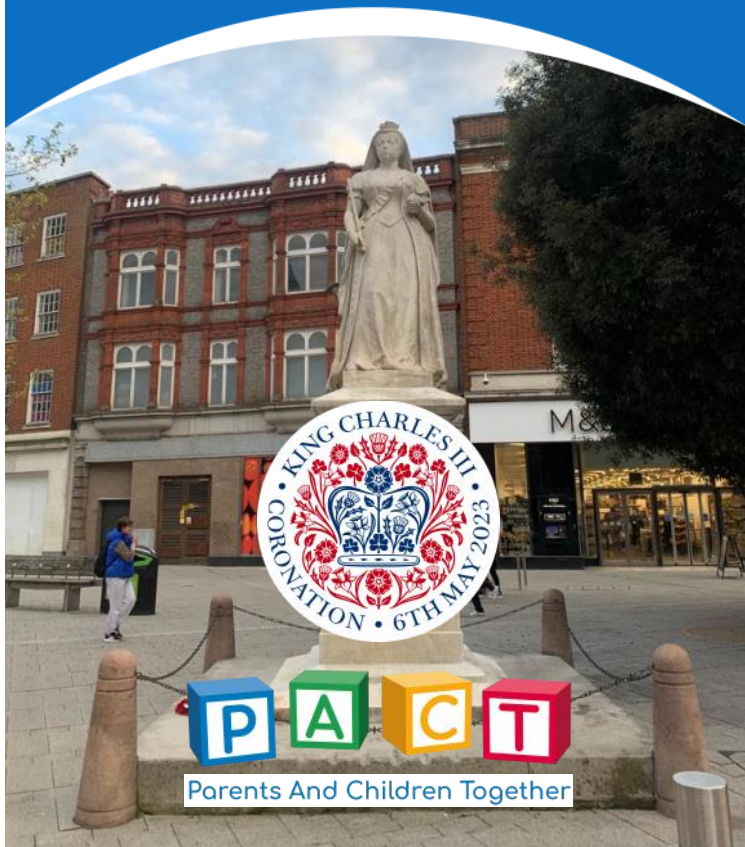


PACT Coronation Royal Walk and Activity Trail



Welcome to this inspiring 90 minute walk around some of Reading's royal highlights. The route is designed with your safety in mind, but please take care to stay on public footpaths and remember to cross the road carefully!

This map and guide has been put together to raise money for PACT (Parents And Children Together). Please scan the QR code overleaf and donate what you can to help this amazing local charity.

This trail wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of the sponsors. If you use them, do mention you are on the PACT Coronation Walk!

We hope you enjoy your walk!



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Parents And Children Together



Parents And Children Together (PACT) has been building and strengthening families since 1911.

PACT is an adoption charity and family support provider based in Reading that supports hundreds of people each year through outstanding adoption services,

specialist therapeutic support and inspirational community projects across the south of England.

Donate today:

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Stay in touch! Follow us at @PACTcharity



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A message from the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire,
Mr. James Puxley CVO.

As The King's representative in Berkshire, it gives me great pleasure to share this walk around Reading with you, recognising the royal sites, connections and visits to the town over the centuries and to support the work of Parents And Children Together.

I do hope you enjoy the regal highlights we have picked out for you as we celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

James Puxley



Queen Elizabeth II opened Reading station twice. Brunel Walk, which includes staff facilities, shops and the ticket office, was opened in April 1989.

Her most recent visit came in 2014, when she reopened the revamped Reading railway station (which more than doubled the space available for trains), posing for a famous photo of her in a turquoise blue outfit, surrounded by Network Rail workers in orange, fluorescent uniforms.

A Hospitium is a "dormitory of pilgrims". Founded in 1189, up to 400 people could stay here. It was visited by many royal figures including Empress Matilda, Queen Elizabeth I and Mary Tudor (Mary I of England).

In 1485 it was extensively altered to become the Royal Grammar School of King Henry VII (now Reading School). About 100 years later, it became the town hall for 200 years, and then an extension of the University of Oxford. Today it is occupied by a children's nursery— what a rich history of invention and education its children grow in!



Finished the trail?
Scan here!

Or visit pactcharity.org/trail



Whilst Queen Victoria didn't come to Reading, she was still very important to the town. Huntley and Palmers supplied her with biscuits, and she commanded that our copy of the Bayeux Tapestry be taken for her to see in Windsor.

The statue was built in 1887, sculpted by George Blackall Simonds, the same man who produced the Maiwand Lion and other statues around Reading.



The main route is shown as a continuous line, with a dotted shortcut if you want to shorten the walk to about an hour.

The black line shows the railway— it is a busy line and it's worth stopping to watch the trains pass, but remember to never go onto the railway!

Grey lines are selected connecting roads of interest.



The Hexagon is a really special place in Reading. It opened in 1977 as part of the Civic Centre. At The Hexagon you can see music, comedy, plays and lots more!



Queen Elizabeth II came to Reading in May 1978 to open the Civic Centre. Crowds of children and families lined the streets to see the special visitor.

The council offices have moved (you will see them on this walk). But The Hexagon has an exciting future planned. There will be more buildings and it will be easier for everyone to take part in events.

If you have time, why not visit the Royal Berkshire Hospital, a 5-10 min. walk from the Biscuit Factory. Catherine, Princess of Wales was born here, and Queen Elizabeth II visited in 2006. The Museum of English Rural Life is also worth a visit and has toilets and a great café.



The Maiwand Lion is a war memorial named after the Battle of Maiwand. It was made in 1886 to remember 329 soldiers from the 66th (Berkshire) Regiment of Foot. They died fighting in the Second Anglo-Afghan War in Afghanistan between 1878 and 1880.

Soldiers go to war in the name of the King or Queen. Often when they sign up to fight they are said to "take the King or Queen's Shilling"

The Lion is used as a symbol of Reading by people who live and work here.

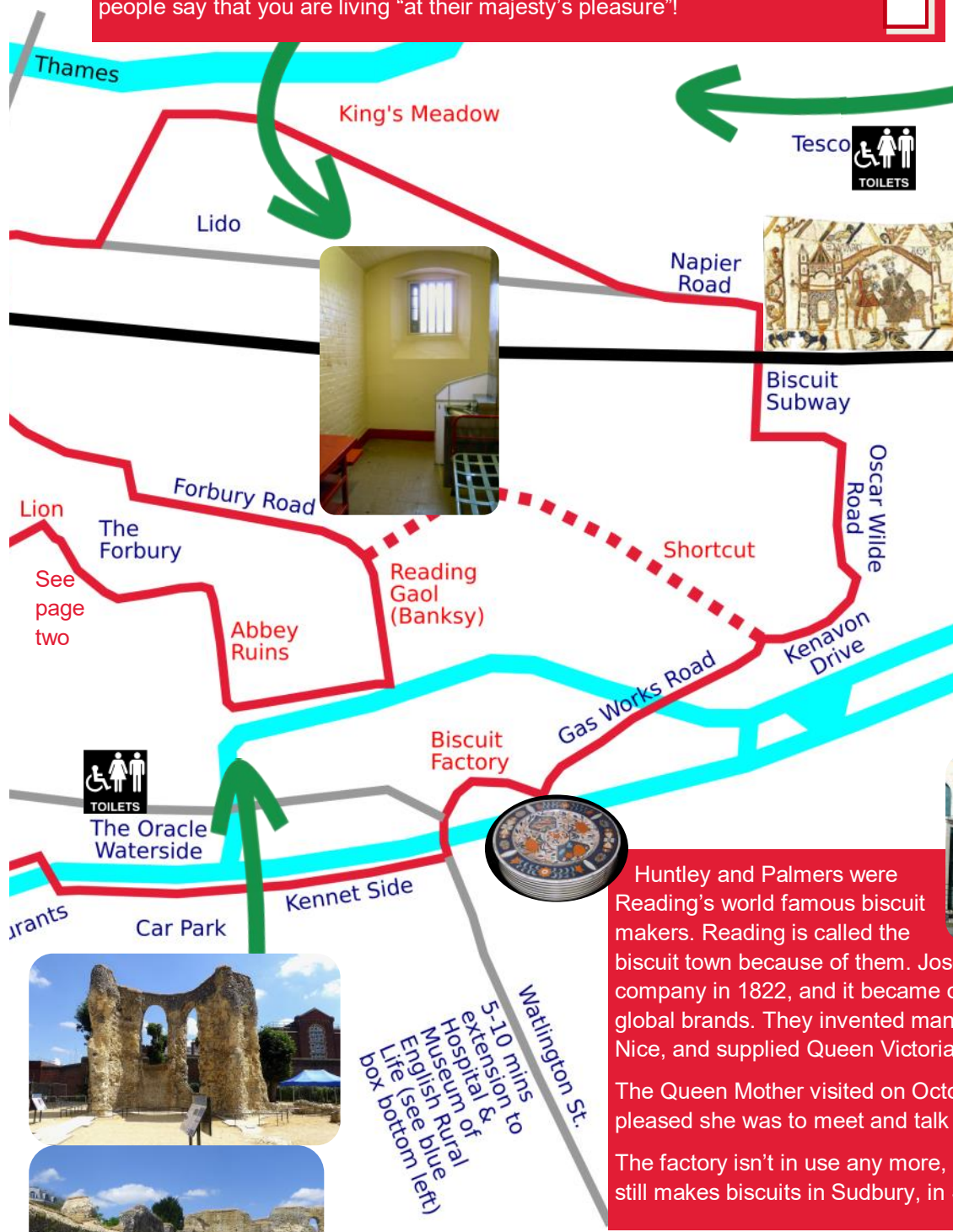


The Berkshire County Gaol ("HM Prison Reading") was built in 1844 and closed at the beginning of 2014. The Gaol (pronounced Jail) is Grade II listed and embodies a unique part of the town's history. In 1895 Oscar Wilde was locked up there for being gay and he wrote 'The Ballad of Reading Gaol' when released. It is right next to the Reading Abbey ruins and is the likely burial place of King Henry I.

Many people want it to be an art and community centre. You can also see the famous Banksy artwork (part of that campaign) on one outer wall. Did you know, that if you go to prison this is ordered by the King or Queen? This means people say that you are living "at their majesty's pleasure"!

King's Meadow was owned by Reading Abbey and became owned by the King after the dissolution of the monasteries (when King Henry the Eighth split England away from Catholicism and the authority of the Pope in Rome).

In 1869, the town of Reading purchased 12 acres of the meadow as the recreation ground you see today.



The Bayeux Tapestry is one of the world's most famous pieces of medieval art. It shows how William the Conqueror invaded Britain and defeated King Harold.

In the late 19th Century, a group of Victorian embroiderers created a copy, which is now on display in Reading Museum (see centre of map for location near the railway station).



Huntley and Palmers were Reading's world famous biscuit makers. Reading is called the biscuit town because of them. Joseph Huntley started the company in 1822, and it became one of the world's first global brands. They invented many kinds of treats, including the Nice, and supplied Queen Victoria with biscuits.

The Queen Mother visited on October 26th 1955, saying how pleased she was to meet and talk to the workers.

The factory isn't in use any more, but Huntley and Palmer's still makes biscuits in Sudbury, in Suffolk.



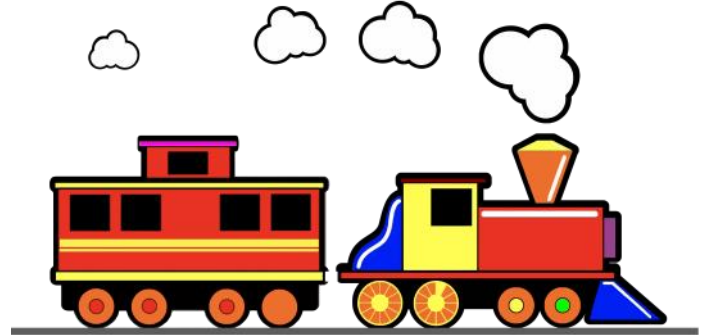
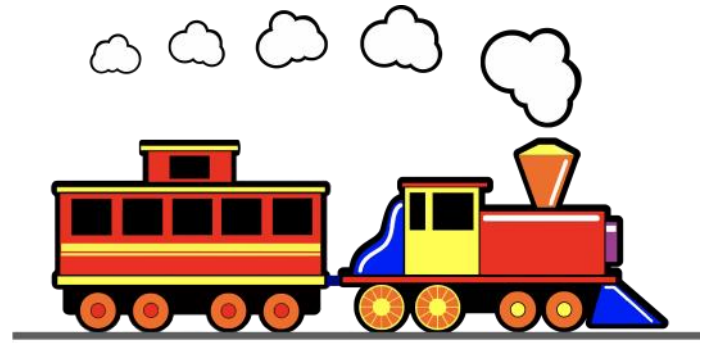
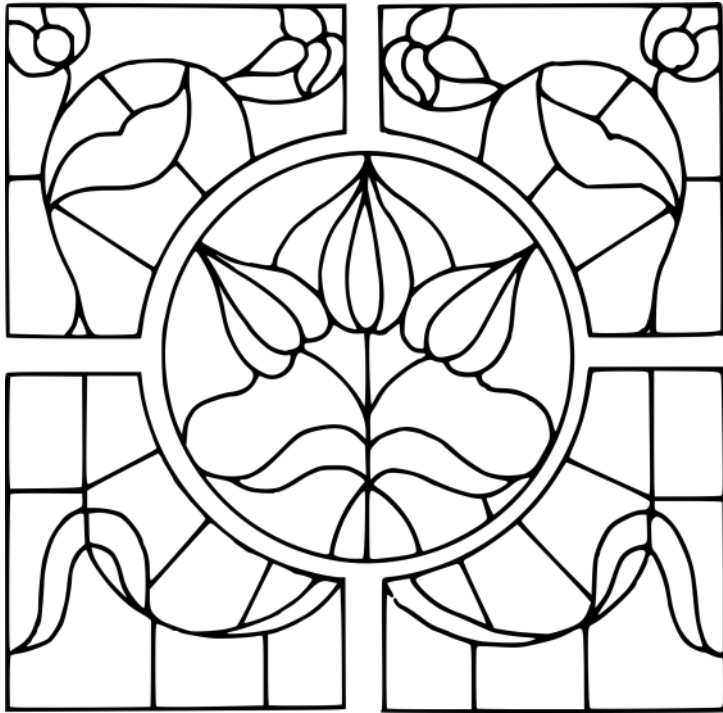
The impressive ruins consists of the south transept (the arms that project at right angles from the church, forming a cross shape), the treasury, the chapter house (where the monks met), the dormitory and the refectory (the dining room).

The ruins have been extensively restored and are now fully open for exploring as well as venue hire—even hosting theatre shows. There is also a plaque and memorial to King Henry 1st displayed on one of the walls, why not see if you can find it?

You can also see the mill arch, the only remaining part of the Abbey mill (and in use until the twentieth century!) nearby over the Holy Brook (behind 'The Blade' office).



Many royal buildings have stained glass windows which look really pretty in the sunlight. Why don't you have a go at colouring this window in for King Charles!



The Royal Train often comes through Reading on its way to and from Windsor Castle!

Can you spot ten differences here?



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Join the dots to find a special Reading youngster. Can you figure out the connection?



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