

LITERATURE



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TRAIN STATION

- Where Michael Bond saw the evacuees that inspired him to write Paddington Bear
- T.E. Lawrence lost the only manuscript of his book The Seven Pillars of Wisdom here in 1919



READING PRISON

- Oscar Wilde was imprisoned here between 1895 and 1897
- The actor Stacey Keach was also imprisoned here for a short time



THE RIVER

- Two Rivers was opened by Peter Hay in 1994, he was inspired by the town's two rivers to create "a place where art and history meet"
- In Three Men in a Boat, Jerome K Jerome famously wrote "the river is dirty and dismal here, one does not linger in the neighbourhood of Reading"



HUNTLEY AND PALMER'S

- Visitors to the H&P factory include George Meredith and Oscar Wilde
- When Bernard Grenfell and Arthur Hunt discovered lost Sappho poems in 1896 they carried them home in a Huntley Palmer's ginger nut tin
- The bar scenes in Bugsy Malone were filmed here



RIMBAUD'S FORMER HOME

- Arthur Rimbaud taught French here from August-September 1874.
- At this time he was putting together his groundbreaking poetry collection *Illuminations*.



15 UNIVERSITY OF READING

- · Wilfred Owen studied here
- In 1908 the university employed Edith Morley, Britain's first female professor
- They have a world renowned typography department
- The University holds the official archive of Mills and Boon, the Ladybird Books and the Samuel Beckett Foundation.



MARY RUSSELL MITFORD'S HOUSE

 Home of Mary Russel Mitford (1787-1855), known for her descriptions of pre-industrial Reading



GREAT EXPECTATIONS

- In Victorian times this was the Literary Scientific and Mechanical Institute
- In 1854 Charles Dickens came here and read an excerpt from A Christmas Carol



MARKET PLACE

- John Newbery opened his publishing business here in 1740
- He was known as the "father of Children's literature"
- D.H. Lawrence came here in 1919 and bought a melon



ABBEY GATEWAY

- Jane Austen went to school here between 1785 and 1786
- It was the only time in her life she lived away from home







PHOTOGRAPHY









UNIVERSITY EXTENSION COLLEGE

- Marcus Adams studied here
- He devoted his career to the photography of children
- His sitters included the Queen, Princess Margaret and Prince Charles



GILBERT ADAMS' STUDIO

- Gilbert Adams was a photographer and artist
- He would often assist his father, Marcus Adams, when he went to visit his famous clients
- By 1934 he had become a well respected portrait photographer in his own right



SYDNEY WHITE'S STUDIO

 Sydney Victor White was a local portrait photographer, he opened his shop here in the 1860s • His work can be seen in the National Portrait Gallery



ALFRED BARBER'S STUDIO

- Alfred Barber was a daguerreotypist who operated in the town in the early 1850s
- He was originally from Nottingham but he moved a lot to avoid being sued for using patented techniques



EDWARD BERDOE'S HOME

- Edward Berdoe was a photographer in Reading between 1858 and 1859
- Later he "scandalized the medical profession" by publishing a book called St. Bernard's under the name Aesculapius Scalpel



THE READING ESTABLISHMENT

 Fox Talbot invented the photographic method In Reading he published "The Pencil of Nature", the first photographically illustrated book



GUY AND OSBORNE COLLIER STUDIO

- Eric Guy and Philip Osborne Collier shared a studio here
- They both photographed the countryside around Reading
- Their work was published in the national press and on postcards



WILLIAM PRESTWICH'S STUDIO

- William Henry Prestwich was a photographer and an inventor
- He invented silver bromide paper (which he sold to Kodak)
- He also invented an early movie camera which his son used to film Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee



MRS DANN'S SHOP

- Mrs Dann was Reading's first female photographer
- The business photographed local people, landmarks and even prisoners at the Police Station
- They helped to develop X-rays for the Royal Berkshire Hospital



ARCADE STUDIOS

- The Arcade Studios was open between 1895 and 1951
- It was known for its portraits of soldiers
- The studios were run by several different people, including Christopher Adams, son of Walton Adams



WALTON ADAMS' STUDIO

 Walton Adams started Reading's longest running photographic business here, it was open from 1886 until 2009

CINEMA









2. THE CENTRAL CINEMA



3. WEST'S PICTURE PALACE







7. THE VAUDEVILLE ELECTRIC THEATRE



6. THE PALACE THEATRE



CINEMA









TOWN HALL

- Built in 1786
- · The organ was installed by Father Henry Willis in 1864, who also built the organ in the Royal Albert Hall
- In 1904 it became the first place in Reading to show film



THE CENTRAL CINEMA

- The Central opened in 1921 and stayed open until 1999
- · It was built in the Greek revival style and was covered in white faience tiles
- When it opened, the cinema had a ballroom a café and an orchestra, but only one screen



- West's opened in 1909 in Palmer Hall on West Street
- The owner (Mr T J West) was well known for his gimmicky presentations, including smashing glass to accompany smashed windows on screen
- · Wilfred Owen wrote about a visit to this cinema in a letter to his brother in December 1909



THE ODEON

- One of the original Odeon Cinemas
- Open from 1937-1958
- It attracted famous faces including Margaret Rutherford and Petula Clark



THE PAVILION

- Opened in 1929
- · Built to be Reading's first sound cinema but another cinema got in a month earlier
- "Specially constructed to suit the delicate requirements of talking pictures"



THE PALACE THEATRE

- Open from 1907-1960
- Played host to many well known performers including Cliff Richard, Gracie Fields. Harry Houdini and Reading's own Alma Cogan
- · The theatre also used to show films during variety performances



THE VAUDEVILLE ELECTRIC THEATRE

- Open from 1909 until 1957
- · It was converted from an old shop in Broad Street
- Known locally as: the Penny Plunge, the Bughutch and the Fleapit



THE GRAND

- Opened opposite the Vaudeville in 1911
- It was the classier of the two. Broad Street theatres
- It closed in 1922



THE READING PICTURE PALACE

- · Reading's first cinema
- It was open for one month in 1909

MUSIC











31. SOUND MACHINE



32. HICKIES



43. SOUTH STREET

MUSIC









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SOUND MACHINE

· Reading's oldest independent record shop



HICKIES

• The music shop has been trading since 1864



SUB 89

• Opened in 2009, the venue has hosted such artists as Ed Sheeran. Jake Bugg and Public Enemy



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THE HEXAGON

• Opened in 1977 as part of a plan to develop a new "heart" of Reading



THE TARGET

 Punk and Rock Club which used to be under the Broad Street Mall



THE PURPLE TURTLE

• The Turtle has been a huge part of Reading's music scene for the past 20 years



READING ABBEY

• "Sumer is Icumen In" is the oldest known musical composition that features a six part polyphony. It is also known as Reading Rota because the earliest known copy of the composition was found here in 1261



RISC

- · RISC stands for Reading International Solidarity Centre
- · They work in the local community to raise the profile of global issues
- The venue is home to an eclectic range of music



THE AFTER DARK

• This is the longest running night club in Reading



THE RISING SUN

- Reading's independent art centre
- · The building was designed by Alfred Waterhouse



THE GREAT HALL

- The University of Reading's Concert Hall
- Opened in 1905
- Gustav Holst was listed as a music tutor here



THE RETREAT

• Well loved music pub with a history stretching back to 1899



SOUTH STREET

- Opened as an art centre in 1989
- · Before then it was a labour exchange
- International acts like Flight of the Concords and Mumford & Sons have played here

