

JANUARY – APRIL 2024

WHAT'S ON





VISIT THE MERL

The Museum of English Rural Life's intriguing galleries tell the story of rural England past and present, exploring countryside, identity, environment, technology, culture and health.

-  **Opening Hours**
Closed Mondays
Tuesday to Friday 9am – 5pm
Weekends 10am – 5pm
-  **Easter Closure**
Closed Thursday 28 March –
Monday 1 April
-  **Location**
Redlands Rd, Reading,
RG1 5EX
-  **merl.reading.ac.uk/visit-us**
-  **0118 378 8660**

FREE ADMISSION
donations welcome

WEEKLY EVENTS



EVERY WEDNESDAY,
15.30 – 16.30
**Tai Chi with Sport
in Mind**

REGISTER / FREE / ADULTS



EVERY THURSDAY,
13.30 – 14.30
**Mums and Baby Yoga
with Sport in Mind**

Term-time only

REGISTER / FREE / ADULTS



EVERY FRIDAY,
10.00 – 11.30
Friday Fledglings

Starts 12 January, Term-time only

BOOK / £ / FAMILIES



WELCOME TO OUR JANUARY – APRIL PROGRAMME

Explore this term's programmes and themes below, check out the listings to find out what's on, when and find details online at merl.reading.ac.uk/whats-on

FAMILIES AT THE MERL



Book an outdoor learning session, join us for family fun in the school holidays and enjoy activity packs, free trails, games and activities any time you visit! merl.reading.ac.uk/families

OUR GREEN STORIES



Museum Partnership Reading's campaign exploring environmental issues through collections continues. Pick up a gallery trail and look out for themed events. merl.reading.ac.uk/our-green-stories



ADULT WELLBEING



Discover weekly sessions to promote positive mental health, and monthly drop-ins for caregivers and loved ones. merl.reading.ac.uk/wellbeing

YOUTH PROGRAMME



We recently launched the Museums Partnership Reading Youth Manifesto. Join the Youth Panel to have your say, and look out for special activities and events. merl.reading.ac.uk/youth

MUSEUMS, MY WAY



These sessions, developed with Autism Berkshire, enable neurodivergent visitors of all ages to explore the museum in a safe environment. merl.reading.ac.uk/museums-my-way

JANUARY

16 | 14.00 – 16.00
Afternoon at the Museum: Monthly Chat, Craft & Play
DROP-IN / FREE / ADULTS



18 | 16.30 – 18.00
Youth Panel
BOOK / FREE / YOUTH



28 | 10.00 – 12.00
The MERL Green Explorers
BOOK / £ / FAMILIES



FEBRUARY

10-18 | **Half Term at The MERL**
To find out about workshops and activities visit merl.reading.ac.uk/ half-term
DROP-IN / FREE / FAMILIES



FEBRUARY

12 | 10.00 – 14.00
Museums, My Way
BOOK / FREE / ALL



15 | 16.30 – 18.00
Youth Panel
BOOK / FREE / YOUTH



18 | 11.30 – 13.00
14.00 – 15.30
Our Green Stories: Life on Land stop motion animation workshop
BOOK / FREE / YOUTH



20 | 11.30 – 12.30
Our Green Stories Gallery Tour
BOOK / FREE / ADULTS



FEBRUARY

20 | 14.00 – 16.00
Afternoon at the Museum: Monthly Chat, Craft & Play
DROP-IN / FREE / ADULTS



25 | 10.00 – 12.00
The MERL Green Explorers
BOOK / £ / FAMILIES



MARCH

19 | 11.30 – 12.30
Our Green Stories Gallery Tour
BOOK / FREE / ADULTS



19 | 14.00 – 16.00
Afternoon at the Museum: Monthly Chat, Craft & Play
DROP-IN / FREE / ADULTS



21 | 16.30 – 18.00
Youth Panel
BOOK / FREE / YOUTH



APRIL

02-14 | **Easter Holidays at The MERL**
To find out about workshops and activities visit merl.reading.ac.uk/ half-term
DROP-IN / FREE / FAMILIES



08 | 10.00 – 14.00
Museums, My Way
BOOK / FREE / ALL



16 | 11.30 – 12.30
Our Green Stories Gallery Tour
BOOK / FREE / ADULTS



16 | 14.00 – 16.00
Afternoon at the Museum: Monthly Chat, Craft & Play
DROP-IN / FREE / ADULTS



18 | 16.30 – 18.00
Youth Panel
BOOK / FREE / YOUTH



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For event details
and to book, visit
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DISPLAYS & EXHIBITIONS

Visit during museum opening hours. They're free and open to all!

COMMUNITY VOICES:

HEAR OUR VOICE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Members of Reading Mencap's Hear our Voice Group share their experiences of the countryside through artefacts and visual and sound labels.

Until 5 February 2024

SEW WHAT?

The big questions on sewing and fashion.

Until 1 September 2024

JAMES JOYCE A LOVE OF LANGUAGE

The first display from the Solange and Stephen James Joyce Collection in the University of Reading Special Collections.

Until 2 February 2024

FOLKLORE AND MAGIC



A student-led exhibition exploring the deep-rooted significance of folklore and magic historically and today.

19 February – 15 April 2024

A BREAK FROM TRADITION

An exhibition of works from the University Art Collections exploring new 19 & 20th century styles and movements.

Until 30 April 2024

 @TheMERL   @the.merl  /MuseumofEnglishRuralLife

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE MERL'S EMAIL NEWSLETTERS

Events and activities straight to your inbox

Join our newsletter at:
merl.reading.ac.uk/sign-up

