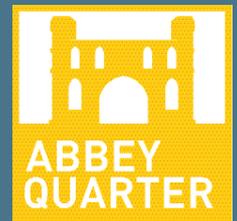


SPOTLIGHT ON READING ABBEY QUARTER



PROJECT UPDATE

DECEMBER 2015

HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND GRANT SUCCESS



Celebrating the success with some of the partners who have supported the project.

We are delighted to announce that we have successfully secured funding for the Reading Abbey Revealed Project from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The project will enable the re-opening of the nationally important Abbey Ruins site to go ahead and its hidden heritage to be revealed.

The £1.77 million HLF grant will be matched by a contribution of £1.38 million by the Council. The project, totalling £3.15 million, will see an extensive programme of conservation works to the Abbey Ruins and Abbey Gateway. Accompanying this will be interpretation across the Abbey Quarter, a new display at Reading Museum and an exciting programme of activities extending beyond the opening of the site. Ensuring that residents and visitors are able to learn about and enjoy this important part of Reading's heritage for many years to come.

The current timetable for the project begins with the procurement of contractors for the conservation and interpretation works in March; work on site will begin in September 2016, taking up to two years; with the site opening to the public in summer 2018. As a result of the project three new specialist roles will be created and an Abbey volunteering programme will recruit 35 new volunteers to help with activities.

The Council submitted the initial application in February 2014 and by June 2014 had received a 'first round' pass. Since then work has been underway with consultants to develop more detailed plans for conservation, interpretation and activities. In August this year the Council submitted its second round application to the HLF and a member of the South East England Committee visited the site in November ahead of their decision meeting in December.

Reading Abbey Revealed will bring new life to the Abbey Ruins ensuring that the much-loved heritage site gets the recognition it deserves.

WE'VE JOINED TWITTER

To celebrate our HLF success a brand new @RdgAbbey Twitter account has been launched.

As the project progresses over the coming months and years, we are asking everyone to follow and share @RdgAbbey for all the latest news and exciting developments on the 'Reading Abbey Revealed' project.

Don't forget that we also have a Facebook page 'Reading Abbey Quarter'

A BIG THANK YOU...

Thank you all for your support and enthusiasm this year we really appreciate it. We hope you will continue to support us into this exciting new phase of the project.

ITS CHRISTMAS!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy 2016.



FURTHER INFORMATION

More on our website:

<http://www.readingabbeyquarter.org.uk>

Find the Abbey Quarter on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/ReadingAbbeyQuarter>

Find us on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/RdgAbbey>