

## Press Release

3001/18  
30 January 2018

### **Medieval history of Reading brought to life – courtesy of Reading Guild of Artists**

Reading Guild of Artists (RGA) is holding a medieval-themed week of activities, hosted by Reading Museum, Saturday 10 February to Saturday 17 February. Artworks by RGA artists will be for sale – paintings, cards, handmade books and other items and there will be several displays to enchant and attract people.

The week celebrates Reading's rich medieval history and will bring it 'to life' through interactive and fun activities. It is free and open to all.

The week's activities include:

- Making medieval tiles with printing and embroidery.
- Printing with a press.
- Opportunity to make a coat of arms.
- Making medieval 'stain glass' window panels.
- Different artists in residence – each day – including Plein Air Group.

Anthony Wilder, chairman, Reading Guild of Artists, said: "Reading has a rich medieval history and it is great to have the opportunity to 'bring it to life' using a variety of media.

"Having it hosted by Reading Museum, is particularly pertinent as it has a facsimile of the Bayeux Tapestry – which 'tells' the tale of the Battle of Hastings and is a medieval example of social media!"

During half term members of the public, especially children, will be invited to continue the story told on the museum's replica of the Bayeux tapestry. This new collaborative art work will consist of illustrations on a long scroll as opposed to embroidery. It will cover English history from the death of William the Conqueror, through the shooting of William Rufus in the New Forest. A major focus will be the reign of Henry 1 and the building of

Reading Abbey, a particular source of local interest as this year the Abbey ruins will be reopened to the public after a major conservation project.

Mick McNicholas, a member of the Intrepid Plein Air Group, is delighted to be involved, saying: "The RGA members of our intrepid Plein Air group are delighted to be taking part in the medieval exhibition at Reading Museum.

"Our group goes out in all weathers across Reading and its surroundings painting scenes in the local environment. We really love medieval buildings and churches. Do come and see us on Monday 12 February when we are 'artists in residence'. We will be really pleased to show people our work and tell of our exploits!"

RGA artists love books and find many ways of making and using them. Janina Maher, a member of the RGA, will be demonstrating how handmade books are made and she and other artists are exhibiting their themed 'concertina' books.

Janina said: "People have made books since medieval times. I'll be demonstrating how to do it on Thursday 15 and Saturday 17 February. Drop in and find out more. You'll be inspired and I am sure you will want to go away and make your own books."

Further information on the Reading Guild of Artists, can be found by visiting <http://www.rga-artists.org.uk/> or <https://www.facebook.com/ReadingGuildofArtists/>

ends

**Contact:**

Helen Taylor, publicity officer, Reading Guild of Artists

Tel: 07720068972

Therese Lawlor, publicity officer, Reading Guild of Artists

Tel: 07503156128

Email: [publicity@rga-artists.org.uk](mailto:publicity@rga-artists.org.uk)

**Photo Opportunity**

Reporters and photographers are warmly invited to come along to any of the events during the week. Please call Therese Lawlor on 07503156128 to arrange or by emailing [publicity@rga-artists.org.uk](mailto:publicity@rga-artists.org.uk)

**Photos attached**

Attached is Mick McNicholas, from the Intrepid Plein Air Group, painting outside Reading Museum.

The second photo shows (Left to Right)Therese Lawlor, Karen Spencer and Janina Maher with their novel 'concertina' books.

**Notes to Editors:**

Reporters and photographers are welcome to come along to any of the events – please call Therese Lawlor, 07503156128 to find out more and to arrange.

The Reading Guild of Artists was founded in 1930. It has a membership of over 160 artists and plays an active role in the development of artists in Reading.