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Some great bits of content
from in and around Reading



Birthday Party

8 Birch Avenue, Tilehurst, Reading

1945-1947

Photo posted by sitevolunteer

This was a birthday party in the garden of 8 Birch Avenue, Tilehurst, Reading in about 1944. The names are left to right:

Back row: Michael Beasley, Ann Lenton, David Atkins, Rosabelle Payne.

Middle row: Linda Edwards, David Hatch, Jean Harding.

Front row: Audrey Granger, Beryl Edwards, Alison Elder.

They were all local, except Audrey, who was an evacuee from Kent, on account of the flying bombs in that area. The family had saved their coupons to give the children a treat of chocolate biscuits for tea.

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Cast of play in garden

St. Michael's Rectory, Tilehurst, Reading

1951-1953

Photo posted by sitevolunteer

This was the cast of a play put on by the Mothers' Union (I think) which took place in the garden of the old Rectory, between Routh Lane and New Lane Hill. The ladies took the male parts, and the girls in front did country dancing.



Caversham Bridge with ice and swans

Caversham Bridge, Caversham, Reading

1963

Photo posted by Malcolm Buckler

Very hard winter early in 1963 caused the Thames to freeze over. Many people walked across on the ice.

Photo taken with Adox Polomat 1, 35mm camera on Kodak film.

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Silver Jubilee street party

Vine Crescent, Reading

1977

Photo posted by annb

This was our jubilee street party in Vine Crescent, Reading, in 1977. Everyone joined in, the sun shone and it was a great day for the local community.



Floods on Gosbrook Road

Gosbrook Road, Caversham, Reading

1st April 1947

Photo posted by [ossie1957](#)

In April 1947 there was heavy rainfall which resulted in the river Thames breaking its banks and flooding the surrounding area in Caversham, Reading. My grandfather George Thrift was an enterprising individual and 'borrowed' a rowing boat from Thames Conservancy to help transport local people around the area and out of their homes. You can see him here rowing the boat along Gosbrook Road on the corner of Washington Road.



Horse-tram at Cemetery Junction

Cemetery Junction, Reading

1890

Photo posted by Reading Library

Cemetery Junction, c. 1890. The shops of Samuel Wells, grocer, at 127 London Road, and The Fourways Pharmacy, are visible. The double-decked tramcar is drawn by two horses, the driver and conductor are visible, as are advertisements on the car for Wellsteed's, drapers, Langston's, outfitters, Gardiner, watchmaker, and W. H. Wheeler, tailor. 1890-1899 : from a glass negative, Box 17 No. 1.

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George Palmer statue

Broad Street, Reading

1925-1935

Photo posted by Reading Museum (Reading Borough Council)

George Palmer's statue was unveiled on 4 November 1891, the same day that he opened Palmer Park and was made the first ever Honorary Freeman of the Borough. The statue's sculptor was George Blackall Simonds, who had also made Queen Victoria's statue in Reading. 4000 subscriptions by Reading people paid for the statue. It shows George holding his top hat and umbrella and originally stood at the eastern end of Broad Street. It was moved to Palmer Park in 1930 to ease traffic congestion.



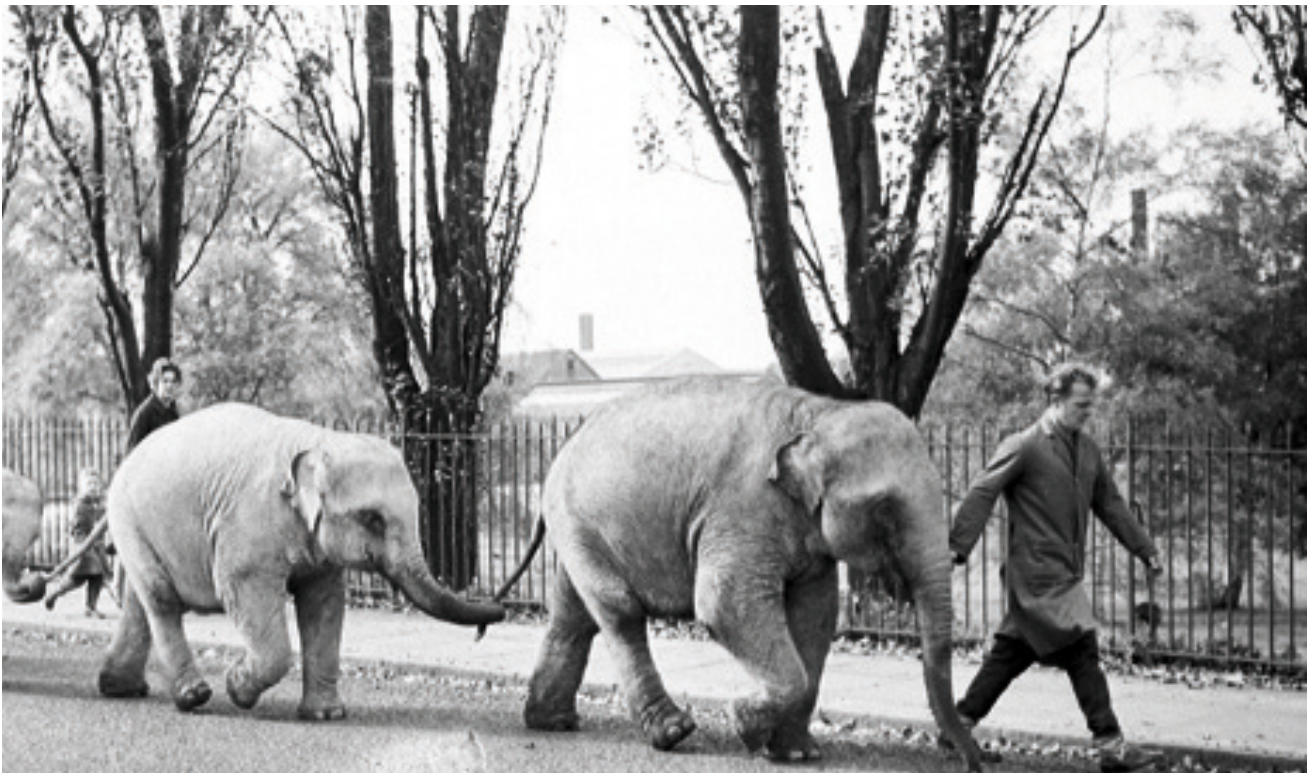
Olympic Torch handover

Cemetery Junction, Reading

1st August 1948

Photo posted by Reading Museum (Reading Borough Council)

The Olympic Torch was carried through Reading on its way from Wembley to Torquay on 1 August 1948. A crowd of 300 people gathered outside the Granby Cinema to watch the first handover at Cemetery Junction, where K.R. Martin of Reading Athletic Club passed the flame to W.O. Nichols. The Olympic organiser for Berkshire had picked all members of the relay of local runners who carried the torch "on account of their appearance and general stamina".



Elephants arrive at Robert Brothers Circus

George Street, Caversham, Reading

1963

Photo posted by Reading Museum (Reading Borough Council)

Roberts Brothers Circus was a regular visitor to Hills Meadow in Caversham.



Bernard Tripp at Bugs Bottom

Bugs Bottom, Caversham, Reading

1943

Photo posted by Giles Knapp on behalf of Bernard Tripp

Bernard Tripp playing in the fields of Bugs Bottom in 1943. Behind him you can just make out the towers that are a deterrent to stop enemy gliders landing in the field. He also recalls that there was an anti-aircraft battery between Shipnails Farm and Tanners Lane.

Bernard has many memories of the shops and shopkeepers of the time on the roads between his house in Kidmore Rd. and Heamdean Rd. School (now Caversham Primary). In particular there was an opportunistic sweet shop in the front room of a house opposite the rear entrance to the school on Blenheim Ave. Here the children would spend their ration coupons on the way home from school.

During the blitz his family was able to see London burning from the top of Kidmore Rd.



Note to journalists

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