



THE MUSEUM  
OF ENGLISH  
RURAL LIFE



University of  
Reading

# WHAT'S ON



SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2022



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

[merl.reading.ac.uk/whats-on-2022](https://merl.reading.ac.uk/whats-on-2022)



## WELCOME TO THE MERL AUTUMN PROGRAMME!

From COVID-19 to the climate crisis, rural life today is affected by many complex forces. In response to these diverse challenges, we have focused our projects and programming throughout 2022 on taking care.

Care is at the heart of all the work we do throughout the museum. We care for our collections and stories of the countryside's past. We explore how best to care for the English countryside of the present. And we celebrate ways of caring for the natural world in the future.

With all these in mind, we have tailored our varied Autumn programme to continue exploring taking care. We hope there is something in these listings for everyone. We would love for you to join us in reflecting on how we care for the countryside's past, present and future, and each other.

**The MERL Team**



FREE

## there-and-then

**a gallery intervention by ingrid pollard, turner prize nominee**

Ingrid Pollard draws on The MERL's collection of friendly society poleheads to create photographic works reimagining rural community.

**26 July – 30 October 2022**



FREE

## COMMUNITY VOICES

**The Nook and Community Case at The MERL**

A series of displays showcasing partnerships between the MERL and different community organisations which use the collections to inspire creative projects that bring people together to promote well-being and the sharing of perspectives.

**CREATIVE COMMUNITIES DURING COVID-19**

until March 2023

**CURATING FOR CHANGE: EXTRA.ORDINARY**

from September 2022

Visit the website for details of the rolling programme.



BOOK

## FRIDAY FLEDGLINGS

A weekly outdoor session for toddlers

Every Friday during RBC Term time: 9 September – 16 December (apart from 27 October) 10 – 11.30am

£4 per participating child

For details and to book, visit [merl.reading.ac.uk/friday-fledglings](http://merl.reading.ac.uk/friday-fledglings)



£4 FROM THE GIFT SHOP

## FAMILY ACTIVITY PACKS

A collection of seasonal things to do in the museum, garden and at home, including crafts, colouring, recipes, trails and colouring and a themed story.

### AUTUMN ACTIVITY PACK

24 September – 25 November 2022

### WINTER ACTIVITY PACK

26 November 2022 – 17 March 2023



FREE BOOK

## MUSEUMS, MY WAY

Monday 24 October, 10am – 2pm

A session for neurodivergent visitors of all ages, developed in partnership with Autism Berkshire. Facilitated activities on the theme of light.



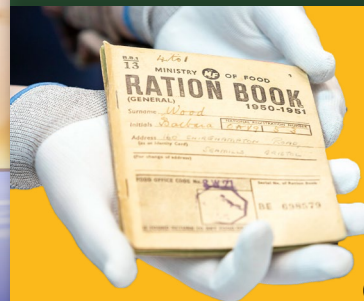
Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

## OCTOBER HALF TERM

### FAMILY FUN

22 – 30 October 2022

- M Free gallery and garden trails
- M Meet the chickens in the garden
- M Play on the wooden tractor
- M Explore photographic works by Ingrid Pollard and try our related make-and-take activity
- M Get creative with our colouring in sheets
- M Buy a Family Activity Pack from the gift shop
- M Book one of our family workshops



FREE BOOK

## OBJECT EXPLORATION

Wednesday 26 October, 30 minute slots from 10.30am – 2pm

Children aged 5+ accompanied by an adult. Explore fascinating museum objects linked to the theme of light through a range of creative tasks.

25 OCT

FREE BOOK

## WORKSHOPS WITH CULTUREMIX ARTS

### STEEL BAND

11am Children aged 5+ and accompanying adults

12pm Aged 11+ (no adult required)

Explore your musical creativity and become part of a steel pan band in this workshop led by members of Reading All Steel Percussion Orchestra (RASPO).

### CARNIVAL DANCE

11am Aged 11+ (no adult required)

12pm Children aged 5+ and accompanying adults

Get into the spirit of carnival and learn some unique dance moves to Caribbean soca and calypso music.



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FREE BOOK ADULTS

# SPORT IN MIND SESSIONS

Running throughout the Autumn term in partnership with Sport in Mind, the UK's leading mental health sports charity, these sessions are designed to support positive mental health.

For more information and eligibility please contact Laura (Sport in Mind Local Representative)

07341 267740 • [info@sportinmind.org](mailto:info@sportinmind.org)  
[www.sportinmind.org](http://www.sportinmind.org)



## Tai Chi

Wednesdays, 3.30–4.30pm  
Fun sessions for adults of all abilities delivered by a qualified instructor.

## Mums and Babies Yoga

Thursdays, 1.30–2.30pm  
Yoga and movement for mums and babies under 1 year.

## CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

ADULTS BOOK

# SOLARGRAPHY AND LUMEN PRINTING

24 September 2022, 11am–1pm  
£14 per person (part-funded by The MERL)

A masterclass with Jelly artist Laura De Moxom, exploring alternative photographic processes to document nature without a darkroom.

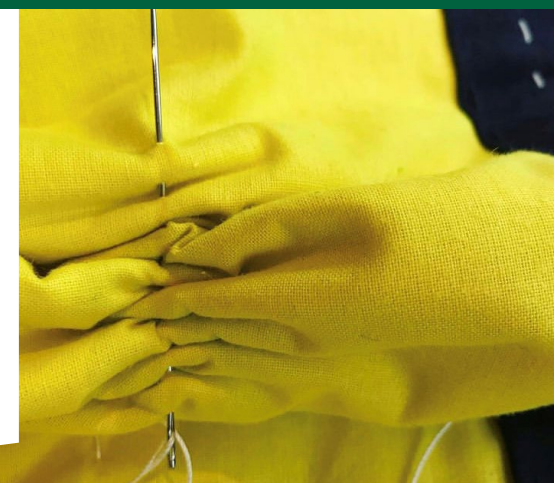


ADULTS BOOK

# INTUITIVE QUILTING

3 December 2022, 2–4pm  
£14 per person (part-funded by The MERL)

Join Jelly artist, Kate Powell for this masterclass in creating a quilt sampler from found fabrics or fabrics with personal meaning, breathing life into discarded fabrics and unused clothes.



FREE BOOK ADULTS

# MINDFUL PHOTOGRAPHY

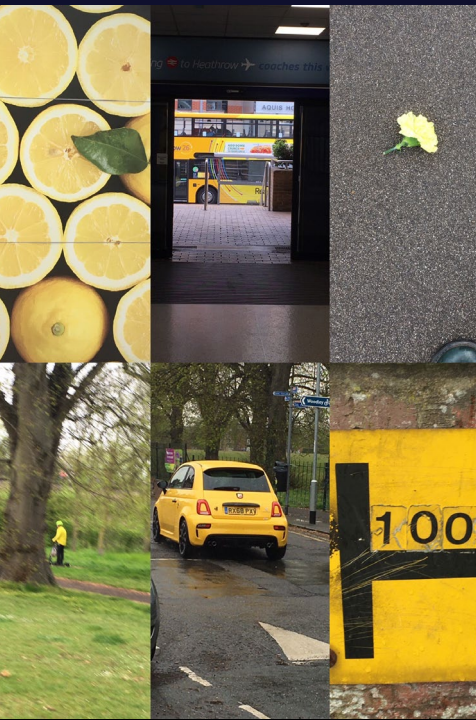
WITH COMPASS RECOVERY COLLEGE

Wednesdays, 9 November –  
7 December 2022, 1pm–3.30pm

Join this series of fun, practical workshops offering new ways of looking at our surroundings that improve mental health and increase positive well-being.

Designed for those affected by mental ill health. Enquire and book with Compass Recovery College:

0118 937 3945  
[compass.opportunities@reading.gov.uk](mailto:compass.opportunities@reading.gov.uk)  
[www.compassrecoverycollege.uk](http://www.compassrecoverycollege.uk)



14+ BOOK

# LAVENDER HEART KEEPSAKES

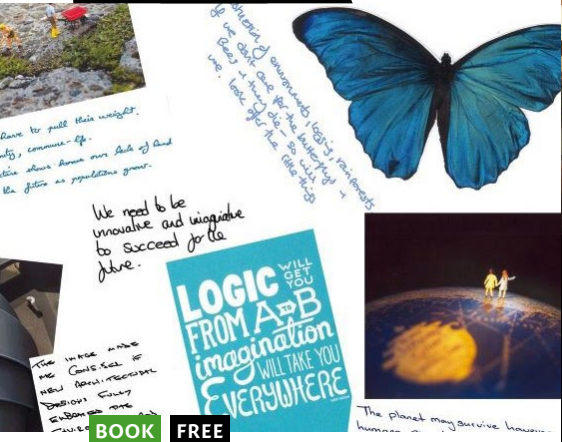
10 December 2022, 10.30am–1pm  
£10 per person (part-funded by The MERL)

Is there a piece of fabric or item of clothing that holds special memories for you? Bring it along to this workshop with artist Fong Scott and make a pair of lavender heart keepsakes to treasure those memories using dried lavender from the MERL garden.





## TALKS & TOURS



BOOK FREE

## WHO CARES? LOCAL LANDSCAPE PROJECTS AND PUBLIC PERCEPTION

A SEMINAR SERIES PRESENTED BY  
Friends of the Landscape Archive at  
Reading (FOLAR)

These seminars were postponed from  
the Spring series exploring who is  
really caring for our local landscapes.

4 October 2022, 1–2pm

### IMAGINING DESIRABLE LANDSCAPE FUTURES with Dr Eirini Saratsi

11 October 2022, 1–2pm

### THE SOCIAL VALUE OF LAND with Professor Flora Samuel

**FOLAR**

Friends of the Landscape Archive at Reading

BOOK

## ANNUAL FOLAR SYMPOSIUM LANDSCAPE OF HOUSING

Saturday 12 November 2022  
10.30am–4.30pm

£45 incl. lunch (FOLAR members)  
£55 incl. lunch (non-members)

FOLAR's annual symposium deals with  
the landscape of housing, from the  
1960s to today with the aim of learning  
lessons from the future from the past:

- Karen Fitzsimon, New Ash Green
- Professor Otto Saumarez Smith,  
on the Mark III new towns
- Gerry Kemp on Byker Wall,  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
- Dr Luca Csepely-Knorr, Dr Amber  
Roberts & Dr Matthew Steele  
Lillington Street & Darbourne  
& Darke
- Alice Grahame Walters Way  
and Segal Close, Lewisham
- Paula Garvey Kings Cross &  
Elephant Park London

Refreshments and lunch provided and  
pop-up exhibition of related material

Book your place at [www.folar.uk](http://www.folar.uk)



ADULTS BOOK FREE

## CAREful TOURS

Tuesdays, 11.30am–12.30pm  
18 October, 1 November, 15  
November, 29 November

Join Curator, Dr Ollie Douglas and  
guests, on a short conversational  
tour through the MERL galleries  
exploring different aspects of the  
theme of CARE in the collections.  
Sessions will include a peek behind  
the scenes or a pop-up display,  
plus the chance to ask questions.

14+ BOOK FREE

## THE ACQUISITIONS PANEL

PRESENTED BY  
FAST FAMILIAR

10 November 2022

4.30–6.30pm (14–18 year olds)

7.30–9.30pm for all (14+)

Discover a different side to the  
Huntley & Palmers story.

Take part in an immersive  
experience exploring the difficult  
decisions museums face as they  
care for the material past.



**MRI**  
MUSEUMS PARTNERSHIP READING

ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND

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**BOOK**

## THE MERL FAMILY EVENT MAGICAL LIGHTS

21 December 2022, 4.30 – 6.30pm

£4.50 per participating child,  
accompanying adults free.

Families with children aged 3-11.  
Explore the magic of light in the MERL  
garden and enjoy a host of craft activities  
inspired by light and the MERL collections.



**FREE**

## THE MERLY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENT

27 November 2022, 11am – 3pm

Enjoy a lovely, festive shopping  
experience with seasonal treats  
in the café, Christmassy crafting  
and more. All your purchases help  
support The MERL's work with  
collections and communities.



## 50 YEARS OF THE BECKETT ARCHIVE AT READING



Harold Pinter opening the 1971 Beckett  
exhibition in the University Library

The Beckett International  
Foundation and Beckett Research  
Centre celebrate 50 years since the  
founding of the Beckett Archive at  
the University of Reading, with a  
programme of talks, discussions  
and displays.

### “LET US DO SOMETHING, WHILE WE HAVE THE CHANCE.” THE ORIGINS OF READING'S SAMUEL BECKETT COLLECTION

27 September 2022 to 13 January 2023  
in the Library, University of Reading  
Whiteknights Campus

This display looks back at the first exhibition  
celebrating the work of Samuel Beckett in  
the University Library in 1971, the start of an  
enduring collaboration between scholars,  
academics, librarians and archivists.

### “A GLIMPSE OF THE SURFACE”: SAMUEL BECKETT AND AVIGDOR ARIKA

4 October 2022 to 27 January 2023  
The MERL and Special Collections

A display celebrating a remarkable  
friendship between author and artist.

### 50 YEARS OF THE BECKETT ARCHIVE AT READING

4 – 5 November 2022

Talks and discussions exploring the  
history of the archive and Beckett studies.

**FOR DETAILS VISIT**  
[research.reading.ac.uk/beckett](https://research.reading.ac.uk/beckett)

# VISIT THE MERL

Galleries | Café | Gift Shop | Garden

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.



Explore our sessions and resources for schools and colleges  
[merl.reading.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges](http://merl.reading.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges)



## Opening Hours

Closed Mondays  
Tuesday to Friday 9am – 5pm  
Weekends 10am – 5pm



## Location

Redlands Rd, Reading,  
RG1 5EX



[merl.reading.ac.uk/visit-us](http://merl.reading.ac.uk/visit-us)



0118 378 8660



## FREE ADMISSION

to the museum  
**DONATIONS WELCOME**

Keep up to date with events  
by joining our newsletter at:  
[merl.reading.ac.uk/sign-up](http://merl.reading.ac.uk/sign-up)



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/MuseumofEnglishRuralLife