

The Museum of English Rural Life is part of the  
University Museums and Special Collections Services



# MERL families

A guide to family events  
and activities at MERL  
July – August 2014

**Museum of English Rural Life**

University of Reading

Redlands Road

Reading RG1 5EX

[merlevents@reading.ac.uk](mailto:merlevents@reading.ac.uk)

Tel (0118) 378 8660

[www.reading.ac.uk/merl](http://www.reading.ac.uk/merl)

Opening times:

Tuesday to Friday 9am–5pm

Saturday & Sunday 2–4.30pm

Closed Bank Holidays

Admission free



**University of  
Reading**



# Our country lives MERL is changing

29 July, 2.30–3.15 pm

FREE | DROP-IN

Thanks to a recent £1.8m Heritage Lottery Fund grant, MERL is embarking on a redevelopment project which will transform the Museum and the way a new generation engages with rural heritage. You can find out more at [www.reading.ac.uk/merl/ourcountryslives](http://www.reading.ac.uk/merl/ourcountryslives)



Before the Museum closes in the Autumn to allow the work to take place, we would like to invite you to a special family tour this summer. Come along and find out about the changes we are planning and how you can get involved in our Family Forum.

## Weekly make & takes

£1 per child | DROP-IN

### Hedgehog and squirrel finger puppets

29 July–3 August

### Origami paper windmill

5–10 August

### Woolly sheep!

12–17 August

### Cress egg boxes

19–24 August

### Apple pom poms

26–31 August

A selection of make & take activities take place throughout the Summer. Please contact [merlevents@reading.ac.uk](mailto:merlevents@reading.ac.uk) or look at our website [www.reading.ac.uk/merl](http://www.reading.ac.uk/merl) for more information.

## Teddy bears' picnic

Friday 25 July,  
12.00–14.00

FREE | DROP-IN



Bring your teddy, a picnic and come and have fun in our garden! Big brothers and sisters can come too.

*Suitable for families with children of all ages.*

## Family tours

Join members of our team of family tour guides for a fun, interactive 30-minute tour of the museum and hear stories about what it was once like to live and work in the countryside.

12 & 26 August

Dolly the Dairy Maid and  
Maggie the Thatcher

2 September Maggie the Thatcher

2.30 PM | FREE | DROP-IN

*Suitable for families with children of all ages*

## Celebration of canals

2 August, 2.00–4.00 pm

Rising Sun Arts Centre  
30 Silver St, Reading  
RG1 2ST

FREE | DROP-IN

Timed to coincide with the Dead Rat Orchestra's arrival into Reading as part of their project *The Cut* which celebrates the heritage of canals, this free drop in workshop will draw on the Museum of English Rural Life's fascinating collection of canal art. Attendees will have the chance to work with a Rising Sun artist in creating striking large-format art.

*Suitable for all*



## Applique and stitch wall-hanging workshop

6 August, 10.00–11.00 am,  
11.15 am–12.15 pm, 1.30–2.30 pm,  
2.45–3.45 pm

£4 per child | BOOK

Be inspired by this unique opportunity to see the Museum's beautiful 1951 Festival of Britain wall-hanging. After examining the wall-hanging, create your very own landscape using layered fabrics and hand stitch details. With artist, Julie Roberts.

*Suitable for families with children aged 7+*



## Tremendous trees

16 August, 1.00–5.00 pm

FREE | DROP-IN (with bookable tree-surveying sessions, first come first served)

A special event celebrating our love of trees. Learn the science of identifying and surveying trees, have a go using the trees in the MERL garden and use your new-found skills to identify the trees in your local area.

*Suitable for all*

## Fabulous felt making workshop

22 August, 10.00–11.00 am,  
11.30 am–12.30 pm, 1.30–2.30 pm,  
3.00–4.00 pm

£3 per child | BOOK

Be inspired by the MERL collection and create your very own felt wall hanging to take home. With artist, Claire Smith.

*Suitable for families with children aged 5+*



## Breadmaking workshop

29 August, 10.00–11.00 am,  
11.30 am–12.30 pm, 1.30–2.30 pm,  
3.00–4.00 pm

£3 per child | BOOK

Be inspired by the MERL collections and make your very own dough to take home. If weather allows, attendees will also have the chance to try their hand at making their very own butter. With Claire Smith.

*Suitable for families with children aged 5+*

## Opening times

### Museum

Tuesday–Friday 9am–5pm  
Saturday & Sunday 2pm–4.30pm  
Closed on Mondays including Bank Holidays

### MERL Library and Archives and University Special Collections

Monday 10am–5pm (Restricted service)  
Tuesday–Friday 9am–5pm  
Closed on Bank Holidays

## Facilities

- Disabled access and parking
- Some free parking
- Cycle racks
- Fully accessible WC
- Assistance dogs welcome
- Induction loop available
- Portable stools to take round the gallery
- Baby changing

MERL also has a beautiful, secluded garden and a shop filled with carefully selected gifts and cards. Refreshments are available at the University-run café bar next door.

## Keep in touch

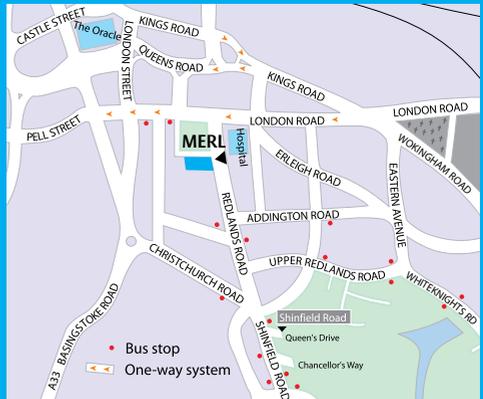


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To join our MERL News or  
MERL families mailing lists, email  
[merlevents@reading.ac.uk](mailto:merlevents@reading.ac.uk)



## Family events July – August 2014

 For more information,  
please contact:

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