

History of Rowing—a Reading view



Photo used with kind permission of Professor Amy Smith Curator of the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology

Humankind's been rowing for a long time. You can see this 4000 year old Egyptian funerary boat in Reading University's Ure Museum.



"In 871 the Danes came to Reading in Wessex, and built themselves a strong camp between the rivers Thames and Kennet, near the point where their waters mingle"*
Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

*That's roughly between the Turbine House and the gasometer

"Public Schools Challenge Trophy Presented by members of the University of Reading in 1927"
Reading Amateur Rowing Regatta now allocates this silver Viking longboat to the Junior 18 Eights.

The Bayeux tapestry records William the Conqueror's invasion in 1066



In 1885 35 ladies of the Leek Embroidery Society, Staffordshire, stitched a full-sized copy which is now beautifully displayed in Reading Museum

William the Conqueror's son Henry founded Reading Abbey [Yes! he's buried here]



Here's someone rowing down the Kennet from the Abbey wharf in the Middle Ages

The rivers were a good way to get around especially if you were royal and had lots of people who could row for you



© Malcolm Knight, The Gloriana Trust

The Queen's rowbarge Gloriana often comes up the Thames (at least, as far as Henley...)

Reading Regatta started in 1842—three years after Henley in *"a local fit of anything-Henley-can-do, Reading-can-do-better"* [according to their website]

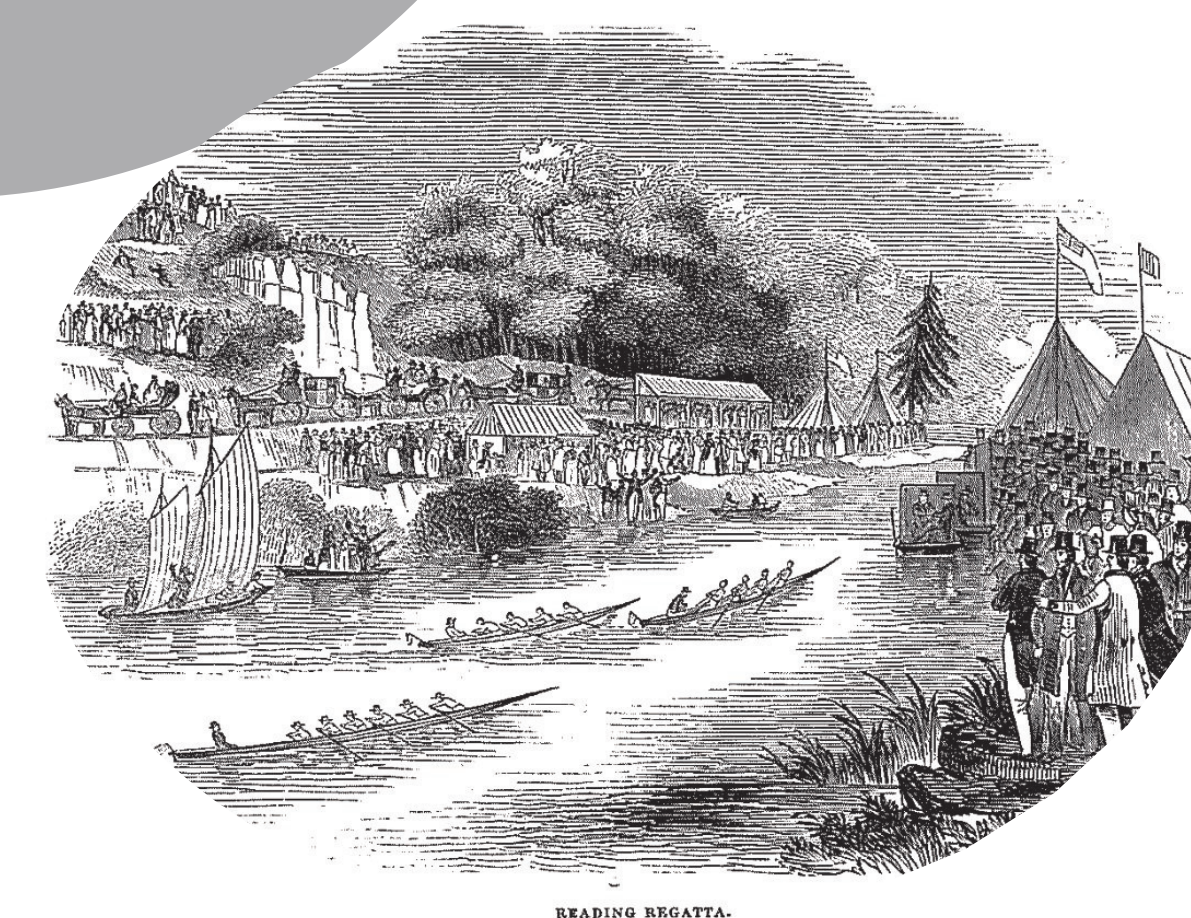
Reading University College's St David's Hall was narrowly defeated by Wessex Hall in the final of the Challenge Fours



Used with kind permission of Peter Must whose aunt Kay is second left in the photo

"The form displayed by the ladies in each boat was distinctly good"
Reading Chronicle 1924

Anna Watkins recently gained her PhD in Mathematics from the University of Reading



Anna won a gold in the London 2012 double sculls with Katherine Grainger



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