



Adult Learning  
Within Reach

# Reading Branch

Learn more.  
Feel great.



# Learn the WEA way. Your way.

**Welcome to the UK's largest voluntary sector provider of adult education.**

At the WEA, we believe all adults should have access to the opportunities of education, right on their doorstep. With 2,000+ dedicated tutors, 3,000+ active volunteers and supportive members, working across 2,000+ course venues - we spread our impact nationwide.

**Together, we believe in access to adult learning for all.**

**We believe in lifelong learning for all.**

**And, we believe adult learning counts towards a better, fairer society for all.**

Whether it's about feeling better equipped with the skills to take on tomorrow, or it's simply learning and debating ideas for the joy of it – we're here, together, to make good things happen in our communities and to our society.

All you need to bring is your willingness and excitement to learn.



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# WEA Reading Short Courses and Study Days

## 51 ways to enjoy life in 2019-20

We are one of the biggest WEA Branches, offering an unparalleled range of choice in the Region.

The 32 tutors offering 51 courses this academic year (some of them more than one) are all highly qualified and meet the exacting teaching standards set by Ofsted.

So you know you will be in good hands and that the investment you are making in your continuing education will be money well-spent.

Our class size is generally between 12 and 20 participants (sometimes more for Study Days). This is a nice manageable number, avoiding the impersonality of a mass lecture and allowing active participation by the student group.

Why not join us? We think you will find it stimulating, developing your knowledge, helping shape your ideas and opinions, and providing interesting exchanges with the tutor and your fellow-students.

Our courses this year range from the politics of protest in Reading and beyond, to global concerns in politics and economics, to art and architecture across a wide range from the ancient world to the present day, to music of various eras, and history that helps you make more sense of where we have come from and perhaps even to where we are going; then there is philosophy and literature to provide further insights into the ideas and experiences surrounding us. The choices are yours.

Please enjoy.

**John Beale**

Chairman, WEA Reading

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## Volunteer Branch Committee

The Committee at the time of writing is:

**John Beale**

**Chris Carter**

**Claire Gough**

**Carole Kingston**

**Rosita Maskell**

**Barbara Morris**

**Anthea Rogers**

**Richard Wilson**

**David Winchester**

**WEA Reading courses are sourced by a team of volunteers drawn from the Committee and with the assistance of Jackie Rupert.**

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## Autumn Term 2019 - Short Courses

The Georgians: 1714-1837 with Sheila Ephraim	Mon 30/09/2019	05
British Architecture: The Modern Age with Keith Hasted	Mon 30/09/2019	05
Continental Philosophy: Perspectives from Beyond the Channel with Michela Bariselli	Mon 30/09/2019	05
The Wars of the Roses: Personalities and Politics with Joanna Layne-Smith	Tue 01/10/2019	05
Human Disease: From the Black Death to the Obesity Epidemic with John Fletcher	Tue 01/10/2019	05
The Art and Architecture of the Romanesque with Diana Matthews	Tue 01/10/2019	06
Gods and Goddesses in Greek Art with Sandra Smith	Wed 02/10/2019	06
English Music: The Forgotten Generation? with Gwyn Parry-Jones	Wed 02/10/2019	06
Ancient Egypt: The Formative Years with John Billman	Wed 02/10/2019	06
Hieroglyphics for Absolute Beginners with John Billman	Wed 02/10/2019	06
Artemisia Gentileschi to Berthe Morisot: Three Centuries of Women Artists with Dalila Castelijan	Thu 03/10/2019	07
The Topless Towers of Ilium: Timeless Themes in Literature with Lydia Massey	Thu 03/10/2019	07
Vive la France: A Celebration of French Culture with Gerald Seaman	Thu 03/10/2019	07

## Autumn Term 2019 - Study Days

Bauhaus: Pioneers of Modern Design with Dalila Castelijan	Sat 19/10/2019	07
Politics and Protest in a Prosperous County with Daniel Renshaw	Sat 02/11/2019	08
The Magic Flute: Mozart's Late Masterpiece with Robin John	Sat 09/11/2019	08
The Awesome Remains of Two World Wars with Mike Grundy	Sat 23/11/2019	08
History of Philosophy 1: Socrates and Plato with Karim Esmail	Sat 30/11/2019	08
Late Medieval Houses and Their Families with Adam Smith	Sat 07/12/2019	08

## Spring Term 2020 - Short Courses

Philosophy of Gender and Sexuality: A Cross-Cultural Appraisal with Michela Bariselli	Mon 13/01/2020	09
Britain's Untold History: Events That Deserve to be Better Known with Symon Hill	Mon 13/01/2020	09
The Art of Manuscript Illumination with Dalila Castelijan	Tue 14/01/2020	09
Wagner and His Legacy with Robin John	Tue 14/01/2020	09
How to Enjoy Medieval Literature with Shirley Roberts	Tue 14/01/2020	10
The Golden Age of Dutch Painting with Diana Matthews	Tue 14/01/2020	10
Art and Architecture along the Via Emilia with Diana Matthews	Wed 15/01/2020	10
Beside the Seaside: the History and Architecture of the British Seaside Resort with Richard Wilson	Wed 15/01/2020	10

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Beyond Cleopatra: Roman Egypt Explored with John Billman	Wed 15/01/2020	<b>11</b>
Crossrail and the Modern Underground with Mike Grundy	Thu 16/01/2020	<b>11</b>
Eight Things to See... with Sandra Smith	Thu 16/01/2020	<b>11</b>

## Spring Term 2020 - Study Days

Siena: The Art of a Medieval Republic with Diana Matthews	Sat 15/02/2020	<b>12</b>
As We Economists Were Saying... with Dick Smethurst	Sat 22/02/2020	<b>12</b>
Six of the Best Plus One: Satie and Les Six with Gwyn Parry-Jones	Sat 29/02/2020	<b>12</b>
History of Philosophy 2: Aristotle with Karim Esmail	Sat 07/03/2020	<b>12</b>
Parties and Polls: Navigating Change with Philip Giddings	Sat 14/03/2020	<b>12</b>
Elizabethan and Jacobean Houses and Their Families with Adam Smith	Sat 28/03/2020	<b>13</b>

## Summer Term 2020 - Short Courses

Aspects of Prehistory with Michael Pengelly	Mon 20/04/2020	<b>13</b>
Behind the Headlines: False News or Reality? with Ian Mulholland	Mon 20/04/2020	<b>13</b>
Heart of the Silk Road: The Art and Architecture of Uzbekistan with Dalila Castelijn	Tue 21/04/2020	<b>13</b>
Anarchy in the UK? Civil Unrest in Modern Britain with Daniel Renshaw	Tue 21/04/2020	<b>14</b>
Discovering Ancient Rome with Sandra Smith	Wed 22/04/2020	<b>14</b>
New Worlds: Discovering Czech Symphonic Music with Tony Short	Wed 22/04/2020	<b>14</b>
The Philosophy of Humour with Michela Bariselli	Wed 22/04/2020	<b>14</b>
The Architecture of the USA with Keith Hasted	Thu 23/04/2020	<b>14</b>
Post-War British Film and Society with Julie Charlesworth	Thu 23/04/2020	<b>15</b>
Britain: From the Iron Age to Roman Times with Jill Eyers	Thu 14/05/2020	<b>15</b>

## Summer Term 2020 - Study Days

GM Crops: Solution or Threat? with Marco Bernardini	Sat 09/05/2020	<b>15</b>
'Immortal Beloved': Muses of the Great Composers with Chris Carter	Sat 16/05/2020	<b>15</b>
America and the World 1941-2020 with Robert McKeever	Sat 23/05/2020	<b>16</b>
Poets of the Revolution with Michael Bartlet	Sat 30/05/2020	<b>16</b>

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## Half Term Breaks

Most short courses have a half term break to coincide with Reading Borough school half terms, so you should factor in an additional week when calculating course durations.

Week beginning dates are - **Autumn:** 28 October 2019. **Spring:** 17 February 2020.

**Summer:** 25 May 2020. **Plus May Day Bank Holiday:** 4 May 2020.

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## Autumn Term 2019 - Short Courses

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### The Georgians: 1714-1837 with Sheila Ephraim

£96

Mon 30/09/2019, 10:00, 10 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744171

⑨ South Reading Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8DF

The House of Hanover, known as the Georgians, reigned uninterrupted through five monarchs despite Jacobite risings, the loss of the American colonies and a long but victorious war with Napoleonic France. Come and explore the politics and politicians of the period as new social classes arose and modern party politics began to take shape.

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### British Architecture: The Modern Age with Keith Hasted

£96

Mon 30/09/2019, 14:00, 10 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744172

⑨ South Reading Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8DF

Post-war challenges to provide housing, schools and university expansion were taken up by architects like James Stirling, before he moved into Post-Modern architecture. In the 1980s and 90s London became a hub for architects of international reach - the High-Tech approach led by Norman Foster and Richard Rogers being joined by the complex curved forms produced by Zaha Hadid's practice.

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### Continental Philosophy: Perspectives from Beyond the Channel with Michela Bariselli

£96

Mon 30/09/2019, 14:00, 10 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744173

⑨ Woodley Hill House, Eastcourt Avenue, Earley, Reading RG6 1HH

Continental Philosophy is one of the main contemporary traditions. This course will look at key Continental philosophers from the 20th and 21st centuries, such as Adorno, Derrida, Deleuze and Foucault. Particular attention will be given to how these philosophers have characterised the relation between the individual and society, as well as the question of identity and its relation to power.

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### The Wars of the Roses: Personalities and Politics with Joanna Layne-Smith

£96

Tue 01/10/2019, 10:00, 8 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744174

⑨ South Reading Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8DF

Discover the real men and women who inspired The White Queen and Shakespeare's Histories. We will explore themes including kingship, faith, witchcraft and women's roles as we examine the political intrigues and dramatic conflicts between the Houses of York and Lancaster that brought England's Middle Ages to a close.

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### Human Disease: From the Black Death to the Obesity Epidemic with John Fletcher

£96

Tue 01/10/2019, 14:00, 8 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744176

⑨ South Reading Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8DF

Mankind is subject to periodic outbursts of disease that in addition to causing widespread misery, terror and death may profoundly affect the course of history. This course will look at the underlying causes, the effects on the afflicted, the purported remedies (until recently often bizarre and ineffective) and the social impacts of some of the most catastrophic human ailments.

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## The Art and Architecture of the Romanesque with Diana Matthews

£96

Tue 01/10/2019, 19:00, 10 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744177

📍 Woodley Hill House, Eastcourt Avenue, Earley, Reading RG6 1HH

This innovative and far reaching course will study the art and architecture of the 12C - 14C across Europe in the age of the Crusades, of pilgrimage, and of the rising mercantile communes of Italy when new styles emerged to express the values of these social and economic changes. We shall study the extensive programmes of painting, sculpture and stained glass in buildings as diverse as St Mary Magdalen in Vezelay, San Marco in Venice, Trani Cathedral, and Krak des Chevaliers. Nor shall we forget Britain's own great Romanesque heritage, in buildings such as the White Tower of London, Durham Cathedral and at smaller sites like Kilpeck.

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## Gods and Goddesses in Greek Art with Sandra Smith

£78

Wed 02/10/2019, 10:00, 8 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744178

📍 South Reading Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8DF

Here we will explore some of the great monuments of art from classical Greece with an emphasis on the use of stories of heroes and monsters from Greek myth. Heracles, Achilles and Perseus will feature along with the Olympian gods and stories from the Trojan War. We will study the great temples of the ancient Greek world, notably the Parthenon including a detailed examination of the major sculptural programme which tells the stories of the founding of Athens. Greek painting only really exists on vases and we will explore the development of this unique art form, discussing the use of warriors, myth and monsters on the way.

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## English Music: The Forgotten Generation? with Gwyn Parry-Jones

£96

Wed 02/10/2019, 14:00, 10 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744179

📍 South Reading Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8DF

Peter Warlock, Frank Bridge, Lord Berners, Gerald Finzi, John Ireland – names perhaps not forgotten, though not as celebrated today as their admirers feel they should be. Amid the rightly acclaimed works of Elgar, Vaughan Williams, Britten and Tippett, the composers we encounter on this course often get lost somewhere in between. Our aim is to try and redress that situation by exploring the lives and works of these brilliantly gifted and in some cases anarchic figures, each of whom made vital contributions to the richness of our musical culture.

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## Ancient Egypt: The Formative Years with John Billman

£96

Wed 02/10/2019, 14:00, 10 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744180

📍 Woodley Hill House, Eastcourt Avenue, Earley, Reading RG6 1HH

This course will explore the origins of the ancient Egyptian civilization. Using archaeological evidence and a rich range of material culture we trace the emerging cultures in the Nile Valley through to the development of writing, trade, elites, divine kingship, state formation and unification leading to the first dynasties of Pharaonic Egypt.

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## Hieroglyphics for Absolute Beginners with John Billman

£96

Wed 02/10/2019, 16:15, 10 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744592

📍 Woodley Hill House, Eastcourt Avenue, Earley, Reading RG6 1HH

Since 1822 when hieroglyphs were first deciphered Egyptology has become a historical discipline. In this course we learn the basic principles of Hieroglyphics and the Middle Egyptian language that will enrich visits to museums and monuments, learning to read kings' names and simple offering formulae as well as reviewing basic grammar and vocabulary. This will be a fascinating and enlightening course, helping to decode apparent complexities.

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**Artemisia Gentileschi to Berthe Morisot: Three Centuries of Women Artists with Dalila Castelijm**

£78

Thu 03/10/2019, 10:00, 8 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744181

⑨ South Reading Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8DF

Discover works created by women artists from the 17th to the 19th century in Europe. Lack of formal training affected their style and subject matter but expanded access to academies and art training had an impact on the work of 19th century artists. Focussing on artists such as Artemisia Gentileschi, Elisabeth Vigee-Lebrun and Berthe Morisot we shall consider the ways in which they overcame limitations imposed on them by contemporary culture and society.

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**The Topless Towers of Ilium: Timeless Themes in Literature with Lydia Massey**

£78

Thu 03/10/2019, 14:00, 8 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744184

⑨ Woodley Hill House, Eastcourt Avenue, Earley, Reading RG6 1HH

One of the most enduring influences on European literature has been Homer's Iliad, describing the Trojan War as it reaches its end, and the people involved in its turmoil. This course will examine The Iliad and the literature it has inspired, from Classical Greek drama such as The Oresteia by Aeschylus, through to contemporary writing such as The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller and Pat Barker's recently published Costa-nominated novel, The Silence of the Girls.

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**Vive la France: A Celebration of French Culture with Gerald Seaman**

£68

Thu 03/10/2019, 14:00, 7 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744185

⑨ South Reading Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8DF

France has a long and glorious history, with an outstanding architectural, pictorial, literary and musical heritage. The purpose of this course is to highlight some of France's most notable achievements, with special reference to her contribution to music. Accompanied by pictorial illustrations and readings from French literature in both French and English, this fascinating course will be enhanced by CDs and DVDs.

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**Autumn Term 2019 - Study Days****Bauhaus: Pioneers of Modern Design with Dalila Castelijm**

£98

Sat 19/10/2019, 10:00, 1 x 6 hour session, Ref. C3744360

⑨ RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS

One hundred years ago Walter Gropius founded one of the most influential schools of architecture and applied arts of the modern age; the Bauhaus. Centred at various times in Weimar, Dessau and Berlin, it stressed the importance of the craftsman-designer for industrial mass production, aiming to reform design education and giving rise to an uncluttered stripped down style which was to influence modernism and today's world. We will examine works by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Marcel Breuer, Oskar Schlemmer and Wassily Kandinsky, as well as considering the ongoing influence of the School.

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**Politics and Protest in a Prosperous County with Daniel Renshaw** £38

Sat 02/11/2019, 10:00, 1 x 6 hour session, Ref. C3744361

📍 RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS

Here we will examine the dynamics of politics in nineteenth and twentieth century Berkshire, and examine both conventional narratives and hidden controversies, from Huntley and Palmers' attitude toward trade unionism to the (now forgotten) riots in Reading in 1981. Key political figures locally will range from Phoebe Cusden in the earlier period to Ian Mikardo in more recent times.

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**The Magic Flute: Mozart's Late Masterpiece with Robin John** £38

Sat 09/11/2019, 10:00, 1 x 6 hour session, Ref. C3744362

📍 RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS

Mozart's Magic Flute is one of his most enduringly popular works, consistently appearing in the top ten most performed operas worldwide. Written shortly before his death, it differs from his earlier operas in its genesis as a "folk opera" in the "singspiel" style and its hidden allusions to Freemasonry, a hot political topic in the Austria of the time. In this study day, we will explore the creation and underlying messages of this masterpiece, as well as glorying in the arias of Papageno and The Queen of the Night.

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**The Awesome Remains of Two World Wars with Mike Grundy** £38

Sat 23/11/2019, 10:00, 1 x 6 hour session, Ref. C3744363

📍 RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS

Discover how you can still see throughout Europe so many examples of the military infrastructure and memorials created in the two World Wars. Study the forts of the Maginot Line, Hitler's Atlantic Wall, the Flak Towers of Berlin and Vienna, James Bond-style V2 launch complexes, massive U-Boat pens and a destroyer set half way up an Italian mountain!

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**History of Philosophy 1: Socrates and Plato with Karim Esmail** £38

Sat 30/11/2019, 10:00, 1 x 6 hour session, Ref. C3744366

📍 RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS

In the first of a series of study days charting the history and development of western philosophy, we explore Socrates and Plato - two of its seminal figures. We will consider key elements in the ideas of both men, looking in particular at Socrates' pronouncements on ethics, and Plato's dialogues on the soul and the perfectly just city-state, as recorded in *The Republic*. Future study days will take us through other great philosophers from the ancient Greeks to the modern period.

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**Late Medieval Houses and Their Families with Adam Smith** £38

Sat 07/12/2019, 10:00, 1 x 6 hour session, Ref. C3744364

📍 RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS

The years 1400-1550 saw war and religious revolution in England but also a flourishing in architecture as houses for settled domestic use, such as Penshurst Place in Kent, replaced defensible castles, such as Tattershall in Lincolnshire, as great land owners' homes. We will see how these impressive houses reflected the changing lives of those who lived in them, as the Tudors promoted "new men" instead of the old aristocracy.

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## Spring Term 2020 - Short Courses

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### Philosophy of Gender and Sexuality: A Cross-Cultural Appraisal with Michela Bariselli

£96

Mon 13/01/2020, 10:00, 10 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744263

📍 Woodley Hill House, Eastcourt Avenue, Earley, Reading RG6 1HH

This course explores the main debates around gender and sexuality in Western as well as non-Western philosophical traditions. In particular the course will focus on the distinction between gender and biological sex, and the debate around the value and status of human sexuality.

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### Britain's Untold History: Events That Deserve to be Better Known with Symon Hill

£96

Mon 13/01/2020, 14:00, 10 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744265

📍 South Reading Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8DF

History is written by the winners, so it is no surprise that there are many events that are overlooked, downplayed or simply forgotten about. This course is a chance to explore lesser known events in British history, ranging from the Great Cheese Riot of 1766 to the nineteenth-century suppression of the Welsh language, to the trial of a woman accused of plotting to assassinate the Prime Minister. Each session will look at an event or movement in British history that is often overlooked or rarely talked about but worth exploring.

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### The Art of Manuscript Illumination with Dalila Castelijn

£96

Tue 14/01/2020, 10:00, 8 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744188

📍 South Reading Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8DF

Illuminated manuscripts; handwritten books decorated with gold, brilliant colours, and elaborate designs have a long tradition in Europe, with production moving from monasteries to major centres such as Paris and Bruges. From the 8th c. Lindisfarne Gospels to the 15th c. Book of Hours of Mary of Burgundy we shall examine how such highly prized items were made and why; we shall consider who commissioned them and assess the style of a variety of artists involved in their production.

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### Wagner and His Legacy with Robin John

£96

Tue 14/01/2020, 14:00, 10 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744268

📍 South Reading Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8DF

Richard Wagner was the most influential innovator in operatic history, and one of the toweringly creative minds of the 19th century. In his mature operas, he overturned the then current ideas of what opera was, and – in the monumental “Ring” cycle – synthesised the poetic, musical, visual and dramatic aspects of performance. The theatre he had built at Bayreuth still hosts the annual Festival which continues to be run by the Wagner family, and his reputation and associations remain as controversial as they were in his day. In this course, we analyse Wagner’s life and legacy, and listen to glorious highlights from his works.

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## How to Enjoy Medieval Literature with Shirley Roberts

£96

Tue 14/01/2020, 14:00, 10 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744272

📍 Woodley Hill House, Eastcourt Avenue, Earley, Reading RG6 1HH

The Middle Ages are closer to us in themes and imagination than we think – look at Game of Thrones or The Lord of the Rings. In this course, we uncover the riches of medieval literature – from epics, elegies and beast fables to allegory, dream visions and chivalric romance. Starting with Caedmon's Hymn - the earliest example of written English (7th C) – we will look at Beowulf, The Seafarer and other short poems in Old English; then progress to works in Middle English, such as Gawain and the Green Knight, and Piers Plowman, through to the fabliaux of Geoffrey Chaucer. To help experience the power and texture of the original texts, we will tackle the original Old and Middle English where possible. However, close reading and analysis will be carried out with modern translations.

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## The Golden Age of Dutch Painting with Diana Matthews

£96

Tue 14/01/2020, 19:00, 10 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744273

📍 Woodley Hill House, Eastcourt Avenue, Earley, Reading RG6 1HH

In the 17C the Dutch Republic was a rich and diverse society which produced some of the most familiar and well-loved works of art by painters such as Rembrandt, Vermeer, Jan Steen, Franz Hals, and many others. We shall consider a wide variety of major themes, of portraiture, landscape, mythology, and genre painting, and seek to ground them in the political, economic, religious, and domestic culture of the period in cities such as Amsterdam, Haarlem and Delft at a time when this vigorous and staunchly middle class society was at its height.

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## Art and Architecture along the Via Emilia with Diana Matthews

£96

Wed 15/01/2020, 10:00, 10 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744275

📍 South Reading Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8DF

Built as a Roman frontier road in 187 B.C., the Via Emilia played a major part in the development of the many different civilisations that have flourished along its length for more than two millennia, and this exciting and far reaching course will explore the rich diversity of this artistic legacy left by Romans and Lombards, medieval pilgrims and renaissance princes, saints and scholars.

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## Beside the Seaside: the History and Architecture of the British Seaside Resort with Richard Wilson

£96

Wed 15/01/2020, 14:00, 10 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744276

📍 South Reading Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8DF

For over 300 years the British seaside has attracted visitors to its shores; first for health reasons, and then to be enjoyed in its own right, including its often idiosyncratic architecture. We will trace the development cycle of the seaside resort from its origins, through heyday to decline and, more recently, instances of rejuvenation and renewal. Examples will range from the select resort of Torquay, to more boisterous holiday destinations such as Brighton and Blackpool. We will examine how location and the entrepreneurial activities of major landowners affected the type of resort developed as, for instance, at Bournemouth.

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**Beyond Cleopatra: Roman Egypt Explored with John Billman**

£96

Wed 15/01/2020, 14:00, 10 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744278

☉ Woodley Hill House, Eastcourt Avenue, Earley, Reading RG6 1HH

With the death of Cleopatra VII the once great civilization of Egypt became a province of Rome. This course will explore developments in Egypt during the Roman period. We will study the monuments which present Roman emperors as Pharaohs and consider the impact of Christianity on ancient Egyptian religion. Cultural fusion in administration, art, religion and burial practices will be assessed.

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**Crossrail and the Modern Underground with Mike Grundy**

£68

Thu 16/01/2020, 10:00, 7 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744279

☉ South Reading Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8DF

Here we will celebrate the design, architecture and art of the latest lines of the London Underground network, majoring on Crossrail and on the earlier Jubilee Line. Leading architects and artists have been engaged in creating both lines as show-cases for London and for the latest developments in British design and technology. An overview of their history and design strategies will be followed by a virtual journey studying the design and art of each station in the context of its local history, environment and community. Comparisons with contemporary developments abroad will enrich the scope of the course.

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**Eight Things to See... with Sandra Smith**

£78

Thu 16/01/2020, 14:00, 8 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744281

☉ Woodley Hill House, Eastcourt Avenue, Earley, Reading RG6 1HH

This course will investigate eight major monuments of art history from the great museums and cities of the world. A varied selection of painting, sculpture and architecture will be included, with examples to be found in the great galleries including the National Gallery in London, the Louvre in Paris and the Prado in Madrid. Artists will include Bernini, Rembrandt, Velazquez, Botticelli, Holbein and Vermeer. Buildings will also feature with an investigation of the works of Frank Lloyd Wright and Borromini.

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## Spring Term 2020 - Study Days

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### Siena: The Art of a Medieval Republic with Diana Matthews

£38

Sat 15/02/2020, 10:00, 1 x 6 hour session, Ref. C3744344

📍 RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS

Siena is known as the 'city of art' and this exciting study day will take a wide ranging look at the cultural heritage of this beautiful city. We shall examine not only the works of well-known medieval masters like Duccio di Buoninsegna, Nicola and Giovanni Pisano, and Agostino di Duccio, but also the city's later artistic heritage with Francesco do Giorgio and Beccafumi.

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### As We Economists Were Saying... with Dick Smethurst

£38

Sat 22/02/2020, 10:00, 1 x 6 hour session, Ref. C3744345

📍 RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS

Here we will bring up to date some of the topics discussed in the Autumn 2018 course 'Economics in the News'. We will examine four currently 'hot' issues. These include the prospects for the British, EU, and/or American economies, the control of international corporate giants, what to do about economic inequality and whether some public services in the UK would be improved by re-nationalization.

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### Six of the Best Plus One: Satie and Les Six with Gwyn Parry-Jones

£38

Sat 29/02/2020, 10:00, 1 x 6 hour session, Ref. C3744346

📍 RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS

The French composers of the group known as 'Les Six' in many ways typify European music immediately following World War 1. Coined in 1920, the title was intended as a comparison with "The Five" who comprised Russia's "Mighty Handful". Yet there was no true shared aesthetic among these six highly individual composers, other than the inspiration they all gained from the brilliantly imaginative works of the wildly eccentric Erik Satie. We will hear examples from the best-known figures, Poulenc and Milhaud, but also from the other three male composers, and the one female – the remarkable Germaine Tailleferre.

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### History of Philosophy 2: Aristotle with Karim Esmail

£38

Sat 07/03/2020, 10:00, 1 x 6 hour session, Ref. C3744347

📍 RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS

In the second of our series of study days charting the history and development of western philosophy, we look at the towering figure of Aristotle. We consider some of the key elements in his thought – considering among other things his views on language and logic, change and cause, and the notion of "happiness". In subsequent study days, we will continue our journey through to the great modern philosophers - Descartes, Hume, Locke, Berkeley, Hobbes and Mar.

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### Parties and Polls: Navigating Change with Philip Giddings

£38

Sat 14/03/2020, 10:00, 1 x 6 hour session, Ref. C3744348

📍 RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS

In marked contrast to the 1950s and 1960s, in the last thirty years Britain's electoral politics have seen a great deal of change, affecting the number and size of political parties, the basis of their support and their varying electoral successes. We shall look at possible reasons for this volatility, as well as examining our changing electoral and governmental systems. We shall then gaze into our crystal ball and seek to see what the future holds for our democracy.

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## Elizabethan and Jacobean Houses and Their Families with Adam Smith

£38

Sat 28/03/2020, 10:00, 1 x 6 hour session, Ref. C3744349

📍 RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS

The century after 1550 saw many newly wealthy families, who had often benefitted from the dissolution of the monasteries, create splendid new country houses such as Longleat to show their wealth and power. These houses were increasingly influenced by ideas from the Renaissance. We will see how these houses reflected their owners' lives and aspirations, including the Cecil family as chief ministers to Elizabeth I and James I, builders of great houses including Burghley and Hatfield.

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## Summer Term 2020 - Short Courses

### Aspects of Prehistory with Michael Pengelly

£49

Mon 20/04/2020, 10:00, 5 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744292

📍 South Reading Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8DF

Prehistory, before there were written records, is shrouded in mystery. What was the purpose of Stonehenge? How did our ancestors view the stars? What are hillforts for? Why did they leave images in caves and rocks? These and many other fascinating subjects will be explored. No previous experience of archaeology is necessary and afterwards participants will have a much better understanding of the world in which our early ancestors lived.

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### Behind the Headlines: False News or Reality? with Ian Mulholland

£49

Mon 20/04/2020, 14:00, 5 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744296

📍 South Reading Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8DF

In 1921 C P Scott of 'The Manchester Guardian' wrote that 'comment is free, but facts are sacred'. In 2017 Collins' Dictionaries made 'Fake News' their word of the year. In this course we will investigate how 'facts' are presented in the news and how words and images can influence our perceptions. Through close analysis of print, online and broadcast items we will discuss whether the news stories presented can ever be truly factual or entirely fake.

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### Heart of the Silk Road: The Art and Architecture of Uzbekistan with Dalila Castelijin

£49

Tue 21/04/2020, 10:00, 5 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744301

📍 South Reading Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8DF

Persian rule and an important stop on the Silk Road left a rich artistic legacy of mosques, mausoleums, madrasas and caravanserais in this colourful country. We shall focus on key monuments in the celebrated cities of Samarkand, Khiva and Bukhara. The impact of the Soviet era on the capital, Tashkent, will then be studied in relation to its striking modernist architecture.

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## Anarchy in the UK? Civil Unrest in Modern Britain with Daniel Renshaw

£68

Tue 21/04/2020, 14:00, 7 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744328

📍 Woodley Hill House, Eastcourt Avenue, Earley, Reading RG6 1HH

This course will examine major civil unrest in Britain from the Georgian period up to the early twenty-first century. Beginning with the Gordon Riots and then looking at Victorian strike action, Edwardian suffragette protests, anti-fascism and the police-public violence of the 1970s and 1980s, this will challenge the notion that British politics was fundamentally and intrinsically 'peaceful'.

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## Discovering Ancient Rome with Sandra Smith

£49

Wed 22/04/2020, 10:00, 5 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744331

📍 Woodley Hill House, Eastcourt Avenue, Earley, Reading RG6 1HH

This short course will investigate some of the great monuments of ancient Rome and the Roman world. Although hugely influenced by the Greeks, the Romans innovated in architecture, public and domestic decoration, all made to celebrate the power of the emperor and the glory of the gods. Major structures to be explored include the Colosseum and Circus Maximus, the great villas of the Roman world and the magnificent remains of Pompeii and Herculaneum where mosaic, painting and sculpture have survived in near perfect condition.

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## New Worlds: Discovering Czech Symphonic Music with Tony Short

£68

Wed 22/04/2020, 14:00, 7 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744334

📍 South Reading Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8DF

The Czech symphony is not all about Dvořák's New World! Though, undoubtedly a key figure in internationalising his country's music, Dvořák was certainly not alone in composing Czech symphonic masterpieces. In this course, we trace the history of the symphony in Bohemia and Moravia from the eighteenth century to the present day, looking at composers such as Smetana, Janáček and Martinů, and exploring Mozart's Czech associates who played a vital role in raising the symphony to such heights.

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## The Philosophy of Humour with Michela Bariselli

£49

Wed 22/04/2020, 14:00, 5 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744335

📍 Woodley Hill House, Eastcourt Avenue, Earley, Reading RG6 1HH

Humour is a universal human phenomenon. Yet humour raises many questions, including those regarding its nature, its value as well as its ethical status. This course looks at how humour has been described by philosophers over the centuries, as well as examining its contemporary status and complexity.

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## The Architecture of the USA with Keith Hasted

£49

Thu 23/04/2020, 10:00, 5 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744337

📍 South Reading Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8DF

Thomas Jefferson brought Palladio's style to the architecture of US government. Chicago was the world's proving ground for high-rise building techniques – as well as being the cradle of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie Style. Mies van der Rohe demonstrated how "less is more" and Philip Johnson and others tried out Post-Modernism before Frank Gehry exploited computer aided design to make fantastic shapes buildable.

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**Post-War British Film and Society with Julie Charlesworth**

£49

Thu 23/04/2020, 14:00, 5 x 2 hour sessions, Ref.C3744338

Ⓧ Woodley Hill House, Eastcourt Avenue, Earley, Reading RG6 1HH

This course will look at film and society in post-war Britain, from the 1940s to the early 1960s. We will explore how people's hopes for a reconstructed Britain and changes and conflicts in society were represented on film. We will also look at how and why films during this time of rapid change became bolder in exploring issues of sexuality, youth culture, race and ethnicity.

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**Britain: From the Iron Age to Roman Times with Jill Eyers**

£49

Thu 14/05/2020, 14:00, 5 x 2 hour sessions, Ref. C3744339

Ⓧ South Reading Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 8DF

This will be a fascinating exploration of the life of Iron Age and Romano-British people using artefacts, maps, historical accounts and much more to see if we can believe what has been written in the past about this intriguing and formative time in Britain.

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**Summer Term 2020 - Study Days****GM Crops: Solution or Threat? with Marco Bernardini**

£38

Sat 09/05/2020, 10:00, 1 x 6 hour session, Ref. C3744340

Ⓧ RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS

GM crops have been hailed by some as an essential tool in the fight against a range of problems now facing humanity, from hunger to climate change to 'superweeds' and 'superpests'; all this while being safe for both the environment and human health. Is this too good to be true? Are there dangers in meddling with nature? We will debunk the myths surrounding GM crops by considering what these crops are, how they are regulated, and the different social, economic, and environmental effects they have across the world.

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**'Immortal Beloved': Muses of the Great Composers with Chris Carter**

£38

Sat 16/05/2020, 10:00, 1 x 6 hour session, Ref. C3744341

Ⓧ RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS

Love, in its many varied forms, lies at the core of much of the world's greatest music - as a subject in its own right, but more importantly as a source of inspiration. In this study day, we look at a range of composers - from Beethoven and Berlioz through to Brahms and Britten - where desire, admiration or a vision of a beloved unlocked their creativity and helped give it voice. While the attention these muses received was not without its difficulties, without them some of the great masterpieces of all time would never have been written. We look at these hidden figures and pay tribute to the contribution and the sacrifices they made.

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**America and the World 1941-2020 with Robert McKeever****£38**

Sat 23/05/2020, 10:00, 1 x 6 hour session, Ref. C3744342

📍 RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS

Forced out of Isolationism by the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, the United States emerged from World War II as the world's pre-eminent power. With some reluctance it then assumed the role of 'world policeman' and fought both the Cold War and hot wars against Communist enemies. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, America anticipated a more peaceful world and a reduced role for its own forces. Yet for many, the US remains the 'indispensable nation': the only country powerful enough to underpin world order in an anarchic international system. This study day examines the relationship of the United States with the rest of the World in the modern era.

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**Poets of the Revolution with Michael Bartlett****£38**

Sat 30/05/2020, 10:00, 1 x 6 hour session, Ref. C3744343

📍 RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS

How did the English Romantic Poets respond to the turbulent times in which they lived? In what ways did their theory of the imagination shape their poetry? Why is their legacy so enduring? Participants will be expected to read a short anthology of the poetry of Wordsworth, Coleridge, Keats and Shelley in advance of the course and to come willing to share their questions and insights.

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## You may not know this about us...

### WEA Community Education in Reading

The WEA also offers a wide range of community programmes in Reading including Schools and Parenting programmes, Health and Well-Being workshops and English and Maths courses for adults. To find out more about our community provision please contact the local team on 07585 960847 or drop in at our Regional Office in Reading Central Library, 3rd Floor, Abbey Sq, Reading RG1 3BQ.

Would you like to volunteer in one of our English or Maths classes for adults? Our volunteers provide their time, energy and passion to support English classes for people who are, or are intending to become, residents of the UK. Volunteer support is invaluable and allows us to continue to enrich the lives of learners in diverse communities across Reading. And we help with maths too!

If you would like to be involved in our work, please contact Joe Carter, WEA Education Coordinator for Reading, at [jcarter@wea.org.uk](mailto:jcarter@wea.org.uk)

**f WEAREading/**

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# How to Book for WEA Reading Courses

Bookings for all courses in this brochure start on:

**Friday, 3 June 2019 for WEA members by telephone only**  
**Monday, 10 June 2019 for non-members**

For details of WEA membership visit [wea.org.uk/get-involved/membership](http://wea.org.uk/get-involved/membership)

All places on courses or study days need to be booked in advance. No bookings are accepted without payment.

To book online and pay by debit/credit card visit [wea.org.uk](http://wea.org.uk)

To book by phone and pay by debit/credit card: call WEA national booking line on **0300 303 3464** (8.00 am - 8.00 pm). Calls will be charged at no more than the national rate.

Class numbers are limited. To guarantee your place and ensure there are no unnecessary course cancellations we ask you to book at least four weeks before the start date of each course.

We will send joining information by email or post approximately two weeks before your course is due to start. Please make sure our email address is in your contacts.

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## Contact WEA Reading:

W. [weareading.org.uk](http://weareading.org.uk)

E. [weareading@gmail.com](mailto:weareading@gmail.com)

Answer phone: 07594 184932

Postal address: WEA Reading Branch, Reading Central Library,  
3rd Floor, Abbey Square, Reading, RG1 3BQ

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## Additional Information

### Financial Assistance / Learning Support

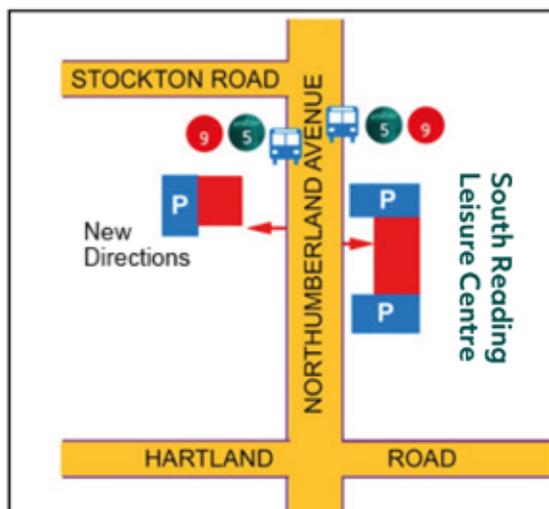
If you are in receipt of income-related benefits you may be entitled to a fee waiver on courses supported by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). Please contact us to find out more. Courses not supported by the ESFA do not have a fee waiver, but concessions may be available – contact the Branch for further details. For more information on financial support visit [wea.org.uk/learn-us/course-feesand-financial-support](http://wea.org.uk/learn-us/course-feesand-financial-support)

### Courses that are undersubscribed may be cancelled and fees refunded.

Refunds will not be made for individual sessions cancelled due to unavoidable adverse events, such as bad weather or sickness. However, every effort will be made to reschedule these sessions or maintain the advertised tutor hours by extending remaining sessions.

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## Venue Map - South Reading Leisure Centre



**South Reading Leisure Centre**  
Northumberland Avenue,  
Reading RG2 8DF

### Satnav

Co-ordinates

**N** 51.427278

**W** 0.960595

### Bus Stop Name

Stockton Road

### Woodley Hill House

Eastcourt Avenue, Earley,  
Reading RG6 1HH

Details of how to reach this new address will be supplied with your enrolment confirmation.

## Venue Map - RISC



### RISC

35-39 London Street,  
Reading RG1 4PS

Access to the venue entrance **by foot** is via the green alleyway alongside RISC.

**The carpark** is for students only during the course. It is accessed via a ramp at the rear of the building.

### Ramp Satnav

Co-ordinates

**N** 51.453069

**W** 0.967344

### Bus Stop Name

London Street Foot

The Ramp to the car park is accessed from East Street  
Mill Lane is accessed from the Oracle roundabout under the Inner Distribution Road.

# Try it Believe it Do it!

The WEA relies on people like you to be volunteers. Whether it's in the classroom, or behind the scenes, your skills can help us make more of a difference on lives, in communities and in society.

## As a WEA volunteer you can ...

- Use and develop your own skills and interests
- Meet new people in your community
- Make real change to people's lives.

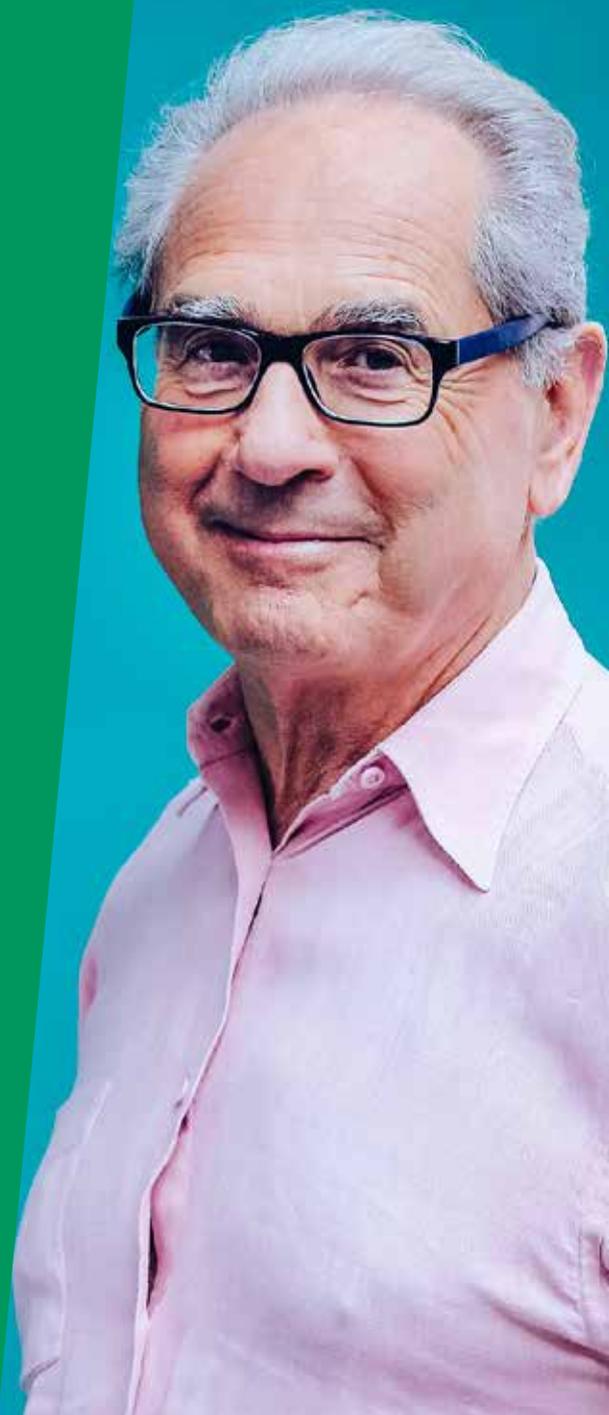
Visit: [wea.org.uk/volunteer](http://wea.org.uk/volunteer)

To Volunteer with WEA Reading

Email: [weareading@gmail.com](mailto:weareading@gmail.com)  
Tel: 07594 184932

# WEA

Adult Learning Within Reach



# Enrolment and Support

## How do I enrol?

You can enrol online via our website [wea.org.uk](http://wea.org.uk)

Alternatively you can contact our Support team on 0300 303 3464.

You will need your credit/debit card available as course fees (where applicable) are taken at the time of enrolling.

It is really quick and easy to enrol online. You will need to set up an online account for this which you can do very quickly at the time you enrol, via our website which is safe and secure.

We recommend you enrol early to avoid disappointment.

Our courses are advertised on our website [wea.org.uk](http://wea.org.uk).

More courses are added all through the year so it's worth checking regularly.

**Enrol today**  
**[wea.org.uk](http://wea.org.uk)**

or 0300 303 3464

## Can I enrol in person?

Most courses will require you to enrol in advance of the course. If there are still places available on a course this will be shown in the course information on our website, or alternatively you can ring and check beforehand. Some courses require you to attend an initial assessment session to ensure you are enrolling onto the most suitable course for you, but we'll make that clear in the course details if this is the case.

## Are classes reliant on size?

Yes. If numbers are too low the course may be cancelled or re-arranged to another time.

## I have some questions. Who do I ask?

Take a look at our website [wea.org.uk](http://wea.org.uk) or give us a call on 0300 303 3464.

## We offer information and advice about:

- ▶ Choosing the right course
- ▶ Fees and financial support
- ▶ Learning support
- ▶ Progression
- ▶ About the WEA

Please visit our website [wea.org.uk](http://wea.org.uk) to find out more.

## I'd love to do a course but I can't afford it. Can you help?

We want our courses to be within reach of all adults, so you may be eligible for financial support if you are on a low income or receive income-related benefits. This could include help with childcare, travel costs, exam fees, books, costs of field trips and tuition fees under certain circumstances.

## What if I have a disability, learning difficulty, health issue or other support needs?

If there is anything you think you may need support with you can indicate this when you enrol.

## Do you choose accessible venues?

Information on the course venue is available in the course details on our website.

## I might need help with my maths and/or English? Is that ok?

If you would like support with English and/or maths you can indicate this when you enrol.

# Course Fees and Support

## How are courses funded?

The WEA receives public funding from the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) for the majority of our courses. This funding supplements the fees paid by students and sponsors. For most of our courses, this funding is only available for people who are 19 or over.

## Are some courses free?

For ESFA funded courses, you are entitled to free tuition if you receive certain benefits, as listed below (or if you are dependent on someone who receives those benefits). You may be asked for evidence of your benefit status such as a letter from Job Centre Plus.

- ▶ Job Seekers Allowance
- ▶ Employment and Support Allowance (ESA - work related)
- ▶ Universal Credit and earn less than £330 per month
- ▶ Income Support, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction (not single occupancy discount or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) support group
- ▶ Working Tax Credit
- ▶ Pension Guarantee Credit
- ▶ Asylum Seeker

Please note these may be subject to change due to funding requirements.

## What does a course cost?

For students who are required to pay a fee for their courses, fees are shown against each course or on the page where the course appears. All students will be asked to provide their date of birth at the time they enrol. This information is required by our funders.

## What if I'm new to the UK?

Students who have not been resident in the UK/EU for the last 3 years will be required to complete a Student Eligibility Form and provide appropriate evidence.

## Can I apply for a loan?

Yes. There are Advanced Learning Loans available for all students aged 19 and above studying vocational, technical and professional qualifications at Level 3 and above. The loans will apply if you are starting a higher level course on or after 1 August 2017.

## Can I cancel my course?

You can cancel a course booking at any time by informing the WEA in writing. To find out more about our Course Cancellations policy and Course Refunds policy please visit our website [wea.org.uk](http://wea.org.uk)

## Can I pay by instalment?

An option to pay WEA courses fees by instalments may be available on WEA courses which are 40 hours or more long. Please visit our website [wea.org.uk](http://wea.org.uk) to find out more about our Instalments policy.

## Staying Safe

The WEA is committed to providing a welcoming environment where everyone is respected, valued and feels safe and secure. If you have any concerns you can speak to your tutor or you can contact our safeguarding staff via your Regional Office, details of which can be found on the back page.

## Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The WEA believes that education plays a major role in challenging discrimination and disadvantage. We are committed to inclusive learning and ensuring that all our students achieve the best possible outcomes. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the WEA is a collective responsibility. We expect everyone involved in the WEA to challenge conditions that place anyone at a disadvantage and create an inclusive community in which diversity is valued and celebrated.

## Learner Agreement and Student Code of Conduct

When you enrol with the WEA you will enter into a Learning Agreement with us. The Student Code of Conduct together with the Learner Agreement can be found on our website [wea.org.uk/policies](http://wea.org.uk/policies). These set out our joint responsibilities for creating a positive learning environment.

## Get Involved

The WEA is a membership organisation which encourages our students and supporters to join us to help build a strong voice for adult learning. This is what makes us distinctive and different from other learning providers. By becoming a member of the WEA you are agreeing to the charitable aims, mission and values of the Association. If you are interested in finding out more, please visit the website [wea.org.uk/get-involved/membership](http://wea.org.uk/get-involved/membership) or email [membership@wea.org.uk](mailto:membership@wea.org.uk)

If you would like to volunteer please speak to your WEA tutor, local course organiser, telephone the Regional Office or look at our website [wea.org.uk/volunteer](http://wea.org.uk/volunteer) for more information.

If you can't find the right course for you please contact your Regional Office or if you are looking for a course to support your career development please contact the National Careers Services.

Details of your Regional Office can be found on the back page.

## WEA Privacy Notice

For full details of our Privacy Policy please visit our website [wea.org.uk/privacy-policy](http://wea.org.uk/privacy-policy). This privacy notice is issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Department of Education (DfE). It is to inform learners how their personal information will be used by the DfE, the ESFA (an executive agency of the DfE) and any successor bodies to these organisations. For the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998, the DfE is the data controller for personal data processed by the ESFA.

Further information about use of and access to your personal data, and details of organisations with whom we regularly share data are available [gov.uk/government/publications/esfaprivacynotice](http://gov.uk/government/publications/esfaprivacynotice)

## Feedback and Complaints

We welcome your feedback to help us improve our service. If you have a suggestion on how we could improve our services please visit our website [wea.org.uk/contact-us](http://wea.org.uk/contact-us). You can also contact your Regional Office directly, details of which can be found on the back page.

## **WEA Reading**

Reading Central Library  
3rd Floor, Abbey Square,  
Reading, RG1 3BQ

Answer phone:  
07594 184932

E. [weareading@gmail.com](mailto:weareading@gmail.com)

W. [weareading.org.uk](http://weareading.org.uk)



**European Union**  
European  
Social Fund



**INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE**