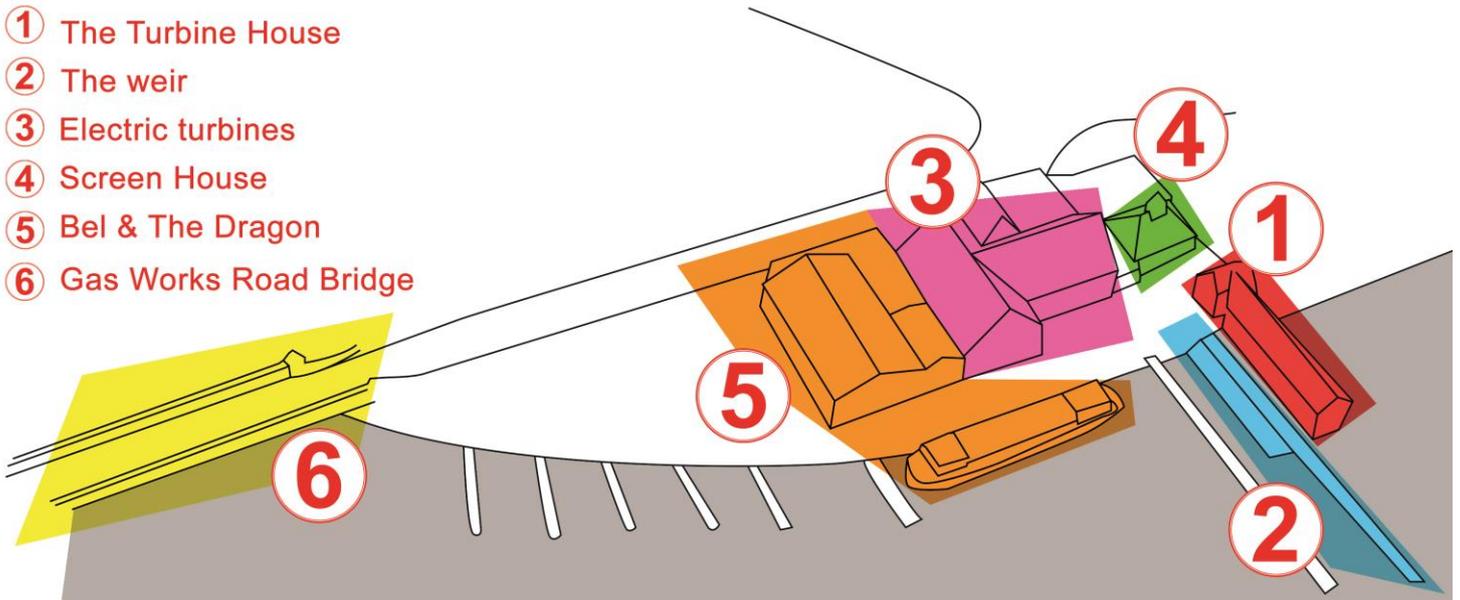


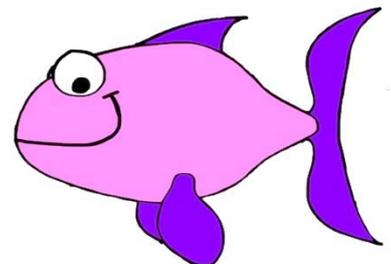
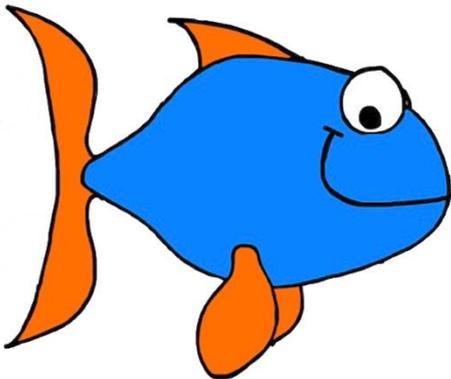
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Reading Riverside Trail

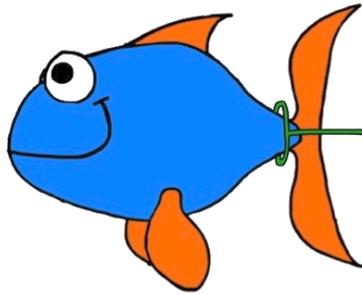
- ① The Turbine House
- ② The weir
- ③ Electric turbines
- ④ Screen House
- ⑤ Bel & The Dragon
- ⑥ Gas Works Road Bridge



*Use the map to find the 6 exciting stations of our trail. We will give you some tips on the way. Look for us on the next pages!*



You can check your answers at [rgspaces.org.uk/riverside](http://rgspaces.org.uk/riverside)



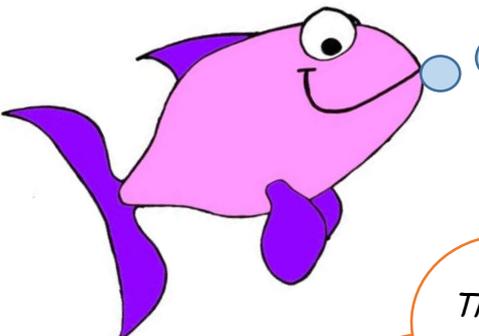
## STATION 1 Turbine House

### Did you know?

The machinery you see in this building used the power of the flowing water from the River Kennet to move three water wheels (called turbines). The turbines then powered pumps which pushed untreated sewage waste from Reading town centre to Whitley, where it was treated.

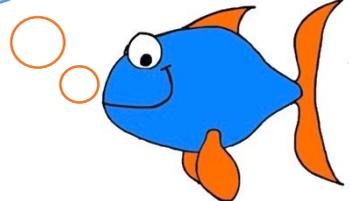
The original turbines were built in 1873 and were in use for more than 50 years.

In 1929 the turbines were replaced by the more modern machines you can see today. They were finally shut down in the 1950s, when their job was taken over by electric pumps housed in one of the buildings you will see later (Station 3 - Electric Turbine).



*Look at the stunning views and the quirky machinery*

*Can you answer the questions below?*



*The boards around the room give a lot of information about the history of this building and its surroundings.*

*Use them!!*



Look at the machinery near the entrance:

This is part of the 1929 pumping system.

Can you answer the questions below using the boards?

- How much horsepower did each 1929 turbine generate?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- How much did the turbines cost? \_\_\_\_\_

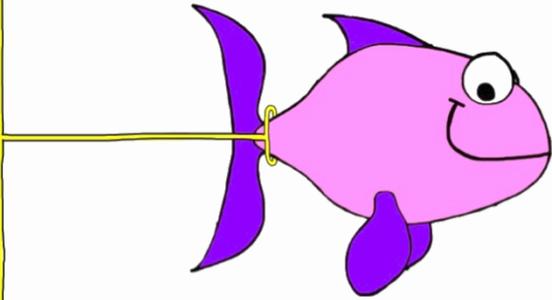
The boards around the Turbine House describe a number of birds that live on the riverside.

Can you write the names of 3 of them?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# STATION 2

## The weir



### Did you know?

The weir at Blake's Lock has been there since medieval times. The weir is a simple 'paddles and rymers' construction.

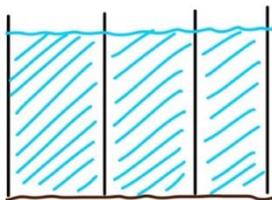


Fig 1

The rymers are the vertical posts firmly fixed into the bed of the river (*fig. 1*).

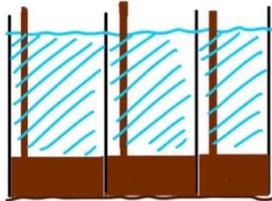


Fig 2

Wooden paddles (*fig. 4*) are slotted between the rymers and can be moved up and down using their long poles (*fig. 2*).

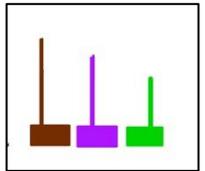


Fig 4

More rows of paddles can be added on top of each other to let less water pass through the weir (*fig. 3*)

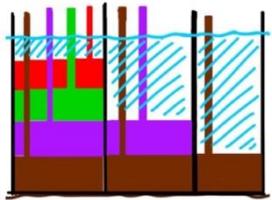


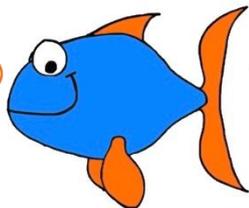
Fig 3

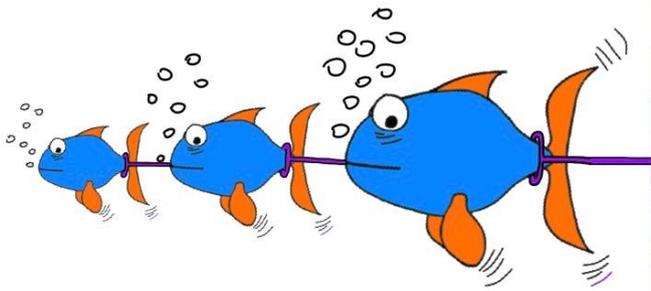
This system was a big help in reducing the risk of flooding in the area.

A fish-pass was installed in 1995 to help which kind of fish?

- Cod
- Trout
- Salmon

*There is another board on the fence. Have a look at it to find the answer!*





## STATION 3 Electric Turbines

This building contains the electric turbines still used by Thames Water to pump sewage.



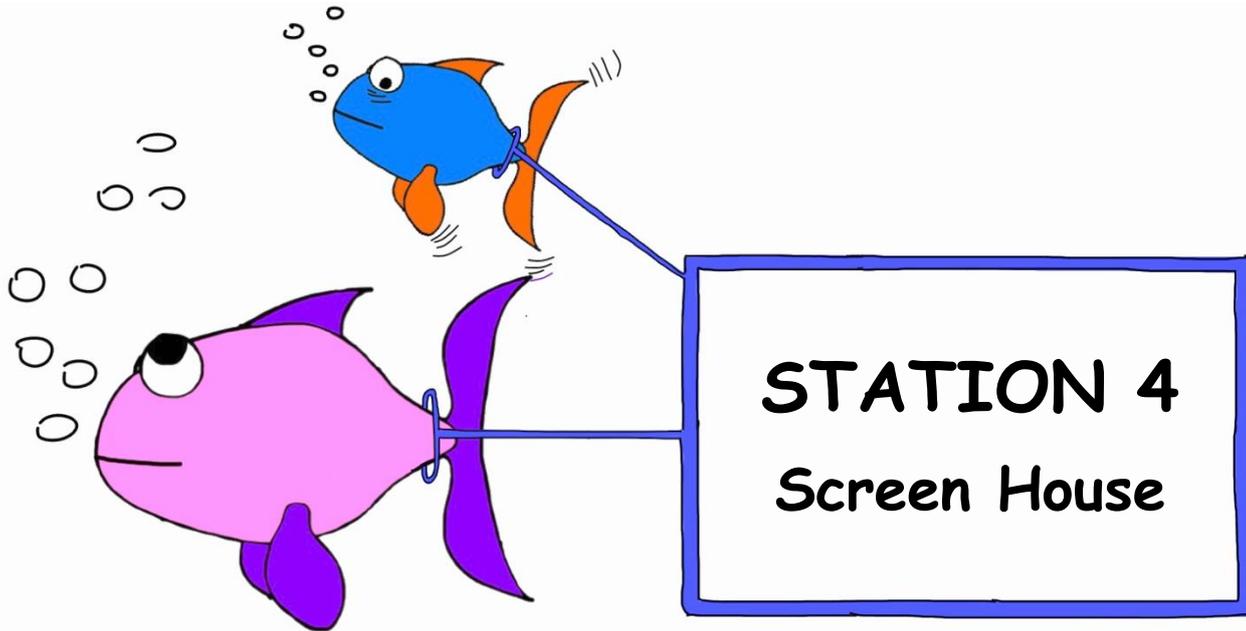
Because these machines are in use we cannot enter the building, but this is what they look like if we sneak a peak through one of the windows. Isn't it impressive and beautiful at the same time?

The Victorians were masters in making technology look beautiful. Even this very useful and practical building was decorated with round windows, arches and stone crests

and the use of decorative brickwork is very much in keeping with Reading's local traditions

Can you make a drawing of one of the windows?





In the Museum you will see objects and images that describe many of the activities that took place beside Reading's rivers through the centuries.



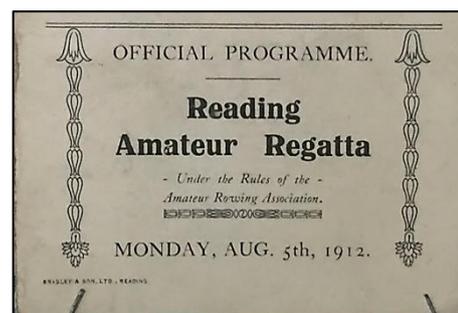
Relaxing on the river has always been fun! In the 19th century people loved rowing and bathing in Reading's rivers during the summer and in the winter sometimes it was even possible to skate on the frozen waters.

Can you find a pair of wooden ice skates on display?

Rowing races, called Regattas, were also very popular. The first *Reading Amateur Regatta* was held in 1842 and continues today!

Who could compete in this regatta?

- Working men
- Professional gentlemen



The river was certainly fun but most of all it was a place of work. Since the earliest times people would gather plants and fish to eat and use the river to transport goods to faraway markets.

There are some beautiful fish on display. Can you write the names of two of them?

Fish 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Fish 2: \_\_\_\_\_



These medieval spears were used to catch which kind of fish?

\_\_\_\_\_

Boats need licences to use the Thames. For a time up to 1974 the Thames Conservancy issued these.

Can you find the years of these two licence plates and write them in the right place?



Important factories also flourished on Reading's riverside.

What was the name of Reading's famous biscuit factory?



And what was the name of the founder of Simonds Beer?

In the Museum you can also read the stories of some famous people important to Reading. Let's see if you can find the names of:



A mob leader: \_\_\_\_\_

A novelist: \_\_\_\_\_

A king: \_\_\_\_\_

**Did you know?**

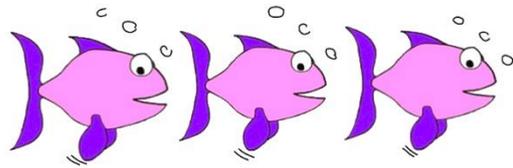
Romany Gypsy families started to live in caravans in the 1850s.

Some of these movable houses were very colourful and beautiful indeed! In the Museum there is a perfect example built here in Reading. Some were used for holidays too.

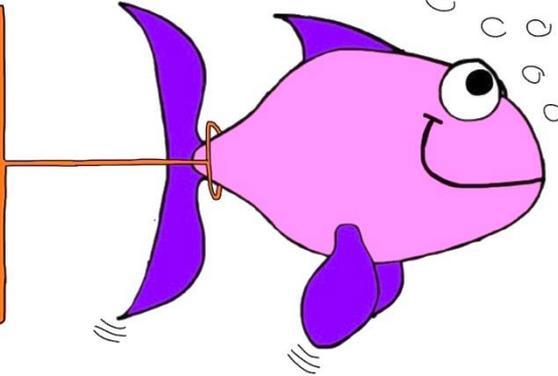


Can you try to draw your own Gypsy caravan?

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a drawing of a Gypsy caravan.



**STATION 5**  
**Bel & the**  
**Dragon**



**Did you know?**

The restaurant's building was once part of the turbine house complex.

If you look carefully inside, you can still see some of the machinery used before the building became a restaurant.



What do you think this one pictured to the left was used for?

- To move heavy objects and vehicles from one side of the building to the other.
- To hang unused machines
- To lift and move people around

Along the iron rail you can read some words. Can you copy them here?

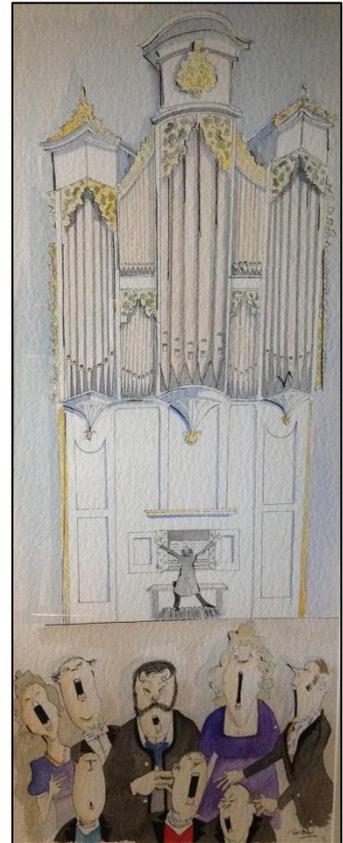
**HERBERT MORRIS LTD**.....  
 .....

The walls of one of the corridors in the restaurant have been covered in watercolour cartoons of some famous people associated with Reading.

Can you find this cartoon on the right?

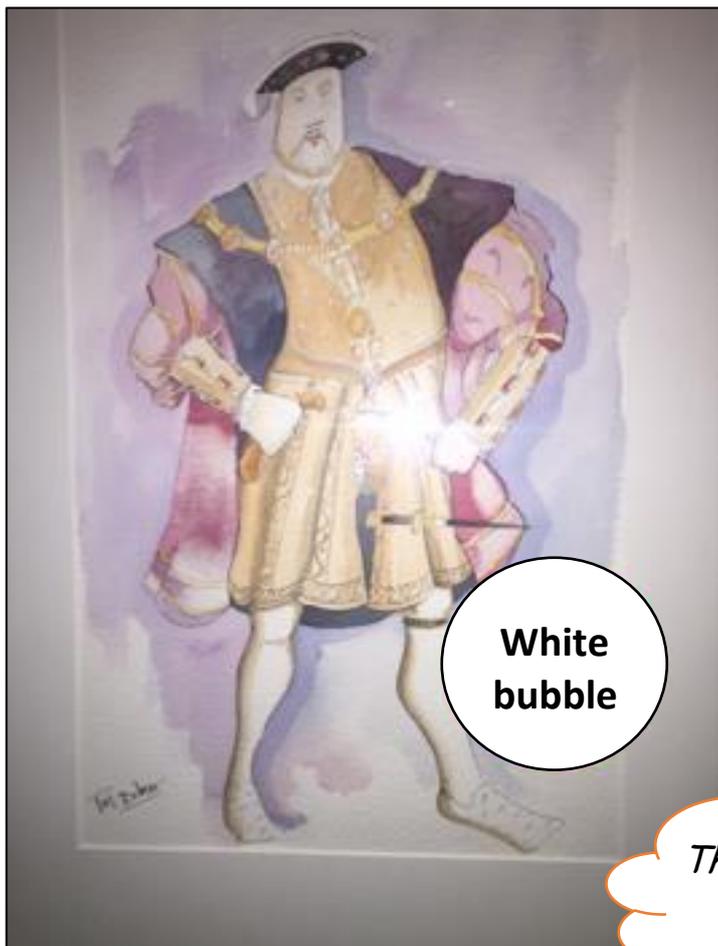
Who built the organ?

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Do you recognise this famous King of England? What's his name?

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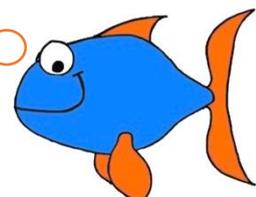


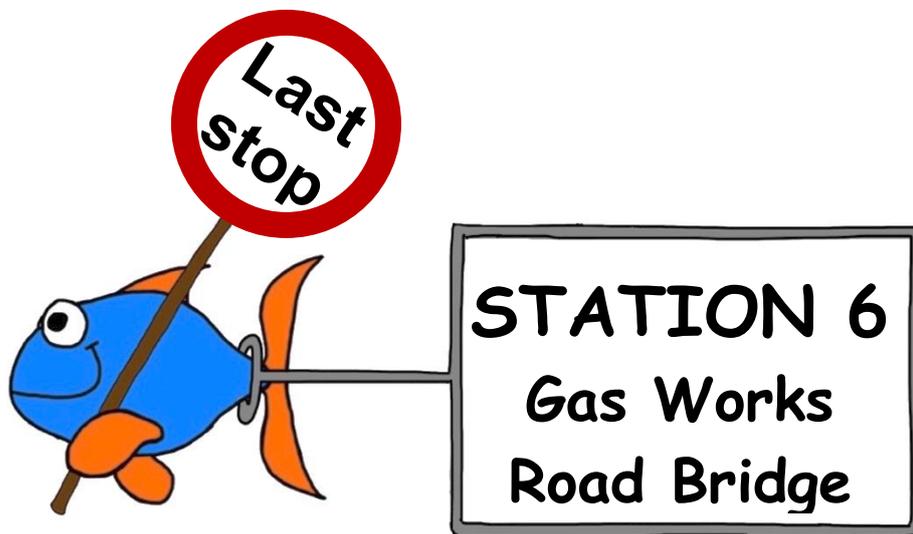
White bubble

When did this king dissolve the monasteries? [Reading Abbey was one of them.]

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*The answer is behind the white bubble!!!!*

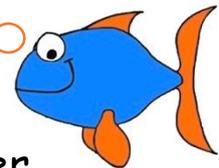
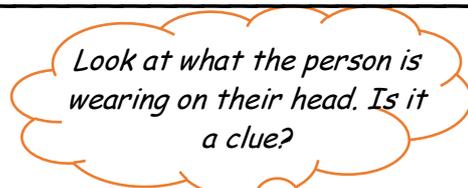




On the Gas Works Road bridge you will see this crest. This is Reading Borough Council's Coat of Arms.



Who do you think is the person depicted in the centre of the crest?



You saw the same Coat of Arms in one of the other stations of the trail. It looked like this:

Do you remember where it was?

Station 1

Station 2

Station 3

Station 4



*We hope that you enjoyed the trail and your visit to Riverside.*