

Trail-making using an app for the iOpener in Reading project
One-off volunteering task for RG spaces (charity number: 1160023)

The iOpener project wants to encourage people to look at their town afresh by helping people to set up short walking trails in Reading and publishing trails online to be used on people's smartphones and tablets. See <http://iopener.org.uk> for examples of trails. At the moment (April 2015) there are several trails that we'd like to complete and we would also like to make more trails and get further experience in using this technology.

We are looking for two volunteers who can spend a few hours going round the centre of Reading taking photographs at designated trail stops and then uploading them and other information onto the trail system.

Volunteers must have these skills:

- Confidence going around town taking photographs, courteous with other people and safety aware.
- Ability to work methodically
- Happy working alone
- Happy working alongside another person when editing the trails
- Experience with using a smartphone or tablet such as an iPad
- An eye for an interesting photograph
- Ability and willingness to learn about the trail app and then use it to edit trails on a laptop PC

Each volunteer will spend a minimum of 10 hours in total on the tasks which are

- Meet with the project leader to learn about the app, be allocated a trail to work on and agree a schedule for the further tasks. This meeting will be in central Reading, probably based at Reading Museum or Reading Central Library (Around 1 hour)

For each trail allocated to the volunteer:

- Take photos at the designated stops. The volunteer will be given a list of trail stops and lent an iPad to do this. (Around 1-2 hours)
- Meet with the project leader or another volunteer to select and upload photos to the trail map, edit the trail itself and possibly add further text or sound via the online system. (Around 1-2 hours)

When this stage takes place can be flexible to suit the volunteer. The time taken for each step depends on the complexity of the particular trail. We envisage each volunteer completing one or two existing trails.

Once this is done and the volunteer is familiar with the app the volunteer will

- Think of some topic for another trail. This could be in the centre of Reading again or near where they live, for example
- Walk round using the app (on their own smartphone or a loaned device) creating a trail of around 10 stops in real time (the app doing the tracking and the volunteer taking relevant photos, audio, video)

This stage should take around 2 hours.

There will be feedback session lasting about an hour where the volunteers each describe their experiences on using the app and discuss the practicalities with the project leader.