

From Steph Weller:

Reading's Royal Burial - Boat and skipper needed!

As part of the Reading on Thames Festival in September, theatre company 'Reading Between the Lines' will be bringing the "body" of Henry I down the Kennet through the Oracle on September 15th. It will be quite a spectacle - there'll be an 80 strong youth choir, flaming torches, and performances from our cast of actors. The high-profile event is free but ticketed, with 500 tickets being released initially.

Information about the show can be found on

<http://www.readingbetweenthelines.co.uk/RBLProductionDetail.php?> and

<http://readingplaceofculture.org/reading-on-thames-festival/>

Date: Friday September 15th

Time: Performance is 7.30pm-8.15pm, but we'd need the boat and skipper during the day for a rehearsal or two.

Location: The Oracle, Reading

Route: From County Lock down to Yield Hall Place Bridge/Blakes Lock

I am absolutely not an expert on boats, but what I think we need is a powered (rather than rowed) wooden boat, capable of fitting in a coffin type prop (most likely a large man-sized box draped in a cloth), and open topped so that people can see into it. My original hope was that we would have one or two people in the boat holding flaming torches, but I think we will stick to those being held by members of the cast and choir!

Having looked at the gallery on the Thames Vintage Boat Club website (what a lot of amazing boats there are on it!), I've identified ones that look like they may fit the bill, although I think some of them are probably not quite big enough to fit in the body/coffin.

- Atta Boy
- D'River
- Daphne
- Debonair
- Duchess of Argyll
- Hussar
- Moiety
- Pierrette
- Rainbow

I'm aware though that there will be many more boats on your database than are on your website!

If any of your members would be interested in providing the climactic moment for the event, then please do ask them to get in touch via stephjweller@gmail.com. I'm currently in talks with the Canal Authority about closing that bit of the Kennet for the event, but before I get any further I need to confirm the boat!

Steph Weller

Independent Producer
07761 972338
@StephWeller