

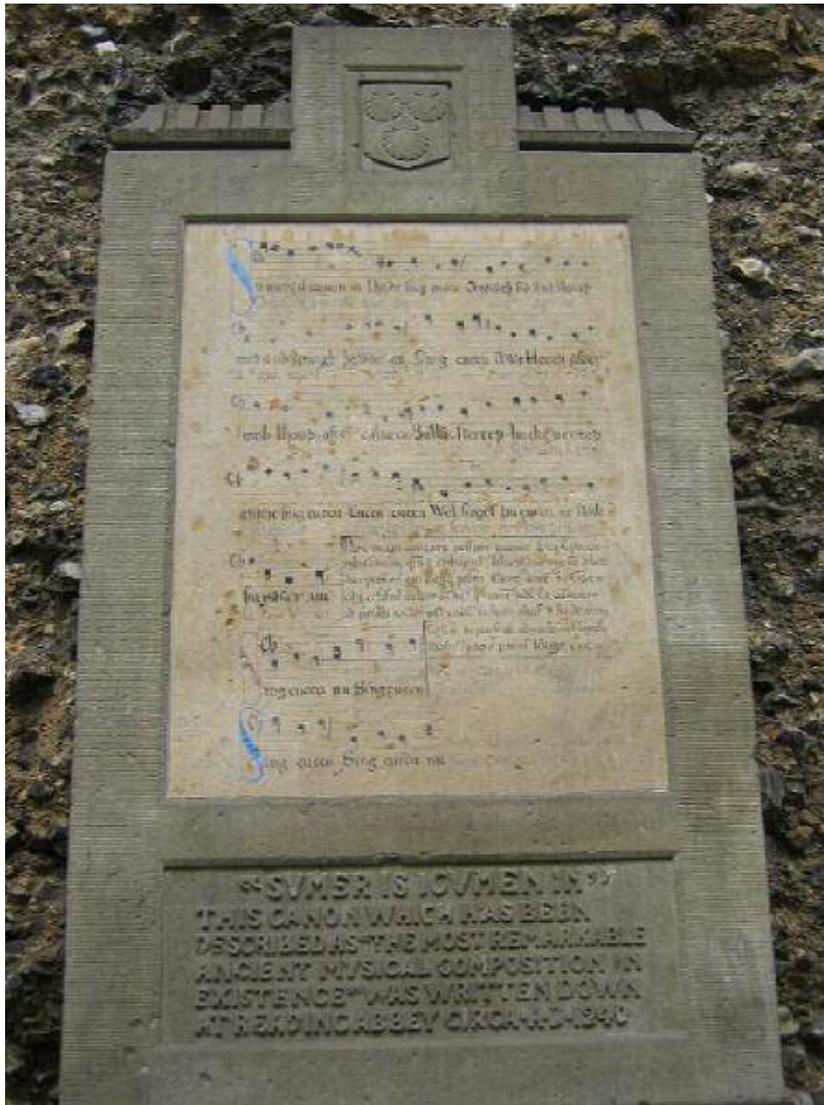
Sculptures
in Reading
town centre

The Trooper Potts VC Memorial Site



Sumer is icumen in

William Silver Frith



Located on the ruined north wall of the chapter house of Reading Abbey, the panel commemorates the earliest known round which is closely related to Reading Abbey. The panel is made of yellow magnesium limestone and blue Forest of Dean stone and erected in 1913.

The architect was William Ravenscroft and the sculptor William Silver Frith.

"Sumer Is Icoumen In" is a traditional English round and possibly the oldest such example of counterpoint in existence.

The round is sometimes known as the Reading Rota because the manuscript comes from Reading Abbey though it may not have been written there. It is the oldest piece of six-part polyphonic music (Albright, 1994). Its composer is anonymous, possibly W. de Wycombe, and it is estimated to date from around 1260. The manuscript is now at the British Library. The language is Middle English, more exactly Wessex dialect.