THE FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
READING

President: The Chancellor of the University
Chairman: Dr C.G. Gayford, PhD, MEd, BSc
Vice-Chairman: Mr D.G. Wood, CEng, MIET
Secretary: Mr P.J. Must, BA
Membership Secretary: Mrs B.L. Morris, BA, AMInstLM
Treasurer: Mr R.C Austin

In 1926, the year in which the University obtained its Royal Charter, the Council of the University approved a proposal that an Association, to be called The Friends of The University of Reading should be formed, on an entirely voluntary and unofficial basis, with the object of bringing friends and supporters into contact with the University, and of enabling them to promote its interests and welfare. The Association came into existence at a public meeting held at the University on 15 March 1927.

Since that day individuals who wish the University well have become members of the Association and, through their subscriptions and support, have been able to help the University by funding amenities and activities and through their advocacy of the University’s interests.

The Association is managed by its own Executive Committee and controls its own funds. Its income, which is derived from subscriptions and donations received from members, is used to assist the University in concrete ways. At their Yearly Meeting members consider recommendations for expenditure put forward by Schools, the Vice-Chancellor, Departments, Halls and students. Numerous projects have been aided by The Friends such as: the bridge across the upper lake in Whiteknights and its refurbishment; contributions towards refurbishing the organ in the Great Hall and ceremonial furniture for use there; paintings in the new Agricultural building; music stands for concerts; paintings for the Enterprise Hub; display cabinets for the Main Library and numerous other departments; benches for Foxhill House; a safety launch and other items for the Boat Club and covers for the SportsPark cricket pitch.

Twice a year the University provides the venue for The Friends to meet, to visit a part of the University or listen to a talk given by an eminent member of staff and to have tea. The Yearly Meeting, preceded by tea, is held in the Summer Term. The Friends arrange other events and excursions for members, and are invited to join in other events organised by the Events and Alumni Offices, to receive other mailings from the University and to attend public lectures.
Membership is open to all, including current and retired members of University staff, any individual, company or organisation on payment of an annual subscription of not less than £20 for single membership and £30 for joint membership at the same address. Facilities are available for payment by standing order mandate and for members to enter into a covenant whereby the Association is able to recover the tax element of their subscription. Further details of the Association and an application form are available from the Membership Secretary:

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