

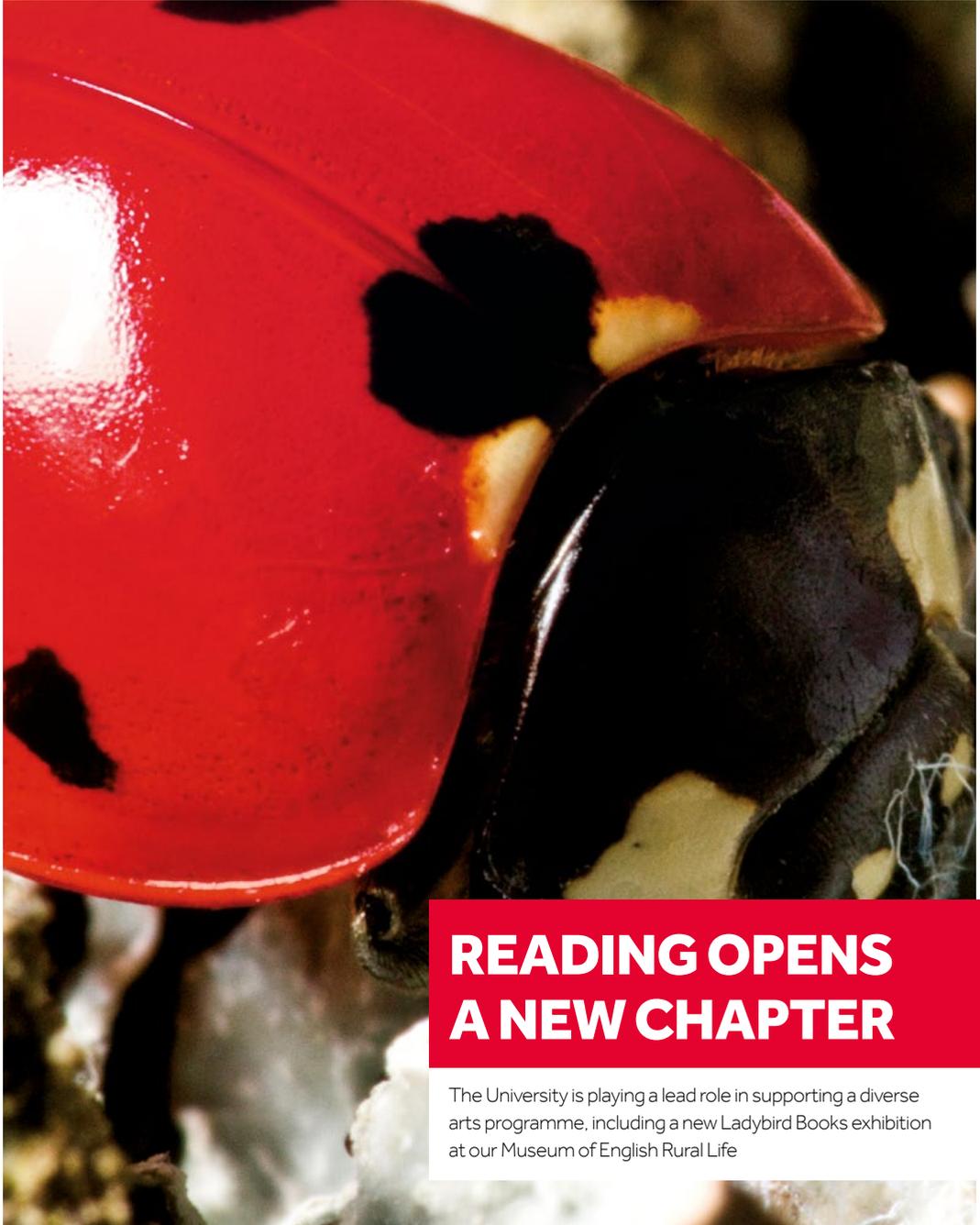


University of
Reading

FEB
2017

CONNECTING THE UNIVERSITY WITH THE LOCAL

community



READING OPENS A NEW CHAPTER

The University is playing a lead role in supporting a diverse arts programme, including a new Ladybird Books exhibition at our Museum of English Rural Life

MORE THAN A WALK IN THE PARK

Make the most of having a university in the top 1% worldwide on your doorstep.

Our scenic lake, woodland and gardens are set in a beautiful 130-hectare parkland campus, all open for you to relax, unwind and explore.

But it's not just for dog walkers and duck feeders. Hundreds of public lectures, concerts and art exhibitions happen on campus each year, making it the perfect place to stretch your legs and your mind.

With a vibrant SportsPark, three interactive museums and an independent cinema all on campus, make sure you're an active part of our growing community.

**Find out more:
www.reading.ac.uk**

WELCOME

Welcome to the University of Reading's Community magazine. Following Ann Westgarth's retirement last year, I'd like to introduce myself as the new Community Relations Officer. I've been meeting many people in the community since I started at the University in July 2016, and if I haven't met you yet, I hope to soon.

We are proud of our strong relations with the local community and our contribution to the town and region. From the thousands of students who choose to make Reading their home, to University investment into world-class art, health and business, we continue to strive to be the best neighbours we can.

Please let me know of any opportunities to work with the local community.

Sarah Gardner,
Community Relations Officer
0118 378 6764
s.gardner@reading.ac.uk

KEEP UP-TO-DATE

Follow us on:

-  @UniofReading
 -  /theuniversityofreading
 -   UniofReading
- www.reading.ac.uk

Welcoming students into the community

Since the start of the new academic term in October, we have supported thousands of students to settle into the local community.

It can be a big step for students moving into private accommodation and the University works closely with Thames Valley Police and Reading Borough Council to provide key information on how to be good neighbours.

Local residents, students and Reading Borough Council Officers helped to distribute packs to 850 student households at the start of the autumn term.

The pack contains advice on living safely and considerately and encourages students to introduce themselves to their neighbours so they feel part of the community.

The majority of our students go on to have a productive academic year and make a positive contribution to the community, through volunteering in local schools and offering befriending support to local care home residents.

All students are required to adhere to Student Regulations for Conduct which set out clear rules and high expectations for student behaviour.

Issues are taken seriously and investigated fully. If you would like to find out more information please contact Sarah Gardner, Community Relations Officer on **0118 378 6764**.



Students receive their welcome packs from the UoR and Reading Borough Council team





FAR LEFT: Reading Between the Lines production of Henry I



CENTRE: Matt Copson and Alastair MacKinven's 'Eggy and Seedy'



RIGHT: Reading Abbey ruins are set to re-open in 2018. Credit: Reading Borough Council



The new Ladybird Books exhibition at the MERL

READING TAKES CENTRE STAGE

The University of Reading is playing a starring role in a three-year project to transform the town's streets into a cultural hotspot.

Under the £1 million Reading International scheme, we are teaming up with local groups, commissioning agency Artangel and Reading Borough Council to bring world-class art to streets near you.

'Reading International represents a quantum leap for contemporary visual arts and its audience in this region. Reading is a great town, but has been something of a cultural cold spot in the past – especially for visual arts. Together with our partners, we aim to change that and create a great offer for artists and audiences.'

Professor Susanne Clausen

The ambitious project got underway with an exhibition of visual art and writing at Reading Prison and will build on 2016's Reading Year of Culture (see pages 6-7) with public displays, artistic events and workshops for residents of all ages.

Professor Susanne Clausen, head of the University's Art Department, predicts the project will put Reading 'firmly on the map' of the UK art scene.

Following on from the Year of Culture, locations across the town will take centre stage throughout Reading International.

Reading Abbey Revealed, an artistic interpretation of the site, will run in conjunction with the planned reopening of the ruins in 2018.

Reading Abbey has already featured prominently thanks to its links to King Henry I, whose long-lost remains are thought to lie in its precincts. Academics from our History Department lent their expertise to local theatre company Reading Between the Lines' production of *Henry I: Reading's King* and also informed a BBC radio documentary about the monarch.

A number of venues will feature in *Re-appearing Reading*, a celebration of the town's distinctive-yet-hidden heritage and culture, while public art works by world-class artists will be displayed around the town.

The University is also set to launch the world's first and only permanent gallery dedicated to the iconic Ladybird Books series in the newly-refurbished Museum of English Rural Life from 11 March.

www.readinginternational.org

 /ri_festival

 /readinginternational

Reading International is supported by funding from the National Lottery through the Arts Council's Ambition for Excellence programme.



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

First project announced

14 February – 13 May 2017

Matt Copson and Alastair MacKinven's 'Eggy and Seedy' project will include an exhibition in a tower block, a series of performances in Reading town centre, a temporary public sculpture, a serialised radio play connected to Land artists Robert Smithson and Nancy Holt, two concerts and the publication of a 7' vinyl record featuring Mike Skinner (formerly of The Streets). Additional contributors will include Ben Wallers (formerly of the band The Country Teasers) and the musician Felicita.

For full details see www.readinginternational.org

Celebrating Culture

Food, dance, literature and history were among the fields celebrated during the Reading 2016: Year of Culture.

Experts from the University of Reading and other Berkshire-based organisations helped contribute to the year long celebration which paves the way for even more artistic projects in the coming years through Reading International (see pages 4-5).

The exhibition saw the prison open its doors to the public for the first time as artists explored the work of its most famous inmate, Oscar Wilde.

Reading Prison played a key role in the Year of Culture, with Inside: Artists and Writers in Reading Prison proving so popular that it was extended by a month. The exhibition saw the prison open its doors to the public for the first time as artists explored the work of its most famous inmate, Oscar Wilde.

Other highlights included the Reading Literature Festival which saw Reading's creative writing workshops and a writing competition for 11-14 year olds, organised by the University's English Literature department.

Reading Year of Culture Partner



← Inside: Artists and Writers in Reading Prison

← The Rising Sun's Flint Giant featured during the Year of Culture



← NME and University of Reading at Reading Festival 2016

Reporting music to the masses

The University gave 12 lucky students the chance to work with the world's biggest weekly music magazine, NME, live backstage at this year's Reading Festival.

The team of budding writers, photographers and filmmakers got to rub shoulders with headline acts like Red Hot Chili Peppers, Blossoms and Two Door Cinema Club, as they captured all the breaking news for NME's website and social media channels, reaching millions of people across the globe.

In a unique partnership pioneered by University of Reading and NME parent company, Time Inc., our students also got to co-create a 16-page post-festival magazine which went out with NME. Titled 'LEGENDS' the supplement included stories and photography taken by the students across the weekend.

They clearly made a good impression on NME Editor-in-Chief Mike Williams, who said 'Creating these opportunities for the next generation of creatives is

really important to us, and we can't wait to give these students their first big break.'

'The University has always attracted students who dare to be different, who don't follow the crowd and are proud to stand up and stand out. This is what makes our students the perfect fit for Reading Festival and this groundbreaking partnership with NME.'

Karen Smalley, Head of Brand and Campaigns

The University is no stranger to headline acts, with the likes of Pink Floyd, The Who and the Sex Pistols all having played at the Students' Union in the past.

To see what our 12 'Legends' got up to, see <https://readinglive.nme.com>



← Thames Valley Science Park

← Proton Partners launch event

BOOSTING BUSINESS

The first stage of the state-of-the-art Thames Valley Science Park will open its doors in summer 2017, eventually providing up to 5,000 jobs.

Funded with an initial £30m from the University of Reading and £5m from the EU European Regional Development Fund, the Thames Valley Science Park will eventually provide companies with 800,000 square foot of specialist flexible laboratory and office space.

With the Thames Valley already home to a wealth of health and life science companies – a cluster of them occupying University of Reading facilities – the Thames Valley Science Park will cement the area’s position as a thriving hub for hi-tech firms.

Aside from the Park’s obvious reputational benefits for the town and region, it will provide a welcome boost to employment, as up to 5,000 people could potentially find work.

University of Reading Vice-Chancellor Sir David Bell said: ‘The Thames Valley Science Park will generate jobs, promote innovation and stimulate growth – nurturing start-up businesses and helping small firms grow rapidly.’

The University’s initial investment is being used to create the landmark Gateway Building at the entrance to the site, due to open in August this year and has submitted an application to Wokingham District Council for the remaining 600,000 square foot of the Science Park site. The University has also agreed to commission design of a further building on the site, which is expected to be completed in late 2018.

Approximately 20 companies are expected to fill the building. The first tenants include Biointeractions, a bio-medical company, Clasado, leading experts in gut health, Dextra Laboratories, a biopharmaceutical company and Fairsail,

provider of innovative, cloud based human resource management software.

Our centre will bring skilled job opportunities that will play a key role in boosting the local economy.

In addition, Proton Partners International Ltd will begin construction work early this year on an innovative cancer treatment centre that will offer specialised proton beam therapy that is not yet available in the UK.

Chief executive Mike Moran said: ‘Not only will our centre bring an innovative industry to Reading, it will bring skilled job opportunities that will play a key role in boosting the local economy.’

Thames Valley Science Park is a critical part of the South of M4 Strategic Development Location, which will create 2,500 new market and affordable homes, community facilities and improvements to public transport, including new cycle and pedestrian routes.

For more details see www.tvsp.co.uk

Access new health treatments

Patients in the Thames Valley will have early access to a range of new treatments thanks to a new clinical trials unit based at the University of Reading.

The Thames Valley Clinical Trials Unit (TVCTU) will be used for a range of trials including developing new medicines as well as bringing together existing work in dementia care and mental health.

The unit has been set up in a partnership between the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and the University.

The three partners have already worked successfully on training for the treatment of depression in schizophrenia, and recovery of comprehension and speech post-stroke.

Find out more: www.tvctu.org

Take part in University health research

Medicines in mind

If you think prescribed medicines returned to pharmacies could be reused in the future, the University of Reading's School of Pharmacy would like to hear from you.

Academics from the department have put together an online questionnaire about the idea that medicines returned by one patient could be re-dispensed rather than disposed of as waste.

All responses will be anonymised before being analysed and everyone completing the survey will have the option of providing their email address for a chance to win a £25 Amazon voucher.

The link to the questionnaire is:
<https://reading.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/medicationreuse>

Please note the survey period ends Sunday 5 March 2017.

For any further information contact Hamza Alhamad at h.q.m.alhamad@pgr.reading.ac.uk



Food in focus

The University of Reading's food scientists are searching for volunteers to take part in a study exploring the benefits of wholegrain oats.

With a healthy heart and gut of high importance to human well-being, the DevOAT study will examine whether fibre-rich wholegrain oats can lower blood pressure and improve the gut bacteria.

Participants will be given free, grain-based breakfast porridge and snacks to eat in place of their usual diet for 12 weeks and will be reimbursed for their time. You should be a non-smoker and non-diabetic, between 25 and 75-years-old, have blood pressure above 120/75 and below 160/100 and not be taking medication for cholesterol, blood pressure or inflammatory conditions.

To take part, contact Dr Manuel Schar at DevOAT.study@reading.ac.uk or **0118 378 6833**.



Reading earns high ranks

The University of Reading's reputation as a leading place to study, research and work has been reaffirmed by the latest batch of league tables.

We have retained our place in the top 200 in the QS World University Rankings. Our position at 175th out of 4,000 institutions represents our second highest ever year-on-year ranking and means we have risen 40 places over the last five years.

We've also been ranked 192nd of more than 20,000 universities in the 2016-17 Times Higher Education World University table, firmly placing us in the global top 1%.

Our students also continue to be impressed with their time in Reading, with nine-out-of-ten respondents in the National Student Survey saying they would recommend coming here to others. Our overall student satisfaction rating of 87% is above the sector average of 85%.

And the future looks promising after we welcomed 4,200 new undergraduates this year - a 7% increase in enrolments compared to 2015 - and saw a record increase in the number of high quality students enter through clearing and adjustment.



IN THE TOP
1%
OF UNIVERSITIES
WORLDWIDE¹



MORE THAN
90%
OF OUR FINAL YEAR
STUDENTS WOULD
RECOMMEND
STUDYING IN
READING²



18k
STUDENTS,
FROM OVER
150 COUNTRIES

¹ QS University World Rankings 2016/17
² National Student Survey 2016

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

We may have just celebrated our 90th anniversary but the University of Reading is now looking to the future, investing hundreds of millions of pounds to fulfil popular demand for places and provide a future-proof campus for the whole community.

Building on our track record for equipping students, academics and residents with first-class facilities, we are investing £200m – on top of £400m already invested in the last decade – to redevelop existing buildings and add brand new ones constructed with energy efficiency and sustainability in mind.

As part of our 2026: TRANSFORM programme, we are modernising our main library, refurbishing our Grade Two-listed URS Building and spending £50 million on a new Health and Life Sciences (HLS) teaching zone. The Arts Council England-accredited Cole Museum of Zoology, which houses around 3,500 specimens ranging from Giant Spider Crabs to a complete Indian Elephant skeleton, will have a new home in the HLS facilities.

October 2016 marked the reopening of The Museum of English Rural Life (MERL), the UK's first and most extensive centre dedicated to agriculture and rural life, following a £3m redevelopment project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The MERL is kitted out with immersive, interactive galleries and is currently partnering with Reading Museum on the Reading: Town & Country 'project, funded by Arts Council England, during which the two organisations will join forces to work with local communities on innovative digital programmes.

In 2016 the University won its sixth consecutive Green Flag award from environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy

And we continue to be proud of our award-winning campus. This year saw us win our sixth consecutive Green Flag award

from environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. The 123-hectare campus is one of the highest-scoring of the 1,686 UK locations to receive the award and visitors, including Reading residents, are free to enjoy its lake, woodlands and the Harris Garden.

For more information visit <http://www.reading.ac.uk/about/2026-transform.aspx>

£ 400M INVESTED

in top-class student accommodation, teaching and research facilities in last 10 years – plus our new state-of-the-art campus in Malaysia

→ Reading's award winning green campus

→ FAR RIGHT: Museum of English Rural Life





Making a difference in the community

Every year hundreds of our students swap University of Reading lecture theatres for the local community to take part in successful volunteering schemes.

More than 250 University of Reading students signed up to volunteer in local primary and secondary schools in 2015 as part of the Students in Schools initiative.

Community Relations Administrator, Judy MacDevitt who coordinates the scheme, said, 'With around 150 languages spoken in local schools, our international students are uniquely placed to offer language support to children with little or no English.'

Last year, our volunteers worked with young people whose native languages included Arabic, Mandarin, Polish, Turkish, Spanish, Hungarian, Russian, Hindi, Korean and Italian.

Abigail Tan, a Pharmacy student from Singapore gave one to one support to Mandarin speaking

children. She said of the boy she helped, 'he spoke so little English he had been unable to make any friends. I realised what a difference I could make when within one month he was happily communicating and playing with other children.'

The University offers a wide-range of activities for local and regional colleges, including events on campus to give college students a real sense of what studying at the University of Reading might entail.

Students can also create and lead their own volunteering, with support from the Reading University Students' Union. Student-led projects include providing hot food to the homeless and hosting tea parties and bingo at local care homes.

For more information please contact Sarah Gardner on s.gardner@reading.ac.uk



Can you help students Thrive?

If you are a local business and a University of Reading alumni or have university experience, you could give our students a headstart in the competitive post-graduation job market.

The Thrive Career Mentoring programme matches penultimate-year students with professional volunteer mentors who provide one-to-one advice, carry out mock interviews and even arrange work placements over each 12-month partnership.

The scheme has attracted mentors from a diverse range of professional backgrounds, and is well appreciated by our students. George, who is studying English Literature, explained: 'The most important thing I have gained is self-confidence and self-belief. I have the courage and confidence to put myself out there in situations where I would have previously felt way out of my comfort zone.'

'The most important thing I have gained is self-confidence and self-belief.'

To find out more, visit www.reading.ac.uk/imagine/Volunteer/ThriveMentoring.aspx or email mentoring@reading.ac.uk

We are also seeking employers to offer internships to students and graduates this summer. We offer financial incentives up to 100% contribution towards their salary.

For more information on the Reading Internship Scheme contact Rebecca Chard on r.m.chard@reading.ac.uk

← FAR LEFT: University of Reading student, Jennifer Sanborn, volunteering at Redlands Primary School

← The VC with our student volunteers, including Abigail Tan, who contributed outstanding hours of volunteering to local schools

EVENTS: SPRING 2017

**11
MAR**
7.30pm



MUSIC AT READING SPRING CONCERT

Great Hall, London Road campus

Join the University of Reading Chorus and Orchestra for their annual Spring Concert.

Featuring Elgar Enigma Variations, and Rossini Petite Messe Solennelle, this is a concert not to be missed.

Conductors: Paul Cox and Patrick Barrett

Tickets: £10/£6 Concessions

Available in advance at:

www.reading.ac.uk/music or on the door.

**11
MAR**
10.00am
-4.00pm

CSI READING

Wager Building,
Whiteknights campus

Ever wondered about
crime scene forensics?

The School of Geography,
Archaeology and Environmental
Science presents this one
day event to showcase the
amazing research taking
place at Reading.

Become a Crime Scene
Investigator for the day and
uncover clues to solve a crime in
this interactive event. Have a go
at setting up a mock crime scene,
taking samples and analysing
them to see 'whodunnit' using
environmental science methods.
This event is suitable for children
aged 14+.

To book a place visit:
www.reading.ac.uk/events

**14
MAR**
7.00pm

FAIRBROTHER LECTURE

When healthy foods go wrong:
food poisoning and fresh produce.

Ruth Barnes, PhD researcher,
Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences

Henley Business School, Whiteknights campus

The Graduate School presents their annual Fairbrother lecture, named after Jack Fairbrother, who in 1929 became the first student to be awarded a PhD from the University.

In this year's lecture, Ruth Barnes will discuss her doctoral research into new methods for controlling food borne organisms. Ruth's research aims to help reduce the amount of unwanted bacteria on fresh food, cutting the incidence of food poisoning which effects around a million people in the UK every year.

For further information, please visit: www.reading.ac.uk/graduateschool/events/gs-fairbrotherlecture.aspx

Admission is free, but places are limited.

To book a place, visit: www.reading.ac.uk/events

**16
MAR**
9.30am
-3.00pm

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION EVENTS EARLY YEARS CONFERENCE

**Intentional teaching, intentional
learners:** ensuring children are
partners in their development.

London Road campus

The Institute of Education is delighted to invite you to this specially designed conference for those working with Early Years children. Following on from the successful conferences of the last two years, we now turn our attention to the process of intentional teaching



and children being partners in
their learning.

Tickets: £95 online, £120 with invoice

For further information or to book
a place visit:

www.store.reading.ac.uk

Or contact:

education-events@reading.ac.uk



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