

**THE FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF READING****GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

The Friends welcome applications from across the University that support projects which promote the welfare of the University and develop public interest in its work. Grants will not normally be made for expenditure which would generally be funded from University resources. **An application may not be considered if all the required information is not supplied.** Grants are awarded on the condition that they are publicly acknowledged and the funds are spent by 24 March next year. Further information on the grants process & previous grants awarded can be found on <http://thefriends.org.uk>

Name of Project Sensory Garden

Name of Applicant Robert Davies

University Email address r.j.davies@reading.ac.uk

School/Dept. UMASCS

Telephone number 0118 378 8660

What is the grant to fund and why is it needed?

The Museum of English Rural Life garden is considered an essential part of the visitor experience; fortunate enough to have a large, safe and open space in Reading town centre the museum intends to maximise use of its garden. Already (with the support of the Friends) we have installed a shepherd's hut which will be a flexible space open to visitors, particularly young children, but also used for learning sessions. We have also created six community growing areas, which are managed by different community groups who are encouraged to grow and cook together.

To develop further the visitor's experience in the garden we would like to furnish the shepherd's hut with traditional shepherding and contemporary shepherding materials. This will provide an introduction into the history shepherding and an opportunity to handle objects that help visitors investigate how wool is transformed from a fleece into a jumper.

The garden boasts very varied planting of flowers, shrubs and trees, but offers little guide to visitors about them. We intend to create coherent signage across the garden. These will be permanent and accessible signs. Alongside the individual plant signage we would like a welcome panel to the garden in the style of a traditional village community notice board. This panel will provide information about all areas of the garden, our community groups and how to get involved.

We have been in discussion with Nature Nurture about creating informal learning arenas within the garden and encouraging children to play outside. Our woodland area has been highlighted as ideal for this activity. To transform this area we require further materials to create a mud kitchen and for similar activities.

Who will benefit from the grant? General visitors, formal and informal learning participants, community groups

Overall project cost (inc VAT) £4,000

Amount requested from The Friends £4,000

If the grant requested is not the same as the overall project cost, please give details of how the remainder will be funded:

Are there any running costs or other ongoing costs associated with this application, if so how will these be funded? NONE.

Please give details of any other funding applications made and whether or not they have been successful.

Our Country Lives, multi-purpose chairs for the MERL redevelopment -unsussful  
Shepherd's Hut application – successful

Please confirm that you have attached copies of brochures and quotations in support of this application and ensured that the proposed expenditure is with University approved suppliers. YES

How will the contribution from The Friends be publicly acknowledged (e.g. by a plaque, website etc)? A plaque will be placed on the welcome notice board.

Please ensure that this application has the approval of your Head of School / Service.

Name of Head of School / Service Kate Arnold-Forster Email address k.arnold.forster@reading.ac.uk

Please return your application to [thefriends@reading.ac.uk](mailto:thefriends@reading.ac.uk) by **22 April with the subject heading Grant application**

If you have not received an acknowledgment within 1 week of submitting your application, please contact us.