

**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 academic resources. 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 **Large Print labels and tactile maps for visually impaired visitors**

Name of Applicant **Isabel Hughes**

Email address **i.m.hughes@reading.ac.uk**

School/Dept/Organisation **Museum of English Rural Life**

Telephone number **0118 378 8660**

What is the grant to fund and why is it needed? **The MERL object collection has recently been redisplayed and this has resulted in a significant uplift in visitors. Among those groups that are now engaging are Reading Mencap and a number older people's organisations, such as the U3A. Although our new interpretation includes much more information than before, we still get regular comments about providing more labelling. We are also aware that we have more visitors with disabilities who might want to experience the collections through tactile maps, or tactile images of the collections. We would like to add that layer of interpretation to our existing offer.**

Who will benefit from the grant? **All visitors would have the opportunity to engage with the maps, drawings and large print text but they would be particularly suitable for people with disabilities, particularly visual impairment, and older people.**

Overall project cost (inc VAT) **£1,500**

Amount requested from The Friends **£1,500**

If the grant requested is not the same as the overall project cost, please give details of how the remainder will be funded: **We have investigated a few companies who produce these sorts of aids and think that we would be able to produce something relevant and useful for this sum. If it costs more than this, we would provide funds from the Museum.**

Are there any running costs or other ongoing costs associated with this application, if so how will these be funded? **No particular running costs.**

Please confirm that you have attached copies of quotations in support of this application. Yes/No **No**  
If 'No' please explain why. **It has not been possible to get exact quotes for the work as we would need to decide on the particular maps and images. We would do this if successful with the application.**

How will the contribution from The Friends be publicly acknowledged (e.g. by a plaque, website etc)? **The Friends would be acknowledged at the bottom of texts, maps and images.**

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

Name of Head **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 **24 April with subject heading Grant application**.  
If you have not received an acknowledgment within 1 week of submitting your application, please contact us.