



University of
Reading



Reading
Students'
Union

2025

COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

A **FREE** ONE-DAY FESTIVAL
FOR THE READING COMMUNITY

SATURDAY 17 MAY, 12:00–17:00

WHITEKNIGHTS CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF READING

rdg.ac/communityfest

FESTIVAL MAP

ICONS

Stage

Buildings open today

Toilet facilities

Refreshments*

Information point

First aid

Water point

The Museum of English Rural Life (MERL)

Cole Museum of Zoology

Sports Field

Neck of The Woods local food and drink experience

Ice Cream

Quiet Zone

Pedestrian entrance

Walking paths

Accessible parking

Public bus stops

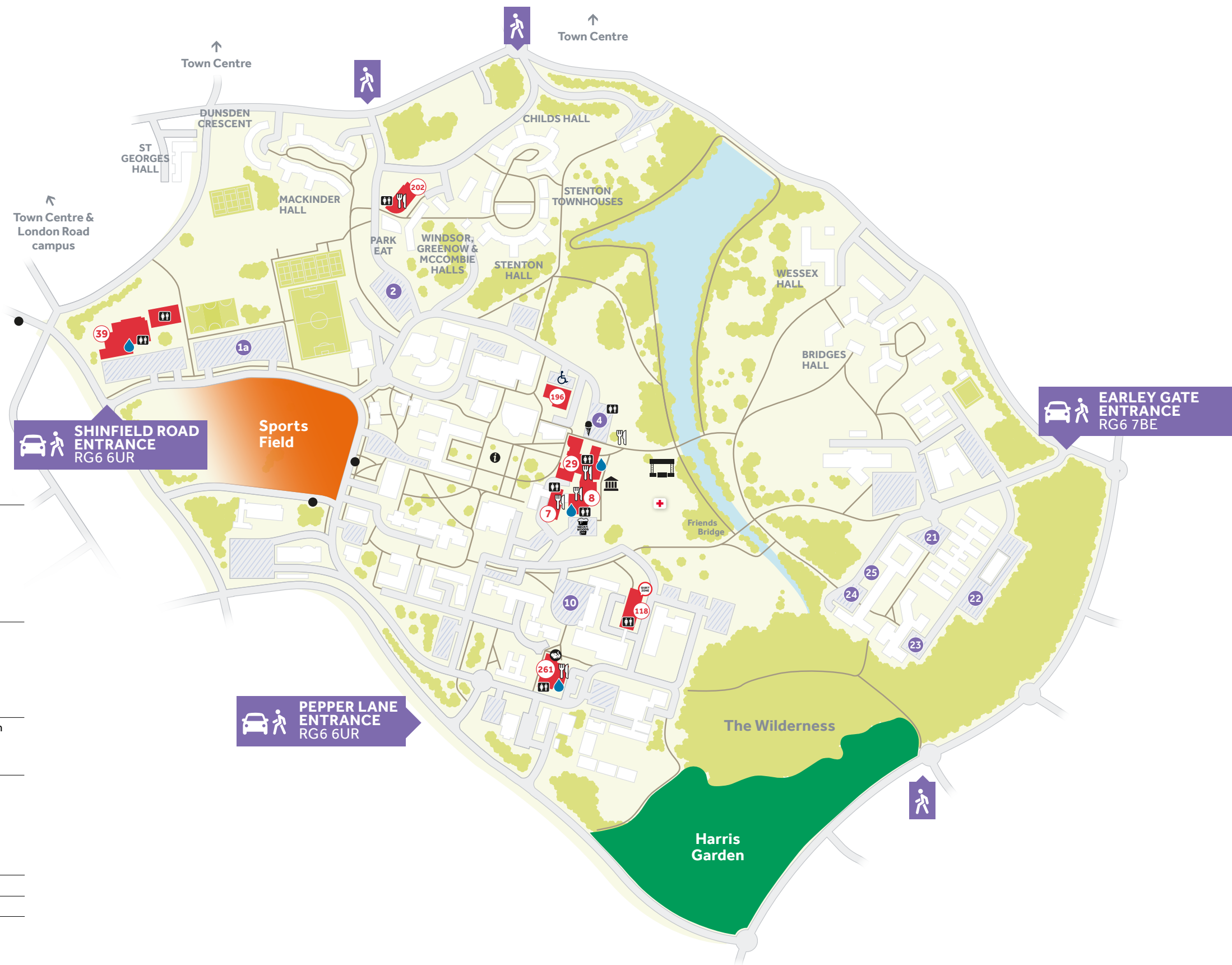
* Please note that our eateries are card only.

FESTIVAL ZONES

Bodies	Sports Fields & Palmer Building
Time	Palmer Quad & Cole Museum
Earth	Eat at the Square & Meadow
Imagination	Reading Student's Union, Car Park 4, Alumni Meet & Greet
Park House	Local Food & Drink Experience
Harris Gardens	
Refreshments	Trilobite Café Dol.cHe Vita UP! Cafe Mojos Bar Park Bar
Support Facilities	Palmer Building: Prayer, Family, Quiet Space & Nursing Room Palmer Quad: Information Point Meadow: First Aid

Recommended Car Parks

196	Nursery Parking – Blue Badge Parking
1a & 2	Main Guest Car Parks
10 & 21-25	Additional Guest Parking





FESTIVAL INFORMATION

When you arrive, check in with our friendly event ambassadors in red for your chance to enter the prize draw!



TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

There are several different ways you can travel to campus:

Travelling by bus

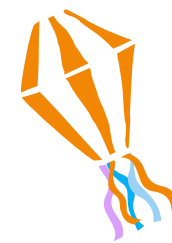
Free bus travel is available on selected routes. Registered attendees will receive a QR code to show the driver.

Travelling by car

Parking is limited due to high attendance – please use public transport where possible.

Entrances: Shinfield Road & Pepper Lane (RG6 6UR).

Blue Badge Parking: Access via Shinfield Road to Nursery Car Park (Building 196).



LOST CHILD POLICY

If you become separated from your child at any point, please go directly to the information point on the Palmer Quad where our staff will help you.

LOST PROPERTY

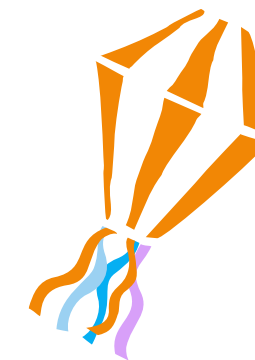
If you find any lost property or have lost an item during your visit, please go directly to the information point on the Palmer Quad where our staff will help you.

FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Filming and photography for University communications will be ongoing. Inform staff if you prefer not to be included.

EMERGENCIES

Call 999 if you experience an emergency and alert University event staff as soon as possible. If the fire alarm sounds or University staff ask you to evacuate, please leave via the nearest exit and stay situated at the allocated assembly point/s. In exceptional circumstances you might be asked to seek refuge inside a building. University staff will manage all developing situations, simply follow directions and work with us to keep everyone safe.



SMOKING

It is prohibited to smoke in any University building. All University buildings are smoke-free, and no smoking is allowed in or within ten metres of any building on campus.

DOG FRIENDLY

Furry friends are welcome to join the fun! Just keep them outside the buildings (unless they're guide dogs, of course).

All activities are suitable for all ages unless stated otherwise. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Activities may be subject to change.





FESTIVAL STAGE

Make sure you swing by the stage on the Meadow – there is a packed lineup of exciting performances throughout the day you will not want to miss, including:



Balamuty & Zorya

🕒 12:00-12:25

Balamuty & Zorya are Ukrainian dance groups of children and adults who came to England during the Russian conflict. Based in Reading, they aim to preserve and promote Ukrainian culture, history, and art.



Kalakunj

🕒 12:30-12:50

Kalakunj presents a graceful Indian classical dance telling the timeless love story of Radha and Krishna through expressive movement, melody and rhythm, followed by a vibrant piece combining devotion to Ganesha with dynamic Carnatic patterns.



WolfNote

🕒 12:50-13:25

WolfNote are a Berkshire-based folk band whose rich mix of instruments and shared vocals create original songs that range from joyful to reflective, always full of character and heart.



The Celebration Hour

🕒 13:30-14:05

The Celebration Hour are a soulful trio mixing blues, funk and dreamy grooves into a warm, cinematic sound—think late-night drives and festival vibes, all wrapped in catchy melodies and down-to-earth charm.



The Daydream Collective

🕒 14:10-14:50

The Daydream Collective are a lively 6-piece pop/rock band with female vocals, playing crowd-pleasing covers from the last few decades—ranging from Lizzo to Fleetwood Mac—at pubs, clubs, and private events across Reading and Berkshire since 2021.



UoR Music Big Band

🕒 15:00-15:35

The Reading University Big Band is a 17-piece ensemble showcasing the University's top jazz talent, performing everything from Count Basie to Motown under the direction of Dae Hyun Lee since 2019. They celebrate the full spirit of big band music while keeping the jazz orchestra tradition alive.



The Stretch

🕒 15:40-16:15

Reading's own The Stretch burst onto the scene in 2022 with high-energy gigs, explosive melodies and a love for live music that's impossible to ignore. With a string of standout tracks like Painted Red (Wash Me Away) and a fast-growing reputation across Berkshire and beyond.



Sundaughter

🕒 16:20-17:00

Sundaughter is a four-piece, female-fronted shoegaze band from Reading, formed in 2024, with their dreamy debut single "Austrian" coming in May and plans for more releases as they make waves in the alternative music scene across Berkshire and London.



FESTIVAL TALKS

Our programme of research talks showcase research highlights from across the University. These talks will be given by Reading academics renowned in their field and cover a wide range of topics at an accessible level for all to enjoy. Some talks are age appropriate, look for the 14+ symbol.



Ouch! The Gory History of Medicine - *Alanna Skuse*
🕒 12:30 – 13:00 📍 Palmer G10

The Secret Lives of Molluscs - *Amanda Callaghan*
🕒 12:30 – 13:00 📍 Cole Museum

14+ Fish or Plants: What's Best for Your Brain? - *Atefeh Amiri*
🕒 12:30 – 13:00 📍 Palmer 109

14+ Buzzing for Wellbeing: A Youth Bee Project - *Ciara McCabe*
🕒 13:15 – 13:45 📍 Palmer G10

14+ Supercharge Your Essential Work Skills With AI Avatars and Voice Assistants - *Fabio Goncalves de Oliveira*
🕒 13:15 – 13:45 📍 Palmer 109

How to Buy an Elephant - *Claire Smith*
🕒 13:30 – 14:00 📍 Cole Museum

Why Do People Live in Cities? - *Lukas Makovsky*
🕒 14:00 – 14:30 📍 Palmer G10

Secrets from the Bones - *Frankie Tate & Anna Wagner*
🕒 15:30 – 16:00 📍 Palmer 109

14+ Jane Austen: Her Novels and Their Places - *Paddy Bullard*
🕒 15:30 – 16:00 📍 Palmer G10

14+ Recycling & Rebellion: How the Romans Mixed Their Metals - *Kathryn Murphy*
🕒 14:45 – 15:15 📍 Palmer G10

14+ Face in the Dark: Eyewitness Science - *Thomas J Nyman*
🕒 14:45 – 15:15 📍 Palmer 109

14+ Age-related Memory Loss or Dementia? Recognising the Signs - *Rachel Ewan-Corrigan, Samrah Ahmed & Sasha Thompson*
🕒 16:15 – 16:45 📍 Palmer G10

14+ What are heritage schools and why do we need them? - *Sharon Mcilroy*
🕒 16:15 – 16:45 📍 Palmer G109



EXPLORING THE FESTIVAL



There is so much to see and do across four themed festival zones that we know something new, exciting and interesting to enjoy. Here's our guide to what you might find when you adventure through Time, Earth, Bodies and Imagination...

EARTH

Famed for our work in agriculture, food and farming, and climate and sustainability, the EARTH Zone brings you the researchers behind one of the greenest universities in the UK, plus plenty of tasty treats.

Fuel up at the International Food Market or decorate a fairy cake with Free Cakes for Kids. Then dig into the science behind the food: explore how microbes turn waste into soil, build your own microbiome, or challenge your memory with games that show how diet affects wellbeing.

A highlight of the day is the live weather balloon launch: discover how it helps measure weather patterns and even particles from space! And don't forget to visit the Atmospheric Observatory for a unique behind-the-scenes tour.

UoR Top Tip: Learn how Beans IN Toast is raising the pulse, and hoping to transform UK diets.

Reading University Atmospheric Observatory Tour

🕒 12:30, 14:00, 15:30 📍 Info Point

Join a guided tour of the University's Atmospheric Observatory to explore its instruments, learn about weather measurements, and see observation equipment up close. Tours run throughout the day and last 30–40 minutes.

Meteorological Weather Balloon Launch

🕒 13:30 & 15:00 📍 Info point

Watch a live weather balloon launch and see real-time data collected as it ascends. Learn how these balloons and their sensors help measure weather patterns, cloud droplets, volcanic ash, and even energetic particles from space.

TIME

Love history? Ready to get hands-on? Journey through the TIME Zone for family-friendly activities that explore everything from ancient artefacts to snake venom and circus skills.

Drop into the Cole Museum of Zoology to meet Norman the Asian elephant, hear talks on molluscs, and explore amazing natural history exhibits. Museums on Wheels brings the best of The MERL and Reading Museum to life with creative activities to enjoy.

Other highlights include ancient board games, Roman recycling, a chance to meet working Guide Dogs and understand visual impairment, and a playful dive into Jane Austen's childhood through dress-up and storytelling.

UoR Top Tip: Don't miss the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology, it's perfect for curious minds of all ages.

Cole Museum

🕒 12:00–17:00 📍 Health & Life Sciences Building

Step into the fascinating world of the Cole Museum of Zoology for all things Natural History. Including talks about the history of the Cole Museum's collections and looking at some of our more famous specimens. Lastly, be sure to visit the pop-up gift shop!

BODIES

Get moving in the BODIES Zone, where sport, wellbeing and play come together in a high-energy programme for all ages and abilities.

Bounce into action in an inflatable suit on the 3G pitch or test your putting skills on the mini golf course. Try your hand at archery and pop-up tennis with Sport in Mind, inclusive touch rugby with the Berkshire Brigands, or football challenges with Berks & Bucks FA.

Prefer a slower pace? Stretch out in a yoga session or join the Kidical Mass family cycle around campus. Then get curious about healthy ageing with interactive science, including 3D faces, virtual reality, worms and even poo!

UoR Top Tip: Head to the SportsPark for rolling sports tasters, demos and drop-in sessions all day.

Kidical Mass Campus Bike Ride

🕒 12:15–13:15 📍 Sports Park

Join Kidical Mass in a family-friendly group bike ride around campus. With Dr Bike on hand to provide bike safety checks and basic repairs. We get kids and adults excited about cycling, improve confidence on roads, and help everyone to have fun and stay safe on bikes.

SportsPark (Open House)

🕒 12:00–17:00 📍 (Open House)

Drop in to the SportsPark anytime during the Festival to view the facilities available for use by local community members.

YogaFitnessPositiveVibe

🕒 12:30–13:00
13:30–14:00
14:30–15:00
15:30–16:00 📍 Sports Field

Take a break and unwind with a yoga class open to all levels. Enjoy a gentle stretch and some fresh air in a relaxed outdoor setting.

IMAGINATION

Let your creativity run wild in the IMAGINATION Zone, our vibrant space for arts, ideas, games and live performance.

Head to the Main Stage on the Meadow for live music and shows, or take part in workshops from African drumming to storytelling and craft. The ever-popular free face painting is back, alongside a campus-wide sustainability scavenger hunt – spot solar panels, bat boxes and more as you explore.

Build your own world in The Utopia Experiment, or take a creative gamble with Ostranenie! where art and adventure are shaped by the roll of a dice.

UoR Top Tip: Visit the Students' Union for games, creative activities and a chill-out zone, and find out how the SU supports students and the wider community.

African Drumming (Feel the Beat)

🕒 Hourly from 12:00 📍 Palmer Quad

Back by popular demand, World Groove brings their exciting African Drumming workshops for all ages and skill levels. Experience the vibrant culture and history of African drumming while playing traditional instruments. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced drummer, it is a fun and interactive way to connect with rhythm and learn new skills!



NECK OF THE WOODS

LOCAL FOOD AND DRINK EXPERIENCE

2025

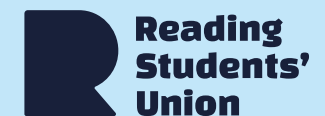
Neck of the Woods is back as part of your Community Festival line-up. Visit Park House to explore some of the best local drinks in the area.

Even after the festival wraps up at 17:00, the fun does not stop! Neck of The Woods is on until late, so why not stick around and enjoy some Stanlake Park wines, Berkshire Gin, and our very own house lager from Siren Craft Brew.

There is plenty to sip on, so come for the festival, stay for the drinks!

Purchase your beverage tokens on the day at
**PARK HOUSE BAR • PARK HOUSE RECEPTION
• MEADOW SUITE BAR •**

rdg.ac.uk/communityfestival



The University of Reading and Reading Students' Union recognises and values the contributions of all those who participated in making the Community Festival event.

For more information, please contact:

Events Office, University of Reading

Whiteknights, PO Box 217, Reading
RG6 6AH

communityfestival@reading.ac.uk

Tel: (0118) 378 6718

reading.ac.uk/communityfest