



By Appointment to
His Majesty The King
Major Car Manufacturers
Bentley Motors Limited
Crewe Cheshire



BENTLEY

Press Information

BENTLEY MOTORS ANNOUNCES BOLD NEW DIRECTION FOR ITS FOUNDATION

- **Rooted in Bentley's Beyond100+ strategy, The Bentley Foundation reflects a long-term commitment to creating positive impact for people, culture and the planet**
- **The Bentley Foundation builds on the legacy of The Bentley Environmental Foundation, expanding its focus beyond the environment, to also include arts and culture and global education**
- **The Queen's Reading Room is announced as the Foundation's first philanthropic partner – coinciding with the UK's National Year of Reading**
- **The Foundation adopts a partnership-led approach to delivering measurable, meaningful change**
- **Further partners across all three pillars will be announced in due course**

(Crewe, 23 January 2026) Bentley Motors today announces the launch of The Bentley Foundation, a renewed philanthropic strategy that reflects the company's evolving understanding of sustainability as defined by its Beyond100+ strategy - one that places long-term societal value, human potential and environmental responsibility at its core. Furthermore, Bentley announces The Queen's Reading Room as the Foundation's first strategic partner, with more to follow.

The renewed Foundation evolves from the Bentley Environmental Foundation, where in just two years the award-winning initiative supported 21 environmental projects across 15 countries, working in partnership with ten

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global organisations to deliver more than 1,600 targeted activities and directly benefit over 636,000 people worldwide.

The renamed Bentley Foundation expands its remit to support initiatives across arts and culture, the environment and global education. These interconnected pillars recognise that a sustainable future depends not only on technological progress and environmental action, but also on creativity, knowledge, literacy and cultural connection.

As its first strategic partner, The Bentley Foundation is proud to support The Queen's Reading Room, the charity founded by Her Majesty Queen Camilla to promote books, reading and the life-enhancing benefits of literature. Through this partnership, the Foundation will help champion reading as a powerful tool for education, wellbeing and cultural enrichment, supporting access to literature and learning across communities.

The basis of the partnership will be The Queen's Reading Room's second pioneering neuroscience study, led by Professor Sam Wass at the University of East London. The laboratory study will examine the profound physiological and psychological effects of reading together as part of shared reading groups and book clubs, deepening understanding of how reading together reduces stress, strengthens social bonds, and improves mental health.

This builds on the first groundbreaking 2024 primary study, which inferred that just five minutes of reading can reduce stress by nearly 20 per cent. This second phase of research will employ rigorous scientific methodology and the findings are expected to provide crucial evidence about reading's essential role

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in national health and community cohesion.

The Bentley Foundation has been established to deliver long-term, thoughtful philanthropy. Guided by the principles of Beyond100+, it adopts a partnership-led model that prioritises collaboration, co-creation and measurable impact. The Foundation will support organisations whose work contributes to regeneration, resilience and opportunity - for both people and the planet - extending Bentley's responsibility beyond its own operations.

Commenting on the renewed direction of the Foundation, Wayne Bruce, Chief Communications and DEIB Officer, and responsible for The Bentley Foundation, said:

"The evolution of The Bentley Foundation represents a deepening of our philanthropic ambition. By broadening our focus, we are recognising the vital role that arts, culture and education play alongside environmental action in shaping a sustainable future. Our partnership with The Queen's Reading Room is a powerful expression of that belief."

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Vicki Perrin, Chief Executive of The Queen's Reading Room, said:

"We have always believed passionately in the transformative power of reading, and our first study revealed glimpses of its remarkable effects on improving wellbeing and connection. We are deeply grateful to The Bentley Foundation for enabling us to go further, exploring what happens when people gather to share stories and connect over the pages of a book.

"Our mission has always been about lighting little fires, inspiring readers



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everywhere to find comfort, joy, and community in literature. Through this research, we hope to encourage people to make room for reading in their lives, demonstrating that these shared moments with books can truly transform us.”

The Bentley Foundation will continue to operate with a commitment to transparency, responsible governance and long-term impact, inviting Bentley colleagues and the wider public to engage with and support its mission. Through the Foundation, Bentley seeks to contribute meaningfully to a world where creativity, sustainability and opportunity empower future generations to thrive.

Further charitable partnerships will be announced over time, spanning environmental innovation, cultural preservation and creative expression, and educational access for future generations.

The Bentley Environmental Foundation

Since its launch in 2023, The Bentley Environmental Foundation established a strong record of meaningful, measurable impact, providing a robust foundation for this next chapter.

Tangible outcomes include the planting of 200,000 mangrove trees in Kenya, the creation of 26 new green spaces across the UK, and the restoration of local ecosystems around Bentley’s headquarters in Crewe through a renewed partnership with The Rivers Trust. These achievements, documented in the Foundation’s first Impact Report, reflect Bentley’s long-term commitment under Beyond100+ to stewardship, regeneration and delivering positive

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change for future generations - principles that now underpin the broader ambition of The Bentley Foundation.

- ENDS -

Notes to editors

Bentley Motors

From W.O. Bentley, who founded Bentley Motors in 1919, to the current team of over 4,000 dedicated colleagues, the company's extraordinary cars have always been designed and built by exceptional people using only the finest of materials.

From modest beginnings, Bentley has moved from strength to strength – in a relentless pursuit of both luxury and performance. W.O.'s vision continues to guide Bentley's beliefs, actions and ambitions.

Located in Crewe, England and owned by the Volkswagen Group since 1998, Bentley Motors remains the definitive British luxury car company, crafting the world's most desirable high performance grand tourers. Bentley's colleagues design, engineer and handcraft five bespoke models: Continental GT, Continental GT Convertible, Flying Spur, Bentayga and Bentayga EWB. The combination of fine craftsmanship, using skills that have been handed down through generations and engineering expertise is unique to Bentley.

The luxury marque is creating a future driven by new technologies, materials, fuels and skills, in the pursuit of a progressive, new world: one in which the highest levels of luxury mobility are achieved with sustainable methods. The company's Beyond100+ strategy promises to revolutionise the company to be exclusively electric from 2035.

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The Queen's Reading Room

The Queen's Reading Room, founded by Her Majesty Queen Camilla in 2021, is a charity championing the transformative power of literature in the UK and beyond.

Through groundbreaking neuroscientific research, the charity seeks to discover and celebrate the unique power of books to improve brain health, mental health and social connection. Its pioneering 2024 study using brain scans and galvanic skin watches found that just five minutes of reading fiction reduces stress by almost 20% and improves concentration by 11%, whilst increasing feelings of social connection.

The charity promotes the accessibility and joy of stories and storytelling, reaching audiences in more than 180+ countries through its world-class festivals, exclusive online content, and thriving community of 186,000+ book lovers. From its origins as a lockdown Instagram book club in 2021 and now celebrating its' 5th year, The Queen's Reading Room has grown into an international movement staging major festivals at Hampton Court Palace and Chatsworth, becoming the first literary charity invited to



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address the British Neuroscience Association's International Festival of Neuroscience, and launching The Queen's Reading Room Medal to celebrate champions of reading in communities across the UK.

The charity partners with organisations including St Mungo's and The Elm Foundation to bring books, authors and stories to everyone who needs them the most.

At a time when only one in two UK adults reads a book in a year, The Queen's Reading Room believes that books make for a happier, healthier and more connected society.

Make room for reading. Because books make life better.

For more information: www.thequeensreadingroom.co.uk;
www.instagram.com/thequeensreadingroom

Registered Charity Number 1201916

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