

Combe Reading Room – Chairman’s Report 2014

The Reading Room continues to thrive largely due to the excellent support that it receives from the community it serves.

Each year we try to knock an item or two off our “to do list”. In 2014 we completed the restoration of the barn and the surrounding area including rebuilding the rear wall and opening up the old privy. Most of the work was funded by a 10k grant from the National Lottery, made so effective by the hard work and generosity of our Combie workforce, Bob Days, Jack Merry and Simon Oliver. Our new asset was put to good use particularly during summer cream teas and so too when it allowed us to hold the annual Christmas tree lighting and carol singing within the RR grounds. The other refurbishment we undertook you can see the effects of around you here, namely the complete redecoration of this main room and also the entrance hall. The work including a number of repairs was carried out by Gabriel Skupin and the marvellous blinds are care of the talented Katharine Groves. It may just be coincidence but since carrying out this task income from room hire has shown a marked increase.

Financially we have had to dig into our reserves to fund the major expenditure items, but for which we would have generated a surplus of income over expenditure. In any event we still have a very healthy savings account of 14.5K. We are intending to use this to refurbish the long room and in particular the lavatories. It is, of course, hoped that we will be able to secure grant money as a contribution.

Although I say this every year it is as pertinent as ever that I offer my personal thanks to that small band of people, my fellow trustees whose diligence and expertise allow the Reading Room to flourish as an asset of which our community can be proud. Day to day we have so much to thank Sue and Gary Golder for, the building and its grounds are kept safe and beautifully looked after. Without this input managing the RR would be so much harder a task.

Roger Purssell
Chair
13th May 2015