

# Combe Reading Room – Chairman’s Report 2015

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

We have our usual well attended coffee mornings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in the month. So too our summer cream tea programme which raises about £725 per participating organisation. In 2015 these were: Friends of Combe School (FOCS), Pre-School twice, the Reading Room, the Parochial Church Council (PCC), Teenage Cancer Trust and the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee (VH&RGC). The majority of attendees at these events come from outside the village bringing in very welcome “outside” funds. We hosted the FOCS post May Dancing event. We held the December Christmas tree lighting ceremony at which our new head teacher Charlie Marshall kindly officiated. Hire for business meetings is going very well and proving a most welcome and rewarding supplement to our income. One organisation in particular has made a block booking covering the whole year. This income stream has undoubtedly improved with the installation of Wi-Fi. We had our usual village regulars in the form of the Parish Council, the Women’s Institute and Golden Leaves. In addition we have had an array of village bookings, mainly for child related occasions.

All this plus the excellent financial control exercised by our indefatigable Treasurer, Jean Richards has resulted in a handsome war chest which has enabled us to:

Upgrade the barn electrics

Buy a new clock and mirror for the main room

Conduct an asbestos survey on the long room (fortunately none found)

And most significantly let the contact for the refurbishment of the toilet block (work began early May 2016).

We are very fortunate to have been joined by 4 new trustees:

Simon Johnson (village)

Fiona Warren (Village)

Rachel Whitehead (Replacing Elena Softley as the PC rep)

Lee Pierce (Replacing Richard Francis as the PCC rep)

All that remains is for me to thank on behalf of all in our village and our friends in the wider community the Board of Trustees for their dedication, hard work and unstinting support. This must, of course, be coupled with grateful thanks and appreciation to our terrific caretaker Sue Golder who takes such great care of the buildings and their surrounds. In so doing she significantly eases the work load of the Trustees.

Chair

11<sup>th</sup> May 2016