

Combe Reading Room – Chairman’s Report 2016

I am pleased to report that the Reading Room had another very satisfactory year in 2016. This is in no small measure as a result of the brilliant support it gets from the village and the institutions therein.

Our fundraising has continued apace with our usual sources of revenue all producing as well as ever. The summer cream tea programme not only helps us but also many other organisations in the village including the church and the various educational establishments. We would be nowhere without our monthly coffee mornings which, of course, provide funds for maintenance and improvement but also add significantly to the social cohesion of our community. What seems to be on the increase is room hire for ad hoc events. In many cases these are private functions but can also be for business meetings with our offer enhanced by the provision of Wi-Fi. We are also proud to be the venue for so many additional charitable fund raising events, for example Cancer Research, Combe Charities and the Children’s Society.

Our main project this past year has been the refurbishment of the lavatories. We are extremely pleased with the work done by our chosen contractor both in terms of its timeliness and value for money. Undoubtedly this improvement has hugely increased the attractiveness of our offer, eliciting nothing but positive comments from all users.

In 2017 we will be further improving the storage area in the long room. Opening up the area in-between the storage and the loos whilst at the same time improving access to them. Whilst this is going on we hope to refurbish the back garden path in keeping with the paved area of the barn. It is also hoped that as a part of this project the old privy will be adapted to provide additional storage facilities.

I say it every year but it is a true as ever that our success is due to the indefatigable team that are your Trustees. Their commitment and professionalism shines through every time we organise an event with the proof of the pudding being in our financial health. I would like to extend my thanks and those of all our village to them, to all who so kindly help out when called upon and to our wonderful caretaker Sue Golder without whom not only would the Reading Room be a much poorer place but the job of the trustees would be so much harder.

Chair

21st April 2017