

Combe Reading Room – Chairman's Report 2017

For the Reading Room 2017 was something of a mixed year.

Unfortunately we still have the ongoing issue of the panoramic doors. On the plus side, however, we now have a much improved Long Room providing very useful and indeed usable space. The self-contained lavatory block at one end is now fully refurbished and much more user friendly. At the other end is a discrete storage area and in between is a very flexible and versatile veranda area. All this has come about due to the hard work and generous gifts of time from Bob Days, Jack Merry and Jon Snell. We are indeed fortunate to benefit from their loyalty and commitment to the village they grew up in.

We are aware that there is always work to be done in making the facilities even better. Thus going into this year, apart from the ever necessary general maintenance, it is our intention to extend the slabbed path and to repaint the exterior of the building.

Our investment over recent years in much improved facilities, for example Wi-Fi, the Barn and the loos has paid handsome dividends. Room hire, once the funding poor relation, was at £6,200 in 2017 and is by far our most rewarding income stream and is still improving.

That we have been able to undertake these works has only been possible because of the support we receive from the wonderful community in which we live.

The hard work of turning that support into cash happens as a result of the hard work and professionalism of my fellow Trustees. They together with our many friends work tirelessly to raise the funds vital for the future wellbeing of this building.

Behind all this is our caretaker the steadfast and brilliant Sue Golder who through her care of the Reading Room and its environs not only keeps everything spic and span but also makes the life of the Trustees and indeed the users so much easier.

9th May 2018