

Combe Reading Room – Chairman’s Report

2019

The Reading Room had quite a busy year in 2019. We completed a couple of large projects signalled in our report for last year. These were the painting of the exterior, both the public and the private sides and the extension of the garden path up to the front door. This latter was beautifully and sympathetically undertaken by John Hunt of Garden Wizard. This work on the path was part funded by two grants, £1800 from Midcounties Co-op and £500 from The Doris Field Charitable Foundation. In addition we were able to get the floors in both the main room and the kitchen sanded, repaired and re-sealed. These works were, of course, done primarily to preserve our wonderful amenity. They were, however, also carried out to improve our long-term financial viability by enhancing what we have to offer. This in turn will increase the hiring potential, thus improving what has now become one of our major income streams.

Again as mentioned in last year’s report, we undertook a number of very necessary “soft” tasks. We updated our policies and procedures to ensure compliance with current legislation and regulations; e.g. health and safety and safeguarding. As a consequence of these updates we also revised our conditions of hire. We also arranged health and safety inspections and risk assessment of the building: e.g. electrical, asbestos and fire risk. We were also able to display some memorabilia items in the main room. These were historic photos salvaged from the pub and an original letter of dedication in memory of The Foundress’s father and grandfather.

We are only able to do what we do with the wholehearted and generous support of the brilliant village in which we all reside. Whenever we run a fundraising event, be it coffee mornings, a plant sale, summer cream teas or a curry supper, the community is there in abundance. We are very appreciative of the way in which our endeavours are so thoroughly endorsed.

That so much is achieved and in such competent and enjoyable fashion is not accidental. It is the work of a dedicated group who give of their time and expertise to ensure that our remit is successfully carried out. These are my fellow trustees so ably supported by our indefatigable caretaker Sue Golder. They all deserve my and your heartfelt thanks.

13th May 2020