

The Reading Room annual report 2023 to the Parish through the Parish Council

The Reading Room is governed by a 1930s Trust Deed and run by a Management Committee and Trustees.

Management Committee: Chair (+repairs and maintenance!) Kevin Moore

Bookings and contact Margaret Hutchins

Treasurer Terrie Elliss

Secretary Phil Elliss

Trustees: Church Warden Liz Bale

Parish Council Susie Crang

Trustee vacancies: 3 more Church Wardens, Incumbent priest (not yet appointed)

Income: Income is dependent on bookings by users of the Reading Room as a venue

Current users: weekly Village Choir; Parish Council; Church - PCC meetings and occasional Church services; Coffee mornings; Winter Warmers lunches; CHADS rehearsals and performances; the School for plays; Electoral Commission polling station.

Private function hire for the room and facilities is also welcomed

Over the Covid period we lost a number of regular and private hire bookings, but they are now picking up again.

Book Exchange: The telephone box outside the Reading Room is owned by the RRoom and has been fitted out with shelving to accommodate books which villagers now can use to deposit and/or take books. Sheila Taylor of Smalls Mead has undertaken to organise and monitor the book stock, aided by Karen Trevis of Chessels Lane.

Future work: The kitchen floor needs attention :- probably a dampproof course and new surface flooring

The Reading Room management committee members are delighted that we have a new team of younger people in the villages who have formed a group called '**The Friends of the Reading Room**'. They are organising social events at the Reading Room to raise funds and to promote use of the building. So far, they have held an 80s disco, hosted an event to coincide with the Christmas tree lighting and recently had a coronation night disco. These events have been well supported and have raised over a thousand pounds so far.

It is so encouraging to have a group of younger people help to keep the building going. Thanks go to Tanya and Kristian Whittick, Joey and Ollie Moser, Jenny Eastick, Alison Edwards, and Paula Baldock (plus Phil and Terrie!)