Reading Room AGM 18th November 2026 – Chairman's Report

Ladies and Gentleman, Fellow Management Committee members, Trustees; thank you very much for attending this evening.

As has been said before, The Reading Room is a core institution in the Village that helps to enhance everyday life. We interlap, cooperate and support many of the other village institutions; The Church, The School, the Cricket Club, Forbes Field and thus the Parish Council (soon including Claybush Playground), the Horticultural Society and the Village Voice. The Management Committees purpose is to ensure a safe meeting place for village groups and organisations; coffee mornings, exercise and art classes, private gatherings and parties and of course the Reading Room is the Emergency Hub, in case of disaster. We are required to fund raise to ensure the fabric of the building is maintained, and running costs are met.

We are researching grants that we might be able to take advantage of, to help with continuing improvement of the facilities. Ongoing repairs to the Reading Room shed are currently underway and also quotes are being obtained for further work, needed in the Reading Room. Maintenance of a building of this age is never ending, particularly keeping damp and condensation at bay during the winter months.

Our Committee has been extremely busy this past year. Our 2025 Christmas Bazaar was another superb success, despite reduced foot fall due to other events being held. The raffle raised a huge amount, thanks to extremely generous donations of prizes, along with excellent ticket sales. We have tickets available tonight for this year's raffle, if anyone would like to get the ball rolling!

Our annual Quiz Supper was well received, despite clashing with the Rugby Six Nations Final; Dathan's Lasagna was exceptional and our guests were delighted with their feast and with the set of questions. We helped run a BBQ, bar and little fun dog show, for Forbes Field Family Fun