

Future of the Reading Room

The Charity Commission has approved the creation of the Helmdon Community Foundation, which will shortly take over the management of the Reading Room.

We are now looking to recruit volunteers – including up to 4 additional trustees- to help maintain and develop the Reading Room for the benefit of the whole village.

Once we emerge from the pandemic, we will need to revitalise the Reading Room in order to keep it viable and providing enjoyable activities for all age groups in Helmdon. As the number of established clubs and their membership decline it will be necessary to market the Reading Room, and its facilities, more widely as well as initiating a programme of events which will appeal to a wide audience.

If you would like to be part of this new opportunity, particularly if you have experience of:

- Building maintenance
- Marketing and promotion
- Events management
- Web site management

Please get in touch by emailing helmdonreadingroom@gmail.com by 4 December.

In addition, there is the possibility that the opportunity to develop additional facilities could arise and that there will be a significant role for the Foundation. So, we would be interested to hear from anyone with project management experience who would be prepared to be involved if the opportunity materialises.

We are looking for both volunteers who would be willing to help in an informal way by joining the teams dealing with the different activities, as well as additional Trustees who would have the legal responsibility for managing the Foundation. If you are not sure what a Trustee does, there is a description below.

If you would like more information or to discuss what is involved you can talk to Paul or Morag Underwood, Angela Goodall or Phillip Ward

The Role of a Trustee

- Work with fellow trustees and participate in trustee meetings.
- Ensure the proper management and administration of the charity and that the Foundation's charitable objectives are upheld.
- Use any specific skills, knowledge or experience you have to help the trustees reach quick and sound decisions
- Participate in and lead sub-committees/teams carrying out specific activities
- Consider applications for funding support

- Promote the use of the Foundation's building(s) to all inhabitants of Helmdon and more widely where appropriate
- Look for opportunities to work with other organisations in Helmdon and elsewhere
- Ensure that the organisation complies with its governing document, charity law and any other relevant legislation or regulations
- Look after the funds to make sure they are spent properly and that the Foundation remains solvent.
- Look after the assets – specifically the Reading Room – and keep them in good condition
- Talk to users of the building(s) to understand their needs and priorities
- Make sure there are good practices in place for safe access for all
- Appoint new or additional trustees, carefully following the proper procedures.