

**THE READING ROOM
SHRIVENHAM**

By an indenture dated 24th May 1905 & enrolled in Chancery 31st May 1905, Alfred Sartoris and Abraham John Roberts, as Trustees of the estates of Walter Bulkley, Viscount Barrington, in consideration of £20, and by the direction of the said Viscount Barrington, party thereto, as tenant for life, appointed a piece of land in Shrivenham containing 5 1/2 perches and coloured on the plan endorsed, subject to any lease or mortgage theretofore made of the premises, to the use of the said Viscount Barrington, & the Rev. Edward Frank Hill, John Gage Day, & Herbert Whitfield Hedges, their heirs & assigns, subject to a reservation of the right of building to any height upon the land adjoining, & to a covenant by the said Viscount to indemnify the guarantees against all mortgages, charges, & incumbrances affecting the premises, upon trust to allow the premises & any buildings thereon to be used and enjoyed as a reading room & library & place of social intercourse & innocent amusement & recreation for the benefit of the parishoners of the parishes of Shrivenham & Watchfield, without regard to sect or religion, according to the provisions hereinafter contained.

These provisions vested the entire management in a committee having powers of delegation & consisting of the person entitled to the first beneficial estate of freehold in the Manor of Shrivenham (the lord of the manor), the Vicar of Shrivenham, & the Churchwardens of Shrivenham, empowered the committee to forbid the use of the premises for political purposes or any purpose which they should deem improper, directed that minutes should be kept of the proceedings of the committee, that when the numbers of Trustees should fall below three, the committee should appoint new trustees or a new trustee, & that so long as a member of the committee was willing to be a trustee, no other person should be appointed a trustee, & empowered the committee to alter or rescind any of the above regulations & make new regulations, provided that the general objects of the trust were maintained & that no such alteration, recission, or addition should have effect until entered in the minute book.

The institution is managed in accordance with the trusts. The building was erected in 1905 at a cost of nearly £700 by

means of subscriptions raised by the Vicar. It has been furnished with a billiard table, bagatelle board, books & newspapers, & is open to any inhabitant on payment of a subscription of 2d weekly. During the winter there are from 50 to 60 regular subscribers

Report made as a result of an Inquiry held in the Parish by an Assistant Commissioner of the Charity Commissioners on March 18th, 1908.