

**Minutes of a Meeting of The Friends of St Mary's, Bacton,
held on 14th February 2008
At Mill House Farm at 7.30pm**

Charity Number 1106579

Attendance: Simon Holdich (Chairman) ; Peggy Boyer ; Janice Shea ; Helen Thomson ; Ian Armstrong ; Liz Varley ; Andy Friend.

Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from Sue and Dick Middleton ; Rose Graham ; Ann Kent ; Richard Peaty ; Angela Friend.

Minutes of the meeting of 12th December 2007

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted on the proposal of Helen Thomson, seconded by Ian Armstrong, and signed by Simon Holdich.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Financial Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, the financial discussion centred around the funds currently held in relationship to the forthcoming quinquennial inspection. It was felt by Liz that there were likely to be several items of maintenance required after the inspection, but that most of them would be met by the Fabric Fund held by the PCC. However, any members of the Friends would be welcome to attend the inspection, and Liz will advise the date once known. Liz also advised that The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust holds funds for Bacton, Cotton and Wyverstone church repairs, and this could be tapped if necessary. The conversation then turned to the proposed project of organ loft, toilet and kitchen, and meeting area. It was suggested by Janice that the Friends could concentrate on raising funds towards the toilet and kitchen development, leaving the organ loft to be pursued via the funds held by the PCC for that purpose. The meeting area could be considered jointly. There will be a meeting soon with the Diocesan representative to consider the work proposed, and again, Liz will advise the date once known so that any Friends who wish may attend.

Pantomime Report

Helen circulated a breakdown of income and expenses as at 24/01/08, and advised that the final accounts will be drawn up in early March, after the return of Rose Graham. However, the expected benefit to Bacton and Wyverstone Friends will be approximately £2,000 each. Thank you letters have been issued to all those who took part, either acting or helping, and posters have been placed around the village and in the Parish Magazine to thank all supporters. Simon Holdich expressed his thanks to all those who acted or assisted in the production. It was agreed by all to have been a huge success. The Company of Friends have discussed the possibility of making the pantomime an annual event, with 16th & 17th or 23rd & 24th January 2009 provisionally marked down for next year, subject to the availability of the Middle School hall for performances and

the Scout Hall for rehearsals. The next pantomime would be "The Elves and the Shoemaker". Helen said she would be happy to be part of the team again, but not to do all the jobs she did this year! Wyverstone members are also known to have found the pantomime very time demanding. It was agreed to leave it to the Company of Friends, for now, to decide if they can do another pantomime next year or would prefer to make it a once every two years event. We would welcome either possibility and give what support we could. Andy Friend volunteered to take on the role of programme producer.

Metal Detecting – who does what

Simon confessed to being a little concerned, as to date he has less than 40 takers. He will chase up his contacts to try and drum up more custom. We will go ahead with plans, assuming more people will come on the day. Availability of Gents and Ladies facilities was discussed, plus cooking facilities and any shelter from bad weather. Andy advised he has a 27ft x 9ft marquee available if required. Simon advised that a few more draw prizes are needed. He will be providing the bottle of whisky for "Find of the Day". Peggy offered to be in charge of the Draw.

Russian Concert

Simon advised he has had no firm confirmation yet that the group are coming, but we will go ahead assuming that the concert will take place on 7th April. The charge will be £7.50 (under 18's £5) and the time will be 7 for 7.30pm. Helen circulated draft tickets, and Liz offered to print them on coloured card. An amount of 120 tickets was thought to be sufficient. Andy will sort out the drinks licence for the evening.

A.O.B.

Simon advised that Rose has booked Clive Paine to give the talks about the church to schoolchildren on the afternoon of Monday 17th March, and the morning of Tuesday 18th March. Liz said she will attend the Monday afternoon session, but will be unable to be there on the Tuesday. She will see if Sheila Wright could do the Tuesday.

Simon advised that Rosy Black had expressed concerns over the sound system in the church, and had wondered if the Friends could provide a new system. Liz advised that the radio mikes have now been serviced, and Rosy has agreed to provide boosters, so funds from the Friends are unlikely to be needed.

Simon queried that no bill has yet been sent to the Friends for the floodlighting of the church at Christmas. Janice advised this had been discussed at the last PCC meeting, but the proportion of electricity used has yet to be determined.

Andy advised he has taken orders for photos of the pantomime, and is happy to take more orders if wished. The pictures he circulated were admired by all.

Date of next meeting : 7.30pm on Thursday 13th March at Cromwell House

Simon 11 20 11