

**A Meeting of the Friends of St Mary's, Bacton
Thursday, 12 February 2009 at Mill House Farm.**

Minutes

Present:

Ian Armstrong
Andrew Friend (membership secretary and newsletter editor)
Angela Friend
Rose Graham
Simon Holdich (chairman)
Ann Kent
Richard Peaty
Helen Thomson
Rev. Liz Varley

Welcome and apologies:

Apologies received from Pip Wright and Dick and Sue Middleton.

Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 20 November 2008 approved as a true record and signed.

Matters arising: None

Financial Report: The report, indicating a balance in excess of £16,500, was noted.

PCC Meeting 20 January:

The hon. treasurer's report on his attendance at the meeting had been seen by all present. It was agreed unanimously that we should appoint two representatives to the Organ Loft project steering committee. Dick Middleton (in absentia, though he'd indicated his willingness to serve) and Simon Holdich were unanimously appointed.

On the matter of the organ loft and associated proposals, the Rector reported that the statements of need and significance had now gone to the diocesan advisory committee and the district council planning department. The Historic Buildings planning department inspector had also visited St Mary's, but had not yet reported. Liz said things probably wouldn't move quickly.

She also reported that the design had been slightly adjusted, so that the pillars wouldn't be obscured, and that David Black had asked the architect if it might be possible to have more than one toilet.

Pantomime:

Simon thanked all who had helped make it another great success.

Rose reported that the accounts weren't yet complete, but it looked as if we and the Friends of St George's, Wyverstone, could each expect to receive somewhere in the region of twelve- to fourteen-hundred pounds. It would be less than last year because costs had been considerably greater. For example, extra sound and lighting equipment had been hired in.

She confirmed that it is hoped to stage a panto again next year, but said more people are needed. Some who've worked very hard on Aladdin and now Cinderella want to take a break.

Rose also raised the matter of insurance of the stage sets and props stored in James and Penny Black's barn (premium £97-13 per annum) and a proposed contribution of £50 to the Friends of St Andrews, Wickham Skeith, for valuable help with costumes given by three seamstresses from that parish. We would effectively pay half of these two extra "costs"; Wyverstone the other half. It was agreed unanimously that we should.

Metal Detecting Day – 15th March.

The chairman reported that the Wilson family had kindly agreed to let us use land at Bacton Hall Farm, and that the event was fully subscribed, with several applicants already turned away. He remarked that spring had proved a very popular time of year with metal detectorists, and that if we are able to do it again, we might raise the price from £12-50 to £15-00.

Anyone available to help on the day will be needed. Detailed duties to be fixed at next meeting or by informal contact.

AOB – School Talk:

Clive Paine being retired now and unavailable, this has presented some difficulty for us. However, the Rector said she would be pleased to give the talk – or talks – this year, on a day or days to be arranged. She said she would not accept any fee. Noted with gratitude.

AOB – RAF Honington Band Concert: April 25:

Rose emphasised that this should not be represented as a serious concert, but as an entertainment, by a very gifted and funny band-leader. It will be a celebration of St George. Suggested people might be asked to wear red and white (in part at least) and wave flags of St George. Agreed that we should provide and sell drinks (possibly mulled wine) and food.

Andrew Friend to apply for drinks licence, and to check that our music licence is still valid.

Agreed that Rose should buy 50 flags (at a cost of about 30p each), to be given away with programmes, for which there will be a charge.

Agreed that the ticket price should be £5-00, with under-16s free.

(Chairman's note: This decision was founded on the belief that the band were going to charge £150. I have subsequently been reminded that we actually agreed to pay £300. So perhaps we should revisit the question of ticket price at our March meeting).

Simon said we must make a serious attempt to market this concert effectively, making sure that groups like the RBL and the Lions' Club are aware of it in good time.

Helen agreed to take charge of publicity for the event.

AOB – Quinquennial Report:

Members present all saw the report's conclusions on work which should be given Priority A (i.e. things which should be done in the next twelve-month) and Priority B (2-5 years). It was generally agreed that there was a great deal to be done, which arguably should have priority over spending on the internal developments. It was also agreed that it was for the PCC to indicate how they proposed to proceed.

Liz Varley suggested the Organ Loft steering group or committee (see above) should actually be a joint fabric committee (PCC and Friends), subject to PCC approval. Agreed unanimously.

AOB – Local history society talk:

Rose said Rick Lewis, of Cow Green, was giving a talk on the building of timber-framed houses in the village hall on Monday, 16th February. She said Mr Lewis had been a generous supporter of the Friends, giving all his lecture fees, and urged as many members as possible to go to what promised to be a very interesting talk.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 12 March – The Beagles.

Simon