

**Wheatley Tower – AGM
14th October 7.30pm**

Present: Meg Barbour (Church Warden), Dave Coombs, James Haseldine, Marika Haseldine, Geoff Smith, James Watson (Vicar).

1. Apologies for absence

Peter Bayliss, Celia Pagel.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting – matters arising

These were read and it was noted that Geoff Smith was, in fact, present. It was also noted that the lights have been fixed up in the bell chamber.

3. Election of officers

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|
| Tower Captain - | Peter Bayliss | Proposed by | James Haseldine |
| | | Seconded by | Dave Coombs |
| Ringling Master - | James Haseldine | Proposed by | Geoff Smith |
| | | Seconded by | Meg Barbour |
| Secretary - | Dave Coombs | Proposed by | Marika Haseldine |
| | | Seconded by | James Haseldine |
| Treasurer - | Geoff Smith | Proposed by | Meg Barbour |
| | | Seconded by | Dave Coombs |

4. Fees and Subscriptions of 2010

QP/Visiting bands: £10 min
Peals: £24
Weddings: £100 (£10 to each ringer and £40 to tower funds)

Meg – offered to liaise with the ringers about the potential of selling tea/cakes to visiting ringers to raise extra income.

5. New members (recruitment)

The following groups were suggested as recruitment opportunities
Village/Parish magazine – **Dave** to investigate.

Open the tower to the church after a family service. The first Sunday in November was suggested – **Marika** to give out a notice in the service.

Open day for the village – **Dave** to investigate posters/notices etc.

Scouts – **Meg** to liaise with Dave

Cuddesdon College – **Marika** to investigate

6. Access to and from the Church on Sundays, and for Weddings.

The ringers asked whether it would be possible to leave through the side door on Sundays and Weddings so as not to disturb the services. Meg offered to check the door was shut after the ringers departed.

7. Belfry access and keys.

James asked for it to be minuted that the bell chamber is a dangerous place, especially should the bells be up and anyone wishing to go through the chamber should contact him to check that it is safe.

Geoff offered to make a sign indicating the above which could be attached to the trapdoor into the bells.

8. Future works on the bells

James H informed the meeting that bells 2-5 are hung on wooden headstocks with original fittings and that some of the bolts have seized. Eventually, some work is going to need to be done, possibly fitting new metal headstocks.

James H – to send costing for project and copy of annual maintenance report from Whites of Appleton to James W. Also to investigate grants which may help fund raising.

9. Ringing room

Dave has been tidying and will look at some of the old heaters to see if they can be donated to the church bazaar. He will check with the church before disposing of them
There is no material dampness up in the ringing room.

10. Simulator

Marika explained the principle behind a simulator in that it allows bands to practice without the bells sounding, it can also help improve striking. She reported that it could cost as much as £500 to put a system in place and that this could be too much for the tower. James W and Meg pointed out that there could be money from grants from Wheatley Charities and the Emma Wilson fund, especially if it could be used to help teach children.

Marika – to put together a case for the simulator and investigate possible funding through grants.

11. Extra ringing

It was decided it might be possible to ring a qp every other month or so, possibly 4-6pm on a Saturday. Subject to lack of complaints from nearby residents.

A peal was asked for and the date of 30 December was put forward.

James H and James W – to liaise on timings for the peal in December.

12. Christmas ringing

The tower indicated their desire to ring for services and James W gave the ringers a list of services. We shall try and ring for as many as possible. The dates are below:

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 13 December | 3pm | Churchyard service (half-muffled) |
| 20 December | | |
| 24 December | 5pm | |
| 24 December | 11.30pm | |
| 25 December | 10am | |
| (31 December | midnight) | |

13. Any other business

It was suggested that the Wheatley band ask if the Garsington ringers would like to join practices one Friday a month. Emma Pennington, the vicar, could be the person to contact.

James W has groups around during the weekdays to look around the church and said it would be nice for them to see the bells. It was thought that there could be enough ringers available on a weekday for them to be shown round and **James W** should let the ringers know if he has a group around.

It was suggested that the ringers should have a representative on the PCC. **Dave** and **James H** will investigate.

The meeting closed at 8.43pm