



Parish plea: save jail.

Wheatley parish council is trying to raise the cash to preserve one of its most unusual buildings — the village jail (above).

Wheatley's old lock-up is badly in need of repair and renovation and the experts say it could cost about £2,500.

The lock-up, or Round-house, is a stone, conical-shaped building built in 1834 and used to lock up the village drunks overnight.

The building has only one ventilation point and a heavy wooden door so it was secure against escape attempts by drunkards.

The parish council clerk, Mr Jack Bowring, said: "It is a major operation. If we are going to preserve it for future generations then it has got to be renovated."

He said the council was looking at ways to try to raise the money. It was appealing for help from the district council.

It was also thinking of setting up a village fund.

"We are prepared to face up to the cost but we need as much help as we can in raising the money. This is something that has got to be done. It is a building of great historical importance," he said.