

SUSSEX HARMONY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 8.15PM ON MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2009 AT THE BLACK HORSE PH, LEWES

Present: Milly, Rachel, Jocelyn, Dave Jan

1 Apologies for absence had been received from Paula and Robin

2 Minutes of the previous meeting would be altered to Committee members' satisfaction and signed at a later date.

3 Matters arising

4 and 6 Milly had emailed Paul Myles and Tim Kent but had not had not yet received replies.

7 Jan had not yet had a chance to write a news page for the website.

4 Treasurer's report

The bank balance at 9 October had been £216.32. Since the last meeting income had been £50 from Eastgate Baptist church; pro rata membership of £10 from Mike Cooper; and £36 from the sale of six WGMA CDs via the Marsh Warblers. Expenditure, none. Cash in hand was £126.75. Milly was still owed £142.

The present bank balance was £302.32 and cash in hand £126.75, totalling £429.07.

The hire charge for Malling church would be one week less as the quire would not be meeting there on 17 December. The proposed 20p tea charge would be shelved until the AGM, when the quire would be in a better position to decide whether it was needed.

5 Past events

Sunday 18 October – Evening service at Eastgate Baptist Church – It had been quite cramped on the platform and would have been extremely difficult to accommodate any more quire members. If we are invited there again Rachel would like to have a practice in the church on the Thursday before to see whether we could sing from another place. Dave had purchased a CD copy of the service, which had received several complimentary comments from members of the congregation.

6 Forthcoming events

Friday 4 December – Concert with The Copper Family at the Underground Theatre, Eastbourne – Milly said that Kevin would be attending quire practice for the next three weeks. According to Paula the theatre would be open from 5.30pm. Rachel said that she wanted everyone to be there in time to sing from 6pm and that she needed to speak to Bob Perry before Thursday's practice. There would be seating for the quire to listen to the Coppers after our opening performance. She would also ask Bob whether we could record our section.

Friday 11 December – Concert for Ringmer Historical Society at Ringmer Village Hall – We would be performing for three-quarters of an hour, with readings and carols. John Bleach would be giving a talk first and we would sing from about 8.30pm.

Sunday 20 December, 6.30pm – Carol Service at Malling – Rachel said that she needed to talk to Al, who was apparently “refreshing” the service. Helena might be available for this occasion.

Monday 28 December, 12 – 2pm – Carol singing at The Volunteer PH, Lewes – Milly would talk to the quire on Thursday before deciding whether this event could go ahead. Jan to email “country” members to canvass support.

2010

Thursday 7 January – Sussex Harmony’s 18th birthday party – This would be a proper birthday party with singing from the Birthday Book, games etc.

Thursday 21 January – AGM at Christ Church – Jocelyn said that she would not be standing for the Committee this next year. Jan was also thinking of standing down as she had a lot on her plate at present. Dave was not sure whether he wanted to stand again.

Saturday 22 May – Sacred Harp Sing at Malling – Rachel and Milly both to mention this event to Al to make sure that the date is in the church diary.

St Giles, Shermanbury – Rose Ferrand had emailed Milly to say that they would be holding the fair again next year on August bank holiday Monday and hoped to try once again to arrange a concert there.

Possible workshops at Catsfield and/or Dallington were mooted.

Jan and Dave would contact Herstmonceux to sound out the possibility of helping them celebrate their 150th anniversary in 2011.

Paula had been busy on the publicity front and everyone had received her email notes for the meeting. Her hard work was much appreciated and everyone agreed that she should go ahead with press releases etc.

Dave asked whether the quire would be interested in taking part in one of the many town festivals in the county. We could think about which, if any, might interest us. It was suggested that Paula make enquiries about Crawley Folk Festival.

7 Any other business

Publicity and website – Paula’s notes confirmed that the website had been updated to include the cancellation of St Peter’s and the addition of Ringmer. She had also spoken to Jo Skull about the possible cancellation of 28 December carol singing at the Volunteer. Paula had contacted the choir mistress at Dallington church and the secretary of Chichester diocese.

Recording – Milly would ask Tim Kent whether he would be available to record at Eastbourne if we had permission.

Milly had found a website for the Lewes Gospel Choir. Their fees were £98 per term and there was a limit of 80 people!

Jan and Dave had received a postcard from Keith and Petra sending the quire their best wishes.

- 8 Date of next meeting – Monday 14 or Thursday 17 December** (whichever suits Paula best), **8.15pm at The Black Horse PH, Lewes**