

SUSSEX HARMONY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 8.15PM ON MONDAY 14 DECEMBER 2009 AT 27 VALENCE ROAD, LEWES

Present: Rachel, Milly, Jocelyn, Dave, Jan, Paula, Robin

1 Apologies for absence – none

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of both the October and November committee meetings were agreed and signed as a true record.

3 Matters arising

3.4 and 6 Milly had subsequently received a reply from Tim Kent and had emailed this to committee members. He did not want to record the quire because it would be too complicated with instruments. Paula asked whether she should contact Richard Davies. He had said that he would be prepared to record us for expenses only when Paula had last spoken to him. Paula said that he was a 'big noise' in the BBC sound department and had his own recording equipment. It was proposed that we should try to record in late spring at Malling, and possibly the concert at St Peter's on 8 April.

Milly had not had a reply from Paul Myles. If he was willing to talk about specific grants – say for workshops – then it would be good to hear what he had to say.

5 Dave had purchased a CD copy of the Eastgate service but the sound quality was not good because the microphone had been positioned at the lectern in order to record the pastor's address and had therefore picked up mostly the bass section (specifically, Nick) when the quire was singing. However Dave said it had been worth the 50p he paid!

6 Paula had not contacted Crawley yet regarding the Folk Festival.

4 Treasurer's report

The statement of 10 November had shown a balance of £302.32. Since the last meeting income had been a donation of £413 from Harvey's to offset the loss of the Red, White & Blue Ball; £150 from the Coppers concert (before we sang); £50 from Ringmer Historical Society (also before we sang). Dave had posted Milly a cheque for the £142 that she was owed from RWB Ball expenses. He had also paid £39.10 for web hosting and £12.99 for a prize for the Quire's 18th birthday party. Expenses for the Coppers concert were £15 for petrol. Some people had declined to claim. Dave had also given to Milly a cheque for £169 for the hire of Malling Church up to the end of the year. Robin asked how much we had left - £660 +. Cash in hand was £158.76. Dave asked for any expense claims to be given to him on Sunday.

Jan would write a letter of thanks to Harvey's for their generous donation.

5 Past events

Friday 4 December – Concert with Copper Family – Rachel was very pleased that everyone had been there in time for rehearsal. Paula asked about recording but, as Tim did not want to do it, it had not been pursued. Also, given the room on stage, it would not have been possible. Paula had emailed Bob Perry afterwards, reminding him that we did other things and could do a whole concert ourselves. There had not been many younger people in the audience.

Friday 11 December – Concert for Ringmer Historical Society – This had been fine, although we could have done with a little more room. The audience had been appreciative and people at the back had been able to hear well. Paula said that John Bleach's talk had been "interesting".

6 Forthcoming events

Sunday 20 December, 6.30pm – Carol Service at Malling – Al was not going to 'refresh' the service so it would follow the same pattern as usual. Jan would email quire members to remind them that there was no practice on Thursday and to be at Malling by 5.30pm.

Monday 28 December – Carol singing at The Volunteer – This was now off due to insufficient numbers. The Folk Club could not take it on either. It was suggested that we go en masse to the Volunteer after the Malling Carol Service on 20 December.

2010

Thursday 7 January – Sussex Harmony 18th Birthday Party from 7pm at Christ Church – Brenda had checked with the ballet people and there was no problem with a 7pm start. People would be asked to bring food and not eat before they came. Jan would make a cake. Birthday books would be used for singing.

Thursday 14 January – First practice of 2010.

Thursday 21 January – AGM – 8pm at Christ Church. Jocelyn said that she would be standing down from the Committee. Jan said that she would stand down as Secretary but might consider taking on Jocelyn's current role. Rachel said that she was thinking about whether to stand down as Music Director. Robin asked whether candidates had to give formal notice and was advised that anyone could stand for any job providing they had were nominated and seconded at the meeting. Usually the reports given were the Chairman's, Music Director's and Treasurer's, however, this year, we would also like there to be a Publicity report.

Saturday 20 March – Party to celebrate Milly's 50th birthday – venue tba.

Thursday 8 April – Concert for St Peter's, Preston Park – This would be a concert with an Easter flavour (being the week after Easter) and would begin at 7.30pm.

Saturday 24 April – possible concert for Scouts in parish church,

Saturday 22 May – Sussex Harmony Sacred Harp Sing at Malling Church – Al has this date in his diary.

25/26 July - Possible St Anne's Day service

Saturday 2 October – Harvey’s Old Ale Day

Thursday 16? December – Carol concert at St Peter’s, Preston Park?

Sundries

Paula suggested that now we are “flush” again, we could make a donation to Malling Church and suggested £50. This was agreed and Dave gave Milly £50 cash.

Barry from Bexhill may be getting in touch soon.

It might be possible to do another Catsfield workshop in the autumn.

Paula would find out whether we could do something for Crawley Folk Festival at the end of June. There is also Lewes Folk Festival in October and Milly would check this out.

Cooksbridge would be celebrating their 150th anniversary in July. Jan and Dave would go out and see if there was a possibility of a concert there.

Jan and Dave would also make contact with Herstmonceux chapel re their anniversary in 2011.

7 Publicity and website

Paula and Robin would make up a more ‘snazzy’ flyer for distribution via Hailsham Pavilion.

Paula has been in contact with the choir mistress at Dallington.

Paula had phoned the Secretary of the Prayer Book Society and written a letter. She had received an enthusiastic reply saying that a mention would be circulated around the Chichester Diocese. Paula suggested that it might be a good idea for the WGMA to get in touch with the Prayer Book Society direct to draw their attention to the music and the existence of other quires around the country. Mike Bailey was the WGMA contact and Paula would follow this up with him.

Paula asked that she be told as soon as possible if she needed to do something.

Robin had updated the website and asked for a copy of the constitution to put on the website. Jan would scan and email a copy to Robin.

Robin said that he had been told that issues from the constitution would be raised at the AGM.

8 Date of next meeting – after practice on Thursday 14 January at The Brewer’s Arms, Lewes. Practice to start at 7.30 and finish at 9.30pm.