

**Sussex Harmony Committee Meeting  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

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

**1. Apologies for absence**

Trevor

**2. Welcome**

Suzie and Trevor (in absentia) were duly welcomed on to the committee.

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

Minutes of the previous committee meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.

**4. Matters arising: Sundries**

- A donation of £50 has been made to Malling Church
- The possibility of a concert at Cooksbridge in 2011 is to be further explored **Action: ?**
- The possibility of a concert at Herstmonceux in 2011 is also to be further explored **Action: Paula**

**5. Brought Forward Actions**

**6. Treasurer's report**

Robin gave an interim report on behalf of Trevor. Trevor is reconciling the accounts provided to him by Dave and will report at the next meeting. Cash in hand at present is £715; this healthy position is due to the annual subscriptions coming in. Some people are offered pro rata subs if they join mid-year or only attend spasmodically. Dave will hand over the bank statements to Trevor.

**Action: Trevor**

**7. Report on past events:**

- Carol Service at Malling Church: despite the previous day's snow there was a good showing. Rachel was very pleased; the choir, both singers and instrumentalists, did very well to turn out in such conditions. SH has paid no increase in its "rent" to Malling Church over the past seven years and it was suggested that SH contribute towards the cost of a new door curtain. Milly to draft a letter. **Action: Milly**
- Carols at the Volunteer: this was cancelled due to insufficient numbers. It was suggested that in the future the choir sings for an hour in a pub after the Malling carol service. Alternatively, it was suggested

that the choir joins up with the Folk Club. To be explored at a later date.

- SH Birthday Party: because of unforeseen circumstances this was not quite as planned but was a great success. A contribution of £30 is to be made to Brenda at Christchurch for their accommodation and kindness.

**Action: Trevor**

## **8. Forthcoming events:**

- Milly's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March at the Constitution Club, 137 High St, Lewes.

**Action: Rachel**

- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April, St Peter's, Preston Park – Easter-orientated event,

**Action: Milly**

- Malling Scouts, Milly to explore

- SH Sacred Harp Sing on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, church is booked, Rachel to print off fliers

**Action: Rachel**

- June: Jan has been contacted by Hazel Tapsell re St Peter's patronal day. It is proposed that the choir does a "Songs of Praise" type event with a few extra SH songs. RJ will circulate a list to check on potential choir numbers and Jan will follow up.

**Action: Rachel**

- Summer barbecue in July, Kate to be approached about using her garden

**Action: Robin**

- 25/26 July, possible service at St Anne's.

**Action: Rachel**

- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, Harvey's Old Ale Day

- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October, Lewes Folk Festival, to be checked out

**Action: Milly**

- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December, St Peter's at Preston Park

- Paula has contacted the Prayer Book Society and the rector of Barcombe has approached us re a possible summer concert, Announcements will be made across the diocese.

**Action: Paula, Rachel**

- Possible autumn concert at Newick (as above)

- Crawley Folk Festival is a non-starter this year as only an outdoor venue is available. To be explored for next year.

## **9. Publicity**

- Paula is drafting a letter for Dallington / Brightling / Mountfield / Netherfield re what the choir can do. This will be posted in their parish magazines.

**Action: Paula**

- A bulletin for SEFAN for instrumentalists will be posted, giving Rachel as the contact number.

**Action: Paula**

- VIVA is to be contacted with a view to inviting one of their reporters (Emma Chaplin?) to a rehearsal before the Sacred Harp day in May.

**Action: Paula**

- Paula has contacted Richard Davies re a possible recording. Payment would be a polypin. There would be no issue of copyright if the Singing Seat were used. A possible meeting to discuss details with Richard Davies will be set up.

**Action: Paula, Rachel**

- Richard Davies is copying the SH festival recording to send to the US. Jan to give him a bottle or two and claim for expense. **Action: Paula**
- A report with a list of forthcoming events needs to be sent to the WGMA magazine newsletter **Action: Paula, Suzie**

## 10 .A.O.B.

- a) The committee will continue to meet at the Dorset Arms; the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30p.m.
- b) It was decided that there is not a need for a dedicated Membership Secretary. However, greater efforts need to be made to keep in contact with members who drop out without explanation. Some discussion regarding the best time to make choir announcements but it was decided that the present 15 minute interval is an integral part of group bonding.
- c) The Committee agreed that there was a need for a constitution. Various points were discussed in connection with the constitution review. However, as not all members had read the proposed amendments in the new draft it was decided that this be postponed for a future meeting. Robin agreed to draft and circulate a revised constitution for comment. **Action: Robin**
- d) Jocelyn is to hand over all the files and archives to Milly who will sort these out and return all personal documents to choir members involved. The scrapbooks are to be maintained. Re-numbering of the present repertoire would be useful. Milly will develop a new method of numbering and present it to the choir. **Action: Milly**
- e) Various points were raised in connection with SH's repertoire; anything new would have to be representative of the period and do-able by the choir. It was suggested that non-secular singing was possibly unlikely to attract new membership. Past events have included dancing.
- f) Discussion re the possibility of practicing in a pub but the possible limitations of what could be undertaken in public places was stressed. To be explored in the future with all committee members researching possible venues. **Action: all**

The meeting closed at 10.00p.m.