

**SUSSEX HARMONY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 8.15PM ON MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 2009 AT THE BLACK HORSE PH, LEWES**

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

**1 Apologies for absence – none**

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

**3 Matters arising**

**4 – Paul Myles** had not yet been invited to a Sussex Harmony committee meeting.

**6– Milly** had received a response about recording but had not yet received a price quote.

Miles had used a recording of Sussex Harmony for the Boys Ellman play in September. The quire had also got a mention in the programme.

**7 – Robin** had asked about the news page for the website. Jan said that it was still on the back burner as she had been coping with a family crisis over the summer and autumn period.

**4 Treasurer's report**

The bank balance as at 10 September was £141.32. Since the last meeting income had been: from St Michael's £75 in advance; membership from Prue of £20 – pro rata for two years. Dave had paid himself expenses of £5.15 up to his 'resignation date'. A Sussex Harmony cheque for the raffle money from the Red, White & Blue Ball had been sent to Lewes Town Council after it had returned Milly's cheque for the raffle proceeds of £41. Rachel said that she had heard from Miles that he had persuaded the brewery to underwrite the loss £413 from the Red, White & Blue Ball. There was now £216.32 in the bank plus cash in hand £116.75, giving a total of £333.07. Milly was still owed £183 less the £41 raffle money returned to her, giving a figure of £142. Expenses before the AGM would be EFDSS insurance of £59; hall hire of £182; web expenses and end-of-year expenses. It was not known how much income would be generated before the end of the year from forthcoming events. Membership had increased by one (Helena) or two (if you count Prue as rejoining). Dave had agreed with Trevor and Helena that her becoming a member of the quire would be beneficial to her CV, and, as she is in full-time education, membership would not be payable. Also, she appears on the website as a young member of the quire. Current membership consisted, therefore, of four life members, one member in full-time education and 20 paying members (whether full or part-time), totalling 25.

**5 Past events**

**26 September at St Michael's** – publicity for this had been a bit of a muddle. However, there were about 45 people in the audience and we had gained a member from that concert.

**3 October – Old Ale Day** – Miles had been very happy with the day. Edmund had been very busy and taken lots of photographs. Dave said that John Simpson (a local beer ‘expert’ and writer) and his wife had come along after learning about the day and they had enjoyed the occasion. Milly said that she had overheard three young girls discussing the morris dancing and saying how ‘fit’ the men were.

## **6 Forthcoming events**

**Sunday 18 October, 6.30pm – Evening Service at Eastgate Baptist Church**

**Friday 4 December – Concert with The Copper Family at the Underground Theatre, Eastbourne**

**Friday 11 December – Concert for Ringmer Historical Society at Ringmer Village Hall**

**Thursday 17 December – Carol evening at St Peter’s, Preston Park** – Jan explained that this had had to be cancelled because St Peter’s was going to be shut for eight weeks starting in November so that new lighting could be installed. The Friends of St Peter’s had attempted to find another venue but without success. They hoped to be able to invite the quire to do a concert in the spring, possibly around Eastertime.

**Sunday 20 December, 6.30pm – Malling Carol Service**

**Monday 28 December, 12 – 2pm – Carol singing at The Volunteer PH, Lewes** – we needed to find out how many quire members would be available for this so that we had a core of singers.

## **2010**

Possible concerts at St Giles, Shermanbury; Warminghurst; St Peter’s, Preston Park; Seaford.

Paula thought that she might be able to get the quire an invitation to sing at the Woodman Service at Warbleton. She would investigate.

Maggie Clune (Two Bins Theatre) had been in touch again regarding her proposed Hardy play. Jocelyn had gone to the read-through. Maggie would be getting in touch again after Christmas. She wanted Sussex Harmony to do a workshop with her cast members to teach them to sing West Gallery rather than Sussex Harmony take part in the play.

## **7 Any other business**

**Website** – Paula said that the website had been updated with photos of recent events. There was a reminder on the front page about the Ringmer evening and the entry on the St Peter’s carol evening had been amended.

**Publicity** – Paula said that she had been in touch with Bob Perry and got lots of Spyboy flyers. Not many leaflets had been taken at St Michael’s but a great deal had gone at the Old Ale day. Hailsham Pavilion was distributing all the leaflets that she left. Paula was thinking of issuing a press release. We needed to make sure that quire

members knew about the cancellation of St Peter's and the addition of Ringmer, also whether they would be available for singing at The Volunteer. The acoustics at the Underground Theatre should not be a problem. There was a good size platform. We would need to be there for a sound check etc about 5.30pm. Paula would speak to Bob about that on 25 October. Paula had put Sussex Harmony advertising material at all Brighton Early Music Festival events. So far, she has had an enquiry from one person with a recorder. She would be advertising at Chiddingly.

Newish member Mike Cooper came from Catsfield so maybe another workshop could be held there, or maybe we could do a Saturday workshop for the Lewes Arms Folk Club (now at the Elephant & Castle). Perhaps St John's in Lewes would like an event, or possibly Iford or Isfield churches. Dave and Jan had discovered that the Chapel in Herstmonceux would be celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011 and it might be worth offering them a concert as part of their celebrations. Milly suggested emailing the Prayer Book Society with our details. Paula said that she would approach the choir mistress at Dallington church.

**Recording** – Milly to find out how much it would cost.

**Grants** – Jan had received an email from SEFAN about a workshop on applying for funding.

**Encore music** – Dave asked whether we could have some different encore pieces. Rachel explained that she had to pick something that everyone could sing without really thinking about it too much.

**AGM** – The AGM would be on 21 January, or 28 January if necessary. It was decided to hold a proper birthday party on 7 January as it would be Sussex Harmony's 'coming of age' party (18<sup>th</sup>).

**8 Date of next meeting – Monday 9 November, 8.15pm at The Black Horse PH, Lewes**