

SUSS-EX CLUB
Notes of the 30th meeting of the Steering Group
Friday 14 March 2014
Room 5C11 Pevensey III

- 1 The meeting was chaired by Gordon Conway (GRC).
- 2 David Smith agreed to take minutes.
- 3 **Present:** Gordon Conway (GRC), Jackie Fuller(JKF), Charles Goldie (CMG), Arnold Goldman(AMG), Steve Pavey (SPCP), Adrian Peasgood (ANP), Jennifer Platt (JP), David Smith (JDS), Paul Tofts (PST).

Apologies were received from Sue Bullock (SDB), Colin Finn(CBPF) and Ken Wheeler (KJW).

- 4 The **Minutes of the 29th meeting on 10 January 2014** were approved. There were no matters arising.

5 Reports

5.1 The **Cheese Tasting 21 February** had been much enjoyed. 23 people plus the couple from *Say Cheese* had come, but these were mainly from the steering committee. It was suggested that a report and a list of cheeses be published in the newsletter. The room in Pevensey was unsuitable for meetings involving food because of the difficult access and the early-evening locking of doors by security.

5.2 **Finances** JKF presented a statement covering the Christmas Party and the Cheese Tasting. The Party showed a surplus of £84.53 and the cheese tasting a surplus of £19.68. The current balance was £569.61.

6 Future Programme

6.1 **Theatre Visit – Pygmalion** This was going ahead but as requests were distributed over a range of dates it was not possible to include all who replied in the Suss-Ex party.

6.2 **Visit to Chichester** There was nothing further to report.

6.3 **Royal Pavilion** SPCP said that the visit will be hosted by Alexandra Loske, who is both an official tour guide at the Pavilion and a part time lecturer in art history at Sussex. She has also just completed a joint Royal Pavilion / University of Sussex doctorate in Art History. There will be a behind-the-scenes tour with access to areas not normally open to the public. The maximum number was 20 but a second tour could be arranged if demand was high. The tour would take 1.5 h so it was suggested that the visit should be at 2 for tea at 3.30, on 22, 24, 28 or 29 April, depending on Alexandra's diary. The tour would cost £75 so it was agreed that the charge should be £5 for Brighton residents (who have free access to the Pavilion) and £15 for non-Brighton residents. Tea in the café would be extra and paid for by individuals separately. There was some discussion about whether the visit could be advertised by email only; it was agreed that a one page hard copy newsletter should be sent to those not on email.

7 Further proposals

7.1 **Ridgeview** The vineyard, between Ditchling and Hassocks, was founded in 1994. Private tours comprising visits to the vineyard, winery and cellars cost £15. SDB and SPCP offered to arrange a visit on a Tuesday in July, with the tour in the afternoon, followed by supper.

7.2 **Sussex County Cricket Club** JDS said he had approached two Suss-Ex members to organise and informally host a visit to the ground after the end of the cricket season, but both had declined. As members of the general public could arrange tours, visits to the museum, or meals at the Club at any time there would be little value added in a visit arranged by Suss-Ex.

7.3 JKF said she was willing to arrange a visit to **the Keep** during the winter.

Minutes continued by ANP

8 Recruitment

8.1 A paper entitled Strategic Review had been circulated by Paul Tofts on 21 January.

The following points were made in discussion

- (a) How do we ascertain what members not on the committee, and potential members, would like the programme to contain?
- (b) Could Survey Monkey be used (JP offered to prepare suitable questions)?
- (c) Could telephone contacts produce more feedback than tear-off sheets in the Newsletter?;
- (d) To what extent should we ensure that all approaches reached those without email (about one in six of members)?
- (e) How do we persuade the University that it would be worth providing more support to Suss-Ex (e.g. by fulfilling earlier commitments in principle, or sponsoring a major summer social event)? GRC would join CMG and SPCP in seeking another appointment with the Registrar, as the latter's effective support seemed to be vital.
- (f) It was noted that some retired staff continued to publish, that their output was supporting the UOS record in university league tables, and that it could be argued that this justified some research-related support.
- (g) Some members argued strongly that Suss-Ex needed to market ('sell') itself more; others felt that more spontaneous memberships were appropriate, but it seemed doubtful whether numbers would be increased without more assertiveness. It was recalled that attendance at 'speaker + evening meal' events had usually required considerable persuasion before adequate numbers were reached.

8.2 **Pre-retirement course.** JP would again convene when dates were known; she would welcome volunteers to speak. Several said they would be willing again.

9 **Date of next meeting.** Provisionally, 20 or 27 June [GRC's availability would be checked].

19.02.2014