



The Clipper



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Home of the London Men of Accord

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January/February 2010

Chapter enjoys satisfying 2009

The Board and officers of the **London Chapter, Barbershop Harmony Society**, extend their best wishes for a happy, healthy and song-filled new year to members and their families and friends.

As we start a new year, our Chapter members can look back at the past year and take satisfaction with what they've experienced. We also look forward to an exciting 2010, including a special 65th anniversary weekend, Fri. April 30 to Sun. May 2.

A year ago this month, the Chapter started off with a new 11-man Board, including two new faces: Secretary **Bill Ainsworth** and VP Communications **Pat Moauro**.

With the help of **Bill** and **Lida Ainsworth**, Pat, the new editor, produced the November/December, 2008 issue and six issues in 2009.

Ron Fuhr was named **Joe Barbershopper** for 2008 and presented with his certificate and plaque by 2007 **Joe Barbershopper Gary Haycock**. **Dave Earle** was named **Mr. Congeniality**.

The **Men of Accord Chorus** and quartets had their date books well marked with singing "gigs" and performances throughout 2009. They started with a full show of just under two hours at Calvary United Church; another show of 1 1/2 hours at Wolf Auditorium Feb. 5; some singing Valentines; a perfor-



New Joe Barbershopper Pinned

Dave Earle, right, receives the coveted **Joe Barbershopper** pin from **Greg Backwell**, who started the **Joe Barbershopper Award** in the London Chapter in 1956 after Greg received the award during International competition when he was a member of the **Nighthawks Quartet**. See pages 4 for and 5 for more photos of awards presented to Chapter members and other Chapter Christmas Party activities, Dec. 12. - **Pat Moauro Photo**

mance at Kinsington Village for the elderly Feb. 16; and a full 1 1/2-hour show for Fairmont United Church on March 15.

Eight Chapter members attended the COTS (now called Leadership Academy) training weekend at Geneva Park near Orillia, Jan. 9-11.

The Chorus also competed during the Spring convention and Dis-

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London Men of Accord Website:
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www.harmonize.com/probe

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The London Chapter meets on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at Harmony Manor, 55 MacKay St. at Langarth Street, London, 519-667-1418.

London Chapter Officers - 2010



Ken Dodge
President



Doug Petch
VP Music
and Performance



Gary Haycock
VP Chapter
Development



Dave Earle
VP Program



Pat Moauro
VP
Communications



Bill Ainsworth
Secretary



Harry Sirna
Treasurer



Gord Miller
Chorus Director



Ron Fuhr
Member at Large



Jim McDougall
Member at Large



Ken McPhaden
Member at Large



Don Orr
Member at Large

2010 London Chapter officers elected, installed

One new face and a switch in portfolios marked the election and installation of directors and officers of the **London Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society** for 2010.

Eleven members of the Board of Directors, including four Members at Large, are shown above, along with Chorus Director **Gord Miller**.

Most of the officers have been returned for another term. **Dave Earle**, formerly Vice-President, Chapter Development, is now Vice-

President, Program.

He trades positions with **Gary Haycock**, formerly Vice-President, Program, who now serves as Vice-President Chapter Development.

The only new face on the Board this year is **Don Orr**, elected Member at Large, succeeding **Doug Davis**.

Frank Knoll, Western Division Coordinator, installed the new officers during a ceremony at the London Chapter Christmas Party on Dec. 12.



First Time on Risers for Reunion Chorus

The **London Reunion Chorus**, including 43 members and former members of the London Chapter, led by Director **Gord Miller**, held its first practice on Dec. 6, working on *Alexander's Ragtime Band*. More former members - and current members - are expected for the second practice on Sun. Jan. 24.

Between the Lines

Barbershoppers, count your blessings in 2010

As we bid farewell to 2009 and welcome 2010, it's appropriate to reflect on the many blessings that we enjoy. Despite a depressed economy, wars and rumours of war, we still live in one of the best - if not the best - country in the world.

Oh, some still complain and grumble about the state of the world, their aches and pains, the antics of some of London's inconsiderate, erratic drivers, and the way some of us on the risers miss hitting the right notes.

It's always easier to find fault than to find things that are going right. Too often, we take our blessings for granted. Human nature seems to gravitate more quickly to the negative and the uncomplimentary, the cutting remark, the putdown. It seems to be more difficult to look past the straw in our neighbour's eye and see the plank in our own.



Pat Moauro
Vice-President
Communications
and Editor

As Barbershoppers - both long-time, highly-skilled singers and newer aspiring ones - we have the freedom to assemble weekly and practice our hobby. Most of us enjoy our Monday evening meetings and practices, and only miss them because of illness or some other important commitment.

I'd like to add my thanks and appreciation to our dedicated, hard-

with **Pat Moauro**

working Chorus Director, **Gord Miller**. On Monday evenings, he patiently directs and tutors us on the intricacies of musical notation, such as quarter notes, thirds, and sevenths, and other terminology that may go over some heads.

Obviously, we Barbershoppers are an aging bunch. We're constantly reminded that Barbershopping as we know it faces extinction in the not too distant future. This genre of music will likely continue to evolve and change. A positive, hopeful sign is the work of groups, such as **Sing Canada Harmony**, dedicated to encouraging young people to take up our type of singing.

Thank you to the contributors to this issue: **Doug Petch** (wow, three articles!); **Wood Hustler**; **Bill Ainsworth**, and proofreaders **Bill** and **Lida Ainsworth**.

Keep a song in your heart in 2010. See you on the risers.



Dave Earle, above at left, was named **Joe Barbershopper** for 2010 during the London Chapter's Christmas Party Dec. 12. He receives his plaque from **Ron Fuhr**, who won the award in 2009. Below, Chorus Director **Gord Miller** receives the **Mr. Congeniality Award** from last year's winner, **Dave Earle**.



Dave Earle, receives his **Joe Barbershopper** framed certificate from **Gary Haycock**, a former Joe Barbershopper.



Gary Haycock, right, presents a Christmas arrangement to Dave Earle's partner, Gary.





Chapter Christmas Party 2009



About 60 Chapter members, spouses, partners and guests attended the London Chapter Christmas Party at Harmony Manor on Sat., Dec. 12. At right, **Gary Haycock** served as emcee for the party.



In left photo, **Barbara Blunt** claims her door prize from emcee **Gary Haycock**. In centre photo, **Lida Ainsworth** displays a Christmas plant she won during the draw for door prizes. At right, **Ken McPhaden** plays the keyboard and leads everyone in the singing of traditional and seasonal Christmas songs.



Frank Knoll, left, Western Division Coordinator, installs the 2010 officers of the **London Chapter** at the Men's Christmas Party Dec. 21. Missing from photo is Treasurer **Harry Sirna**. - **David Aitken photo**

After first rehearsal, Reunion Chorus blend “amazing”

Well, we have come to the end of another Barber-shop year and the start of a new year. I hope it has been as rewarding for you as it has been for me.

We learned seven or eight songs in 2009, in readiness for our show last May, and preparing for our 65th Anniversary show May 1, 2010. We hope you enjoyed the songs we learned, and the method of learning that we employ at our Chapter.

We cannot thank **Gord Miller**, our Music Director, enough for the amount of time and work he puts in to making the learning CDs, and putting the learning tracks on our Members' Board. We hope each of you will take the time to quietly thank him personally.

Gord also sits on the Music Team, and again does a lot of work assisting that team in putting the best music possible before the chorus. He also learns all four parts of every song, prepares for each meeting night, and spends countless (and thankless) hours listening to our rehearsals and performances, as well as individual learning tapes.

And all of this for a pittance in monetary payment. We are so lucky to have him!

This past year, we had a number of performances, many of them an hour or more in duration, which taxed the chorus to sing “everything we knew”! Thank you to the Men of Accord members who showed up at every performance possible to support the chorus and the Chapter.

We performed well at the District's Spring Convention in Collingwood, and hosted the Fall Convention in Brantford. Again, thanks to all who participated, and a special thank you to the ladies who assisted us at the Fall convention. Without their help, we could not have attempted



Doug Petch
Vice-President
Music and Performance

to host this event.

The Music Team has recently selected music for our 2011 (yes, that is not a misprint!) show, which we have used as a theme of Saturday Night Bandstand, or Jukebox Saturday Night, or some such name. Again, there will be about seven new songs to learn, beginning right after our May 1, 2010 show.

Reunion Chorus sounded good

Speaking of the show, I am truly excited about the “Reunion Chorus”, which will combine present and former chorus members for two songs on the show - *Alexander's Ragtime Band*, and *Smilin' Through*. At our first rehearsal Dec.6, with very little pre-warning, we had 43 members present, and almost had Alexander's off the paper.

WOW! The sound was good, and with an additional six or seven leads, and other parts filled in as well, the blend was amazing. I can't wait for the next rehearsal Jan. 24, when we hope to have another 20 or 30 former members on the risers.

We have lined up a few performances for this year, the first being Jan. 17 at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Thames Street in Ingersoll. Please mark this one on your calendars NOW and come out and support

the chorus.

Valentine's Day will be upon us soon. This February, the calendar indicates we could be in for a multiple-day event, as Feb. 14 falls on a Sunday. Therefore, we may be contacted to deliver Singing Valentines on Fri. Feb. 12 at workplaces in the city; Sat. Feb. 13; and Sun. the 14th!

Quartets needed for Singing Valentines

A lot of quartets will be required to sing these requests, so get up in front of the Chapter members and learn how to perform the two standards in front of an audience. Believe me, it is much more difficult to sing before the Chapter members than it is before the recipients of the Valentines (usually just one person). If you are working, see if you can get the day, or part of the day, off, so you can contribute on the Friday or Saturday.

We need a co-ordinator for this event. The tasks are not onerous, and many of the people who have done it before can give assistance and guidance. Volunteer for the job, then ask for help. Do it soon, because you will have to develop an advertising/promotion campaign.

Our Spring convention and District Chorus contest is being held in Collingwood again this April 16-18. We will be competing, and want to give it our best in hopes of being crowned Champions.

Wouldn't it be great to celebrate our 65th Anniversary as Ontario District Chorus Champions? I think so.

With all this going on, it is very important that each member attend every single meeting and chorus rehearsal right through to the end of our show. Then every meeting thereafter as well as we start in on our new music.

The joy never ends!



Come and Get It!

Chapter President **Ken Dodge**, left foreground, and other officers serve ham with all the fixin's to fellow members during the Men's Christmas Party on Dec. 5. Thanks to **Dave Earle's** partner, Gary, for cooking the meal.



Pat Mauro, left, receives the London Chapter's **Rookie of the Year Award** from **Dave Earle**, VP of Program. In right photo, President **Ken Dodge** thanks Chorus Director **Gord Miller** for all his hard work and dedication during the past year, and presents Gord with his annual stipend. Ken thanked Gord for "being the hardest working member of the London Chorus."

Wood gets a musical taste of Western hospitality

By Wood Hustler

Last October, Bev and I decided to spend a week in Calgary, visiting her son and his woman friend. West Jet flights were reasonable and they were anxious for us to see their new "digs" and their city and region, including her parents.

Realizing that the two of them would be busy at work, we would have time on our own to fill from Tuesday to Friday. And being the avid Barbershopper that I am, I decided to check the Internet for Barbershop chapters in Calgary.

On the night before we left, I found the names of two chapters, with the e-mail addresses of two contacts. Before noon the next morning, I had their responses; one from **Terry Crowe**, the Director of **Western Reunion Chorus (WRC)**; the second from **Kevin Robertson**, Director of **Stampede City Chorus (SCC)**.

Both indicated that I would be welcomed to attend the rehearsal that week and offered a ride if I needed one. When I responded with the time of our arrival and the address of the "kids", Terry wrote that he would be there at 12:20 p.m. the next afternoon to pick me up.

Mid-day Rehearsal

WRC meets from 12:45 to 2:30 p.m. every Tuesday. Members are "retired, fired or otherwise available" for a mid-day rehearsal. They have a repertoire of 15 songs, six new songs in progress for this year, seven Christmas songs which need not be memorized and 13 Polecat Songs.

They meet in the Boardroom of the Downtown Friendship Centre, where each becomes a member for the privilege of using the room. What a delight it was to sing with



Wood Hustler

15 men who willingly coach each other to make the chords ring. For me, it made up for the Monday night rehearsal that I missed due to our flight time.

Bev chose to scout out several blocks of the city while we rehearsed.

Several WRC members encouraged me to come to the SCC rehearsal - they were also members of SCC - on Wednesday evening. I told them that I had already spoken with their director who told me that I wouldn't need a ride - I could easily walk the two blocks to the Scarborough United Church.

Men of Accord Mentioned

SCC rehearses from 7:30 to 9:45 p.m. However, they encourage members to arrive at 7:15 for a warm-up period. Once again, I was warmly welcomed and handed a folder of Chorus info and new music and a book of their repertoire songs. At least three members knew all about the **Men of Accord** and one mentioned **Ron Fuhr's** name. And it was another chance to keep my vocal chords in shape - much easier than practising on my own.

When I was introduced to everyone with my *full name* and the singing of *You're As Welcome As the Flowers in May*, one of the above

three realized that his wife was a cousin of mine. What a small world!

My sight-reading skills were exercised to the full and it was a pleasure to hear the chords ringing from the group of over 35 men. My baritone "coach" and a tenor urged me to stay to sing in a quartet during coffee time. And after a couple of Polecats, they asked me to name a song. I hesitantly mentioned *Tin Roof Blues* and immediately there was a VLQ involved. It happened to be one of their competition numbers at their last conference.

Apparently SCC came very close to surpassing the third Calgary chorus, **The Western Hospitality Chorus**.

When the Calgary Barbershoppers realized that we have family in Calgary, they encouraged us to visit them again whenever we are in the West.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Wood Hustler, who sings baritone and lead with the London Chorus, also takes the lead in revealing the bare facts in *Blew By You*, one of the current songs the chorus is practising.*

Chapter enjoys busy 2009

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trict Chorus contest on April 17-19 in Collingwood, placing fourth.

Our Chapter took part in a successful Western Division training day at Strathroy. Trainers from Ontario District and Michigan helped Chapter choruses and quartets fine tune their singing and stage presence.

The Chapter's annual show, *Barbershop Blues and All That Jazz*, was held at Central Secondary School on May 11, with **NITRO** as the headline act.

Chorus Directors Trained

London Chapter was host to a Chorus Directors' Workshop Intensive (CDWI) on Nov. 14. Five Chorus Directors, including our own **Gord Miller**, received training from certified trainers **John Devine**, standing at left, of Houston, Texas, and **Todd Lamson**, standing at right, of Manchester, Connecticut. Seated, in front row, from left: **John Gough**, **Strathroy Vocal Federation**; **George Hendry**, **Northern Stars Chorus**, Ottawa; and **Eric Best** of Kingsville, assistant chorus director, **Sun Parlour Chorus**, Windsor. Back row, from left: **Dan Sunderland**, **Brockville Melodymen**; **Gord Miller**, **London Chorus**; and **Ken Fisher**, VP Chorus Director Development, Ontario District.



Judges Listen, Watch Closely

Listening and watching intently are the three judges for the **London Chapter Novice Quartet Contest** Nov. 23, from left to right: **Brian Dixon**, **Strathroy Chapter**; **Bernie West** and **Eric (Sparky) Alexander**, both of the **London Chapter**.



Happy Quartet Members

Members of the winning VLQ during the **London Chapter Novice Quartet Contest** proudly displaying their ribbons are, front row, from left: **Wood Hustler**, baritone/lead; **Darcy Smith**, tenor; **Murray Veno**, lead; and **Ken Dodge**, lead. Back row, from left: **Doug Petch**, baritone; **Jim McDougall**, bass; and **Gary Haycock**, bass. Darcy, Ken, Gary and Wood were also members of **The Other Fellows Quartet**, which placed first in the contest.





Viva Las Vegas!

Julia Beadle, above front and centre, Master Director of the **London Chorus, Sweet Adelines**, and chorus members end one of their songs with a flourish during their *Christmas in Vegas* show at Lucas Secondary School Dec. 5. More than 350 attended the show, which also featured special guest performer **Roy LeBlanc**, a London area Elvis tribute artist (upper right).



The Secretary's Minutes with Bill Ainsworth



Bill Ainsworth

Volunteers Needed!

As Board Secretary, I can see that there are Board members who take on extra responsibilities because they are dedicated to the Chapter and no one else will volunteer to do the job.

Three Chapter services currently could each use a new volunteer: Uniforms; Valentine Coordinator and someone to coordinate the 65th anniversary dinner and

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Julia Beadle, dressed in a 1960s era costume for one of the chorus songs, poses with members of the **London Men of Accord** who served as ushers: from left to right, **Pat Moauro**, **Doug Petch**, **Gary Haycock**, **Gord Miller** and **Darcy Smith**.
Bernie West photo

The Secretary's Minutes

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the afterglow. Ideally, volunteers for these jobs would be non-Board members.

The Board is enthusiastic about making 2010 an especially good year for the Chapter. A successful Singing Valentines activity on the Feb. 14th weekend would get the year off to a flying start.

Unfortunately, we haven't managed to keep any of the guests that we attracted this year. The Board hopes that, in future, members will refer any questions about dues to the Vice President of Chapter Development.

The Western Division Novice Contest will take place on Sat. Feb. 27, 2010. The venue has yet to be chosen. Our fabulous quartet **London Fog** has volunteered to coordinate the event.

The Chapter is donating \$250 to **Harmonize for Speech** and \$250 to the **Cross Canada Youth Chorus**.

Each issue of **The Clipper** is now on our website as a PDF file. It looks great in colour, so you might like to download it from there. If you don't have Adobe Reader on your computer to open a PDF file, you can download it for free from www.Adobe.com. President **Ken Dodge** said he will contact former members to let them know about this service.

The Town Hall Meeting revealed that members are mostly satisfied with the status quo, so no big changes are being made.

The London Chapter has been invited to take part in the **Strathroy Chapter's** 15th Anniversary Show on Sat. Sept. 18, 2010.

Great to see that **Bill Larder** is feeling better and coming out to our meetings. Thanks, Bill, for helping around the hall and for all the work in the past.

In Memoriam

Robert J. Margison

(Dec.18, 1946 – Dec.9, 2009)

Bob Margison, a former member of the London Chapter and Chorus Director of the **London Men of Accord** from 1969 to 1976, died after a battle with cancer that took him all too quickly from this world. He was also a Society Judge Emeritus in the Music Category, arranger, composer, quartetter, and a lifetime member of the Society,

A wonderful husband and father, he is survived by his wife, Mary, a daughter and a son and their children, and a host of memories shared by many. Bob was the eldest son of the late **Maynard Margison**, who instilled his love of Barbershop harmony in his three sons, Bob, Barry and Glenn.

Bob was remembered for his sense of humour and dedication to his job. He spent all of his working career at 3M Canada, where he was instrumental in the development of reflective tape and materials that adorn road signs all over the world. His work took him throughout North America and Europe, and he and Mary did their best to travel anywhere his work did not take him. In his den he had a map of the world on a wall, and a stick pin in every city he had visited. All seven continents had pins adorning them, and it was difficult to see anything of the map that was not covered by these stick pins.

Bob recently turned over to the London Chapter his collection of music and arrangements, arranged alphabetically, in seven large binders. Bob estimated the collection at between 2,500 and 3,000 pieces. He also gave the chapter a collection of annual show programs dating back to 1945, the first show the London Chapter presented in its 65-year history.

Bob may have been the youngest director to take the stage at an International Chorus Contest, as he directed the Men of Accord at the 1969 Contest in St. Louis at the tender age of 22.

His funeral service at the James Harris Funeral Home in London was conducted before a packed house of friends, co-workers and family. The service opened with a music rendition of a Country and Western song which begged, *Give Me a little More Time*, "though I am ready to go". The service concluded with the **Gentlemen's Agreement** rendition of *Hush*.

It was a truly fitting tribute to a long-time, respected Barbershopper and musician.

- **Doug Petch**

Gordon W. Stacey

(July 27, 1930 - Dec. 13, 2009)

Gordon Stacey died on Dec. 13, 2009 at the St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital in his 80th year. A great bass-baritone singer and supporter of music, Gord lent his considerable vocal talents to youth choirs, school choirs, church choirs, community choirs, quartets and solo efforts. He even played trumpet in a dance band. A barbershopper for more than 40 years, Gord sang in numerous quartets - *Melody Magic* with **Ron Madill**, **Gary Morton**, **Carl Pease** and later *Back In Time* with **Ron Madill**, **Ron Smith** and **Max Charlton** were among his best efforts. Gord most recently sang with his current quartet at the **St. Thomas Elginaires Barbershop Chorus** annual show in late October. His quartet, **Back In Time**, earned the distinction of being 1999 senior quartet champions for Ontario District.

- **Max Charlton**

Coming Events

Jan. 8-10 - Leadership Academy (formerly COTS) will be held at Geneva Park, near Orillia.

Sun. Jan. 17 - Our Chorus has been invited to perform for the *Make A Joyful Noise* concert series at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Thames Street in Ingersoll, and we have accepted the invitation. Our time to perform will be between one hour, fifteen minutes to one hour, thirty minutes. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. We'll need everyone possible to put on this show.

Sun. Jan. 24 - **The London Barbershop Reunion Chorus** will hold its second practice at Harmony Manor, from 1 to 3 p.m. Bring your sheet music for *Alexander's Ragtime Band* and *Smilin' Through*.

Feb. 12-14 - On the Valentine's weekend, quartets from the London Chorus will carry musical messages of love to individuals and couples. The Chapter is still looking for a volunteer to coordinate the singing appointments.



January & February birthdays

The following members of the **London Chapter, Barbershop Harmony Society**, will have birthdays in January and February.

- January 27 - **Gary Haycock**
- January 28 - **Doug Davis**
- February 18 - **Bruce Chapman**
- February 24 - **Ken Monck**
- February 24 - **Pat Moauro**
- February 25 - **Harry Sirna**
- February 26 - **Darcy Smith**



... Barbershop activities in 2010

Sat. Feb. 27 - The annual Western Division Novice Contest will be held, with a venue yet to be announced.

April 16-18 - Ontario District will hold its Spring Convention at Blue Mountain Resort, Collingwood.

Sat. May 1 - **The Hot Air Buffoons**, a highly regarded U.S.-based comedy quartet, and **Chameleon**, a Canadian quartet, will be the featured headline acts for the **London Chapter's 65th Anniversary Show**. It will be held at the popular and spacious London City Music Theatre (formerly the IMAX Theatre at Western Fairgrounds). Tickets will be \$21.

Tues. June 1 - The **London Men of Accord Chorus** will perform for the **Ontario Retired Teachers Association** at the Four Points Sheraton. It will be a paid performance, lasting 30 to 45 minutes. Any available, prepared quartets will be included.

June 15 - **APOC (Association of Past Champions)** will hold its annual Pep Rally in Mississauga.

Sept. 18 - **Strathroy Chapter** will celebrate its 15th anniversary with a dinner and show at the Strathroy Christian School. Tickets will be \$16.

Oct. 15-17 - **Ontario District Fall Convention**, Kingston.

Anniversary Reunion plans for 2010 shaping up

The 65th Anniversary Planning Committee has the following plans for a Reunion Weekend, April 30 to May 2, 2010:

Friday, April 30 – Reception and dinner at a location to be decided.

Saturday, May 1 – Our 65th Anniversary Show – London City Music Theatre (formerly IMAX) with **Hot Air Buffoons** and **Chameleon** quartets headlining the show.

Sunday, May 2 - Breakfast at Harmony Manor with **Len and Renatta**; and **Jim and Sylvia**.

We are still looking for someone to organize the Friday evening dinner. Duties would be to find a hall location (our own hall will be too small), set a menu and a cost for the

meal, provide some entertainment, select an emcee for the evening, and arrange for a set-up crew (if required). Volunteer NOW and get your crew assembled. Once we get a co-ordinator, lots of volunteers will come on board.

This Reunion will have a registration fee to cover the cost of the meal, the breakfast, and a ticket to the show, plus any incidentals. We will keep it as reasonable as possible.

A number of performances throughout the year, both paid and unpaid, will help put a cap on our anniversary year.

We hope all members will give their full support to these activities. Please be ready to volunteer when asked and where needed.

Doug Petch
Chair, 65th Anniversary Committee

