



# The Town Crier



## VILLAGE GREEN ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCERS, APRIL 2007

### CALENDAR FOR 2006/07

#### 2007

- April 11 After-Class Tea
- April 22 Last Challenge Class, Norberry Community Centre (St. Mary's Rd. & Molgat)
- April 25 Last class, Harrow United
- April 28 "Pearls of Wisdom" Spring Ball, Vasa Lund
- May 2 Annual General Meeting, Harrow United
- May 6 Challenge Class Wind-Up, 2-8 p.m Dancing, then Pot Luck, Norberry Community Centre

**Please note: 3 volunteers are needed to provide refreshments for the After-Class Tea. Contact Frances Harris.**



***Don't miss the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2007, 7:45 p.m. at Harrow United Church, Lower Hall. Social time after the meeting features refreshments provided by your executive.***

#### VILLAGE GREEN EXECUTIVE 2006/07

President	Marilyn Armstrong	475-6591
Vice-President	Anne Morton	284-2235
Past President	Maureen McIntosh	783-1488
Secretary	Sandra Johnston	889-8780
Treasurer	John Groen	889-0425
Publicist	Marion Tetrault	222-6630
Archivist	Terry Armstrong	475-6591
Social Conveners	Zyna Boyes	489-1849
	Frances Harris	257-4938
<u>Other Working Positions:</u>		
Teachers' Rep.	Liz Goossen	489-2752
Dem Coordinator	Virginia Stevens	832-1769
Editors	Judy Valenzuela	475-6666
	Joan Baragar	488-9195
Member-at-large	Jane Hoag	895-7850

Website: [www.villagegreenenglishcountrydancing.org](http://www.villagegreenenglishcountrydancing.org) E-mail: [villagegreeneed@hotmail.com](mailto:villagegreeneed@hotmail.com)

## **PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS**

WOW!!! Can you believe Village Green is 30 years old already? I bet the original members responsible for starting up English Country dancing never thought they would see this day. We all have to keep up the tradition by inviting more and more of our friends and relations to join us for what could be another 30 years of fun and fellowship. To celebrate, we will be having a "Pearls of Wisdom" Ball on April 28, 2007 at Vasa Lund Park, 5429 Roblin Blvd. starting with cocktails at 5:30 pm followed by dinner at 6:00 pm & dancing at 8:00 pm, so pull your Ball gowns out of the closet, dig out your sewing machines or just come as you are, but please come. Tickets are available now at dance classes for \$35 per person. Be sure to come to every Wednesday class from now to the end of April so you can learn the dances. The Ball will move along a lot smoother if everyone knows the dances.

On May 2<sup>nd</sup> the executive would appreciate as many people as possible coming to the Annual General Meeting which will be held in the downstairs hall starting at 7:45 pm. Refreshments, including tea and coffee, will be served afterwards. It is very important that we have a quorum so that any pressing business can be voted on. If you would like your opinions heard, please don't miss this evening.

After the Ball, if you still haven't had enough dancing, the teachers have agreed to continue teaching until the end of May, same time, same place. There will be a \$3 drop-in fee for each class.

I hope to see everyone at the Ball & the AGM & extra classes, but if not, have a great summer & hope to see everyone bright-eyed & bushy-tailed in September for another year of fun-filled dancing.

Bye for now, Your President,  
**Marilyn Armstrong**

### **Highlights of March Executive Meeting**

**from Sandra Johnston**

- ❖ Beginning dancers have an opportunity to join only twice during the dance year (September or January).
- ❖ A coat rack to the right of the church entrance is available for VG dancers.
- ❖ A dance social that was to be held on May 5<sup>th</sup> in order to raise funds for Ugandan orphans has been postponed until further notice.
- ❖ A CD of the Ball dances will be available to members on April 11<sup>th</sup>. To order a copy, please inform Jeannie or Roger.
- ❖ It's time to order your tickets for the Pearls of Wisdom Ball! Anne Morton must receive your registration, including payment, by April 18. No dinner tickets will be available at the door, as caterers must have the final dinner count well ahead of time. Get your dancing shoes, gowns, and pearls ready!
- ❖ The nominating committee is still accepting nominations for executive positions. Please consider volunteering for this rewarding experience. Enter the inner sanctum of VGECD and discover how things really work!
- ❖ Instructions for dances scheduled for the Ball will be available at Wednesday classes prior to April 28<sup>th</sup>. Practice dates, times, and locations will be announced in class.

## NOMINATIONS FOR VILLAGE GREEN EXECUTIVE 2007/2008

The following have allowed their names to stand:

President	Marilyn Armstrong
Vice-President	Anne Morton
Secretary	Linda Clark
Treasurer	John Groen
Publicist	Marion Tetrault
Social Convenor	Frances Harris
Archivist	Terry Armstrong

### Other Working Positions

Members-at-Large	Arlene Cutts, Jane Hoag
Dem Co-ordinator	Virginia Stevens
Teachers' Rep.	To be appointed
Newsletter Editor	*
Reporter	Joan Baragar

\*We need someone to work with Joan on the newsletter. Contact Joan, Judy Valenzuela or Anne Morton if you are interested and want to know more about the job.

Thanks to Zyna Boyes, Sandra Johnston, Judy Valenzuela and Liz Goossen for their contributions in the year just past.

*The Nominating Committee – Anne Morton, Sheldon McLeod, Mary Kay Boguski.*

## **Scottish/English Social**

### ***Joan Baragar***

On Saturday, March 10, 2007, the Scottish Country Dancers hosted a joint social at St. Paul's Anglican Church. It was the night to "spring ahead" – but for the dancers who attended, the important thing was the spring in their steps, not the early change to Daylight Saving Time. A good representation from both Scottish and English groups happily danced the night away, to the music of The Fine Companions. Host Robin Lynch welcomed everyone and got them to their feet promptly at eight o'clock. A combination of English and Scottish dances followed to create a varied and interesting experience, topped by a delicious spread at the end of the evening. Thanks to our dancing neighbours for their enthusiastic leadership and hospitality.

## PEARL OF WISDOM

When John Trevenen was teaching in dancing class one time, he dispelled our worries about correct footwork by stating: "Your partner won't notice your feet as long as you have a smile on your face." This seemed like wonderful news, and you know, it really does work. So in class, look for the smiles. – Jackie Soble



## **JANE AUSTEN WORKSHOP & SOCIAL**

*Anne Morton*

In spring we are more likely to look forward eagerly to summer than look back with fondness on the cold days of winter. Yet Saturday, February 10, the day of our Jane Austen workshop and social, bitterly cold though it was, will be a pleasant memory for a long time to come.

In a letter dated 24 December 1798 to her sister Cassandra, Jane herself wrote of the pleasure of dancing in cold weather: *Our ball was very thin, but by no means unpleasant. There were thirty-one people, and only eleven ladies out of the number, and but five single women in the room.... There were twenty dances, and I danced them all, and without any fatigue. I was glad to find myself capable of dancing so much, and with so much satisfaction as I did.... I had not thought myself equal to it, but in cold weather and with few couples I fancy I could just as well dance for a week together as for half an hour.*

Our men/women ratio may have been very different but, like Jane, we danced and danced with ‘much satisfaction’, for a morning, afternoon and evening, if not ‘for a week together’. Much of that is thanks to Jeannie Gilbert, who clearly put a lot of thought, effort and enthusiasm into devising and leading the workshop. The dances were fun and varied, and some had their tricks, but Jeannie got us through them. In particular, I remember reading with some puzzlement the instructions for ‘Graie’s Inn Maske’, printed in the January *Town Crier*. Just what is this going to look like, I wondered. It turned out to be a favourite. How good that we will dance it at the Spring Ball. Jeannie also prepared an informative display on Jane Austen and her era and delivered historic tidbits as she taught us. And having live music throughout the workshop was a great lift to spirits and feet – thanks to the musicians, who played in relay - Mary Louise Chown, Liz Goossen, Jeremy Hull, Mark McLearn, Virginia Stevens and Joan Stevenson.

It was wonderful to have the opportunity later that day to dance at the social some of the dances introduced at the workshop. For example, ‘The Cambridge Waltz’ had seemed fun, but difficult, in the day; at the social it was nothing but fun. The learning process obviously continued while we were at home having dinner, getting changed, etc.

The hall at St Paul’s had an elegant Valentine’s décor thanks to Frances Harris and her team. There were people in appropriate dress who lent a Regency effect to the evening and made us look a pretty smart bunch in the photos taken to send to Hawk Green for their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The food and drink were excellent, as always, in marked contrast to Almack’s Assembly Rooms, which we had heard about earlier in the day. Almack’s was *the* place to dance in Regency London; the supper, however, as Georgine Palmquist told us, was noted for its dreadfulness – weak tea and stale cake. Winnipeg in the 21<sup>st</sup> century has its advantages!

*Note:* If you want to read all of Jane’s letter and the rest of her description of the ball, go to [www.pemberley.com](http://www.pemberley.com) and click on ‘Jane Austen texts on-line.’

## A Warm Wessex Welcome In Victoria

*Frances Harris*

*The dance it is a great thing  
A great thing to me,  
With candles lit and partners fit  
For night-long revelry...*

Thomas Hardy, 1840-1928

Spring in Victoria – just think, cherry blossoms, daffodils, crocus, sea air and sunshine.....well, 4 out 5 isn't bad! I learned that the Victoria ECD Society was holding their annual Spring workshop and ball in early March, and thought that combining that with a trip to visit friends who had just moved to the Island would be a wonderful Spring break. And I was right!

The theme of the workshop and ball was "A Wessex Welcome". All of the dances were themed around Thomas Hardy and his novels and poetry. The leader for the weekend was Sharon Green, who has led dances and workshops in the US, UK, and even Japan!

The weekend started with a Friday Night dance at a local Anglican Church Hall – I must say I felt right at home, as it was just like St. Paul's, but with a stage for the musicians. I was impressed by the number of dancers, and learned that there was a large contingent from Seattle and surrounding area, as well as people from Vancouver, Ottawa, Peterborough and, of course, Winnipeg!

Dancing started off without any preamble, and with only a short walk-through for each dance. The quality of the dancing overall was very good, and it was apparent that there were many experienced dancers in the hall. Their confidence and ability permeated the sets and encouraged those of us with less experience. The music, which was very good, was provided by The Dance Hall Players, who provide live music for the weekly classes in Victoria.

I can't remember many of the dances, as most were new to me, but I do recall two in particular. The first was The Astonished Archaeologist. What made it most memorable was my dear husband's reaction when the name was called out. Being slightly audiologically challenged (pardon?), he was convinced that the name of the dance was The Scottish Gynecologist, and he was quite concerned about what figures were to be called! The second dance was Juice of Barley, which I did know. I found that the Victoria version was much more sedate, with only a walking circle after the clap. I soon introduced my set to the Winnipeg version, where we move strongly into a slip step circle on the clap, and it seemed to make a good impression!

Saturday morning saw us at the Edelweiss Club, belonging to the Victoria German Society, which I thought was a rather quirky place for English Country Dancing! Sharon soon had us lined up and dancing, mostly contemporary dances, with some familiar names such as Trip to Paris, An Early Frost, The Bishop and The Dashing White Sergeant.

A 'rustic' lunch was provided, with soup, salad and cider, and then we were treated to a "post-prandial entertainment" by the members of the Victoria club. There was a recitation of a Hardy poem, 'The Maid of Keinton Mandeville', accompanied by a rendering of 'Should He Upbraid', the aria referred to in the poem. Several of the men then performed a scene 'In the Malthouse', with a rousing sing-along to 'Dame Durden'. Finally they ended with a lively Dorset Reel.

The ball was held that evening, also at the Edelweiss Club, and there were many splendiferous costumes. We did many of the dances we had learned earlier that day, and started with Dorset Triumph, in which each first woman had the opportunity to be paraded along the set 'in triumph', to show off her costume. How did I manage to end up as a man in that first dance? The evening was lovely and the dancing was wonderful, and even the gentle spring rain could not dampen our enthusiasm.

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PEARL OF WISDOM

"There is a foolish corner in the brain of the wisest man" - Aristotle

## Costume Fever

*Joan Baragar*

It's almost time for us to "have a ball" again. And among those of us who love to dress up in period costumes, questions abound.

- Shall I go *Medieval* or *Regency*?
- Where can I find a pattern in my size?
- What do you think? A wig or a turban?
- Who did you say had a man's costume to rent?

Fortunately, help has been available. We have seen a table-full of designs and patterns. Costume-provider Bob Butler has paid a visit and educated us about period pieces. Costumes for the taking have been displayed around the walls. And gifted consultants - Delayne, Jeannie and others - have offered to sew, alter or lend a gown that will fit, swish and dazzle.

The generosity of these dancing crew assistants is a warm and wonderful thing. Hats off – plumes and all – to those who care enough to give their very best!

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### PEARL OF WISDOM

"All the ills of mankind, all the tragic misfortunes that fill our history books, all the political blunders, all the failures of the great leaders have arisen merely from a lack of skill in dancing." - Moliere (1622-1673)

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## COOKERY CORNER

### Party Punch

*submitted by Audrey Veitch*

*A popular accompaniment to our socials!*

1 large can of pineapple juice  
12-ounce can of frozen lemonade  
12-ounce can of frozen orange juice concentrate  
4 cups cranberry juice cocktail  
2 litres ginger ale – chilled  
ice or frozen ice ring

Stir first four ingredients till blended.  
Add ginger ale and ice at serving time.  
Garnish with cherries, pineapple wedges, etc. if desired.

Makes about 50 punch-cup servings

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### PEARL OF WISDOM

"You don't stop dancing because you grow old, you grow old because you stop dancing." - *via Molly Pind to a dancing friend.*

Village Green English Country Dancers  
Celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the

*Pearls of Wisdom Spring Ball*



Saturday April 28 2007

**Vasa Lund Park 5429 Roblin Blvd. Winnipeg**  
**Cocktails 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Dancing 8:00 p.m.**  
Live Music with The Fine Companions

*Dance Program*

Mulberry Gardens

Salute to Preston

Come, Join the Dance\*

Mr. Williams's Delight\*

On the Village Green\*

Graie's Inn Maske

Fenterlarick

Elizabeth's Garden

Jack's Health

Mr. Isaac's Maggot

John Tallis's Canon

Sellenger's Round

Apley House

Hole in the Wall

\*New dances devised by Elizabeth Goossen to celebrate VG's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

CD & Dance instructions available for registrants/ Choice of prime rib or vegetarian entrée.

**Tickets \$35**

Send Registration with cheque payable to Village Green by April 18, 2007 to:  
Anne Morton, 1A-300 Roslyn Road, Winnipeg MB R3L 0H4.



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian entrée desired \_\_\_\_\_ Billeting required \_\_\_\_\_ Can provide billeting \_\_\_\_\_

**All you ever wanted to know about 'The Bishop of Exeter' from our friends at Hawk Green**

*(forwarded by Caroline McDowall)*

Answer to Liz's cry for help with "Bishop of Exeter" author's notes. These turn out to be more modern than I anticipated, however Hawk Green people do know the authors, David and Katherine Wright, very well (does that mean HG people should start worrying about the Fame element?)

There is a long explanation and a short one which do you want? You want both??? Really? OK you asked for it.....

"The B of E" is one of 15 dances in "The Vesey Collection of Country and Contra Dances" by David and Katherine Wright. The preface to the dance book reads:

*Our association with Bishop Vesey's Grammar School in Sutton Coldfield began in 1974 when David was appointed Physics teacher. In 1980 he became head of Physics and four years later the family connection was strengthened when Katherine joined to teach Economics & History.*

*The idea of this collection of dances is a direct result of exam invigilation! When faced with a spell of complete boredom one's mind tends to wander; result - a dance was born. This prompted us to set ourselves a challenge and a further 3 dances appeared before the exams ended. The die was cast!*

*1990 was the 450th anniversary of the founding of the school by John Vesey, The Bishop of Exeter. We felt it appropriate to dedicate our new dances to the school and also to add others to complete the celebratory collection. The following weeks more ideas came to us so that now we can offer this collection of 15 dances as our own personal commemoration of the school's history.*

*Some of the dances are set to original tunes from 18c printed collections, some are ones that didn't get into "Wright's Humours" these have a country dance flavour, others have a New England Contra style. We hope that our choice of dances offers an historical perspective with up to date ideas, just as we do with our professional lives at Bishop Vesey's.*

*Thanks to all who assisted us in the compilation of the book; dancing friends who were great guinea pigs, Chris Dewhurst for his musical arrangements, the late John Vesey for founding a Grammar school in Sutton Coldfield in 1540 and who provided the inspiration for us to produce this collection.*

*Katherine and David Wright; September 1990.*

Supporting notes to "The Bishop of Exeter"

*John Vesey, founder of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, was Bishop of Exeter from 1519 until his death in 1555. For this dance we have used the original tune "The Bishop" published in Vol IV of Thomson's "Compleat Collection of 200 Favourite Country Dances" (c1780) which was rejected by the editors of "The Apted Book" in favour of the now familiar "Miss Dolland's Delight"*

And there you have it, straight from the horse's mouth; my typing fingers are numb, my head is done in, I need a coffee!

Best wishes to all at the VG  
Graham Smith, Hawk Green

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PEARL OF WISDOM

"It is not Strength but Desire that moves us." - *via Caroline McDowall*

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