

THE TOWN CRIER



VILLAGE GREEN ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCERS

April 2010

English Country Dancing is friendship set to music

VILLAGE GREEN CALENDAR

Apr. 16-18	Dance workshop with Sharon Green and The Flying Romanos
Apr. 28	Last class
May 2	Challenge class wind up
May 5	Annual General Meeting, Harrow United

VILLAGE GREEN EXECUTIVE 2009/2010

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Vice-President	Joan Cormie
Secretary	Sheldon McLeod
Treasurer*	Terry Armstrong
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Editor	Liz Goossen

*Also Archivist

Village Green website: www.villagegreenenglishcountrydancing.org/

Thanks to Marion, Frances, and Marilyn for their contributions to this newsletter and to Mike for his help in putting it together

President's Musings

In "Creating Through Dance", Dr. Alma Hawkins, a dance educator and movement therapist described dance as " . . . one of man's oldest and most basic means of expression. Through the body, man senses and perceives the tensions and the rhythms of the universe around him, and then using the body as an instrument, he expresses his feeling responses to the universe. From the fabric of his perceptions and feelings he creates his dance. Through his dance he relates to his fellow man and to his world."

The truth of that statement was made clear to me having recently returned from a trip that encompassed stops in China, Russia and Japan. At many of our destinations we were entertained by local folk dancers who eagerly volunteered to demonstrate the dances of their homeland. And, I am happy to report that dancing is alive and well!

In Dalian, China a group of women performed a circle dance to celebrate the arrival of spring. They were dressed in colourful costumes and carried yokes with baskets of flowers. In Beijing, a group of men and women entertained us with a dance comprised of tai chi movements set to music. Each dancer carried a large fan which they opened and closed in unison. The loud crack of 30 fans opening certainly snaps one to attention! In Hiroshima, we watched a performance of "Bon Odori" a dance accompanied by thundering drums which honours the ancestors.

What a great cultural ambassador dance is. It created an instant connection between the performers and the audience. Even though the dances were new to us, so many of the movements were familiar and similar. The use of the circle, for example, is a dance form going back to antiquity and found in all cultures.

As with our own Village Green group, it was obvious that dancing was fulfilling a number of purposes for the dancers we saw on our trip: it was a form of exercise, an opportunity for social interaction and an outlet for expression and creativity. And, even on the other side of the world, women dancers outnumbered men and most of the participants were "of a certain age"!

All of this brings me around to reminding you that we need to keep our dance group alive and well. Make this the year that you invite your neighbour to try out dance class or you bring the friend you've always been meaning to ask to one of our socials. Help keep our group vibrant, alive and part of the world wide family of dance.

Marion



Village Green's Fountain of Information

How do you thank someone who transports you from centuries past to the present day? Do you want to know about St. Patrick, St. David or any other saint? Come to class on a Wednesday night and look it up on the bulletin board or pick up one of the pamphlets or newspaper clippings from the table. Are you looking for something to do this week-end? Just come to class and read about what is happening at the MTS Centre, the Concert Hall, The Warehouse or MTC. If what you are looking for is not there, just ask the keeper of the bulletin board. If she doesn't know she will find out for you. Through the years I have enjoyed reading the material that arrives every week.

The keeper of the bulletin board is, of course, Caroline McDowall. Thank you, Caroline, for keeping us so well informed. I hope to continue reading your interesting tidbits in the years to come.

With thanks, Marilyn Armstrong

Upcoming Demonstrations

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| April 24, 25 th | A team of dancers will be performing as part of the third concert in the "Musical Offering Series" which is organized by Sylvia Scott-Wortley. |
| May 6th | Heritage Fair at the University of Winnipeg, Our participation in this event is partly demonstration and partly calling some dances for the young folk at the fair. |
| July 1 st | We will again be part of the Canada Day celebrations at Lower Fort Garry. |

Thank you to all the dancers, teachers and musicians who will be participating in these events.

Victoria English Country Dance Society and The Dancehall Players

I recently spent a week's holiday in Victoria, and I was lucky enough to be able to join the local ECD group for two nights of dancing. Their house band, The Dancehall Players, provided the music for both occasions.

Thursday night is the club's regular weekly class, held in "Dan's Hall". This is a charming dance room that Dan Page, one of the Dancehall Players, built as an addition to his old farmhouse. It's only a 20-minute drive from where we were staying in downtown Victoria. This room was used for various forms of folk dance before the formation of the Victoria ECD Society, and it is here also, that the Dancehall Players were born.

The Dancehall Players have recently produced a CD, "Live from Dan's Hall", which is available from CDSS (www.cdss.org). The majority of the tunes were all written between the 16th and 18th centuries, and many of them will be familiar to VG members. Village Green is purchasing a copy of the recording for our library, so you may well be dancing to some of their renditions in upcoming classes.

The Victoria English Country Dance Society was formed as a result of the first Hands Across the Water Workshop, held in September 2000. Rosemary Lach had been calling ECD as part of a greater folk dance community for a number of years, and she was instrumental in the start of the group. The success of that first weekend workshop led to the establishment of weekly Thursday evening ECD workshops at Dan's Hall. Everyone was new to ECD, but their enthusiasm for the dance kept them going. They dance to the live music of The Dancehall Players every week.

The Victoria dancers sponsor an annual workshop in September (Sep 10- 12, 2010) and a biennial ball in early spring. They are known as the "OddBalls", as their balls take place in odd years, while Vancouver has theirs in even years.

I joined in a regular Thursday evening class at Dan's Hall, and on the following Saturday at a social at a local Anglican Church hall. On the Thursday evening, I was surprised and pleased to see our fellow member Jean Barrett. She is house-sitting in Victoria, and has been dancing with the ECD group for several weeks.

Our involvement with ECD opens doors for us wherever we go. In my six years with Village Green, I've been lucky enough to dance in Victoria, Minneapolis, Austin, Texas and England. When you travel, be sure to check the Internet for ECD or contra groups in the area – they show their locations and schedules, and, in my experience, they are pleased to have visitors and to learn that we have a vibrant ECD community here in Winnipeg. You'll find the atmosphere familiar and once the music begins, you'll have a wealth of new dancing partners.

Frances Harris

Flying High

Workshop and Ball

April 16, 2010 to April 18, 2010



Churchill Park United Church

525 Beresford Ave.

Sharon Green loves teaching English Country Dancing. One of her greatest joys is welcoming newcomers to the beauty of English dancing. She called her first dance, Jack's Health, in June 1993. Since then she has travelled and studied extensively, honing her skills as a caller and teacher. Sharon has taught at many festivals and workshops in the US, UK, Canada and Japan. She currently lives in the San Francisco Bay Area and frequently calls dances and balls from Victoria to San Diego. We are delighted to welcome her to Winnipeg.

The Flying Romanos began as the house band for the 'North Jersey English Country Dancers' in 1988 and are now based in the greater New York City area. In the early years of playing together their primary focus was English Country Dance music. Since then they have diversified and now quite happily play music for contras and Scottish country dancing. The members of the group are **Robin Russell** on piano, **Marnen Laibow-Koser** on violin and viola and **Norma Castle** on flute and percussion. The Flying Romanos will be playing for all workshops and dances during the weekend **except** the Sunday evening workshop.

Weekend Schedule

Friday

Dance 7:30 to 10:30

Saturday

Registration 9:00

(Coffee served)

Workshop 9:30 to 12:00

Lunch* 12:00 to 1:30

Bring your own lunch, but soup and beverage provided

Workshop 1:30 to 3:30

Ball with
Ceilidh 7:30 to 11:00

Sunday**

Workshop 9:30 to 12:00 at River Heights Community Club

Potluck Lunch 12:00 to 1:30 at 191 Brock St.

Workshop 7:00 to 9:00 St. Paul's Anglican Church
(for experienced dancers)

Cost of Weekend

To attend all dances and workshops during the weekend the cost is \$ 60.00, plus an additional \$ 5.00 if you are an experienced dancer and plan to attend the workshop on Sunday evening.

To attend part of the weekend the costs are as follows:

Each evening dance	\$ 15.00
Each workshop	\$ 12.00
Sunday evening*	\$ 5.00

* for experienced dancers

For a brochure and registration form you can call Marilyn Armstrong at 475-6591 or go to the Village Green Website www.villagegreenenglishcountrydancing.org/ and print off a brochure.

This is going to be a fabulous weekend with great teaching and great music. Still want to register, call Marilyn NOW (475-6591) to obtain a registration form.

Flying High

Saturday Evening Dance Program

April 17, 2010

Evening dances will be chosen from

A The Geud Man of Ballingigh	Duple Minor	Playford Ball
K Barbarini's Tambourine	Duple Minor	Cdss News # 161
A Trip to Tunbridge	Longways for 3 cpls	Playford Ball
E Winter Skies	Duple Minor	E. Goossen
A Sweet Recorder of the Realm	Duple Minor	E. Goossen
A Juice of Barley	Duple Minor	Playford Ball
E Return to Laisteridge Lane	Duple Minor	Old Friends
K Elizabeth's Garden	Square	E. Goossen
E Dublin Bay	Duple Minor	Playford Ball
A Never Love Thee More	Duple Minor	CDB 6

Sharon Green, our guest teacher, will call 3 dances during the evening. The Flying Romanos will be playing all the music for the evening. There will be ceilidh items during the first break and also at the end of the dance program

- A** for all dancers
- E** dance with an experienced dancer
- K** for those who **K**now, these dances will be briefed not taught.

Barbarini's Tambourine and Elizabeth's Garden will be taught in class prior to the workshop