

# THE TOWN CRIER

## VILLAGE GREEN ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCERS

August 2008



### VILLAGE GREEN CALENDAR 2008/09

#### 2008

Sept. 3	Opening Social, St George's Crescentwood Anglican Church
Sept. 10	First Class, Harrow United
Sept 21	First Challenge Class, Glenlee Community Club
Nov. 1	Workshop & Social, Churchill Park United Church
Dec. 10	Last class
Dec. 13	Christmas dinner & social, Churchill Park United Church
Dec.21	Last challenge class

#### 2009

Jan.7	First class, Harrow United
Jan.18	First challenge class, Glenlee Community Club
Feb.7	Workshop & Social, Churchill Park
Mar.7	English/Scottish Social, St. Paul's Anglican
Apr. 25	Spring Ball, Fort Gibraltar
Apr. 29	Last class
May 3	Challenge class wind up
May 6	Annual General Meeting, Harrow United

### VILLAGE GREEN EXECUTIVE 2008/09

<b>President</b>	<b>Anne Morton</b>	<b>284-2235</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Marion Tetrault</b>	<b>222-6630</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Sheldon McLeod</b>	<b>261-1682</b>
<b>Treasurer*</b>	<b>Terry Armstrong</b>	<b>475-6591</b>
<b>Publicist</b>	<b>Susan Greenhill</b>	<b>453-0153</b>
<b>Social Convenor</b>	<b>Frances Harris</b>	<b>257-4938</b>
<b>Member-at-large</b>	<b>Arlene Cutts</b>	<b>837-5049</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Marilyn Armstrong</b>	<b>475-6591</b>
<b>Teachers' Rep.</b>	<b>Jeannie Gilbert</b>	<b>269-6012</b>
<b>Town Crier Editor</b>	<b>Liz Goossen</b>	<b>489-2752</b>
<b>Dem Coordinator</b>	<b>Maureen McIntosh</b>	<b>783-1488</b>

\*Also Archivist

## PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

“There goes another summer we’ll never see again”, as grumpy old Ed remarked in a recent *Crankshaft* cartoon. The Village Green opening social, along with the shorter days and ‘back to school’ sales, is one of the signs that summer is giving way to fall. Another sign is a new president writing the musings. (Does this make me the Village Green muse?) I only hope I can do half as good a job as president as my energetic and committed predecessors, Marilyn Armstrong and Maureen McIntosh.

Village Green danced right through the summer. We enjoyed four evenings at the Conservatory from May through August. Our plan was to attract interest among those strolling by on their way to view the flowers. Though flower viewers were few we still had fun dancing. Thanks to the teachers and to the band members for making this all possible. The dem team, usually in company with Hell’s Belles, appeared at four events: in May, the Red River Heritage Fair and at Government House for Doors Open, and in July, at the Lower Fort on Canada Day and at the Cook’s Creek Medieval Fest on July 26<sup>th</sup>. At Government House and Cook’s Creek we kept the green in Village Green by dancing outside on grass. This was an interesting experience, since Manitoba lawns, even the Lieutenant Governor’s, are not exactly smooth and springy turf. Thanks to the dancers, the band and to Jackie Soble, the dem teacher, always patient and cheerful with us ‘Merry Andrews’.

The May events got Village Green great publicity in the form of colour photos in the *Free Press*. The Medieval Fest was written up in the local paper, *The Clipper Weekly*. It ran a photo of eight Village Greeners, advancing into a stiff breeze, captioned “Medieval music and dance filled the grounds, etc.” The photo actually shows us dancing *Muriel’s Measure*, which was created in the 1990s by Colin Hume. To me, that’s one of the joys of English country dance. Its roots are centuries old yet it keeps evolving and growing. Let’s hope our 2008/09 season is another year of happy, healthy growth as we take hands four to begin dances both old and new.

*Anne Morton*

<p><b>DANCERS NEED FUEL.</b> Donations of finger foods will be welcomed at the opening social. If you’re kind enough to bring something, make sure it is on a plate or in a dish, ready to serve.</p>
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**Thank you** to Anne Morton, Frances Harris, Susan Greenhill, Michael Lynch, Marion Tetrault, and Terry Armstrong for their contribution to this newsletter.

## **Highlights of August 13<sup>th</sup> Executive Meeting**

The Workshop and Concert netted a profit of \$684.73.

We will be asking new and returning members to register and pay their membership and class fees at the opening social and first regular class.

Susan has been trying to contact Rob Patterson at MTC about possible dem dancing during production of *Pride & Prejudice*, which runs from October 15<sup>th</sup> to November 8<sup>th</sup>

This year, challenge classes will be held at Glenlee Community Club at 176 Worthington Avenue in St. Vital as Norberry is undergoing renovations.

The November 1<sup>st</sup> workshop/social at Churchill Park will have a “Saints and Sinners” theme, focusing on differences between dances from the North and South of England. Registration will be at 9:30, with workshop sessions from 10 to 12 and 1 to 3.

## **Registration for 2008/2009 Dance Season**

A Registration Desk will be set up at both the Opening Social and the first class to accept your membership application and payment for the year. The registration desk will be open from 7:00 - 7:30 pm. To expedite this process please complete the Membership Application enclosed in the Town Crier. An explanation of the fees can be found on page 9 of the newsletter.

## **Dancing in England**

In June, Bob & I were lucky enough to spend 3 weeks in Britain visiting friends and family. I had not been to the UK for 5 years, and in the interim, had joined Village Green and the Hell's Belles Morris team. So this year, along with the usual visiting and sightseeing, I had a new item on the itinerary – DANCING!

Of course, a trip to our sister club at Hawk Green was first on my list. Hawk Green is just a mile or so up the road from Marple, our initial base of operations. I had also discovered via an Internet search that the Manchester Morris Men and the Poynton Jemmers, a women's North West Morris side, were performing the day after we arrived at a pub just 3 miles from Marple. Perfect – dancing AND a pub – so both Bob and I would be happy! Hawk Green's weekly Friday dance evening was the next night, so everything was falling into place.

The Morris dancing was held in the car park of the Hare and Hounds on Werneth Low, a hill that is part of the Penine mountain chain. The term "low" is a North English word for "hill". Go figure! There were wonderful views all the way to the Welsh mountains, and a beautiful sunset.

The dancing was great too! I was particularly interested in the Jemmers, a women's troupe that specializes in the North-West Morris tradition, particularly the dances of Cheshire and Lancashire. The people of the former mining village of Poynton were once so poor that they had to live on bread and jam – hence the name `Jammers` for the local people, the local pronunciation of which is allegedly `Jemmers`.

My Dad spent much of his childhood in Poynton (he always *did* like bread and jam); I was born in Cheshire; and, I have been learning North-West dances with Hell's Belles! So I felt an immediate connection with the group. Both the Jemmers and the Manchester Morris Men put on a great show, and the crowd was enthusiastic. It was a wonderful evening.

On the following evening, we drove up to the Hawk Green Reading Rooms, home of the Hawk Green Hoe Down Club. As the dancers arrived, we got to meet everyone and had time for a chat. Everyone was pleased to see us and was delighted to have another visitor from Winnipeg. I was pleased to meet Graham Smith, who is our Hawk Green correspondent, and a Morris dancer, and I enjoyed several dances with him. Chrissie was the caller, and she was very good. Dancing proceeded very much as it does here, although there is no class instruction as such. Just one walkthrough of each dance, and away we went! We even did a couple of dances that we've done at VG classes, so I felt very much at home

Bob enjoyed himself too, even though he wasn't dancing. He met a fellow named Bill, one of the founders of the Hoe Down club, who shared with Bob his love of Stanley Holloway-style recitations, and they spent a happy time with "The Battle of Hastings". There's one in every crowd!

We were made very welcome at Hawk Green, and had a splendid evening. Everyone there sends good wishes to everyone here! They asked if other VG members might be visiting, and I suggested that it was time that one of them visited with us. Who knows, perhaps one day we'll be able to repay their hospitality!

*Frances Harris*

Twelfth Annual Central Iowa Traditional Dance and Music Festival in Ames, Iowa on September 12 – 14 <sup>th</sup> with Ron Buchanan and Brooke Friendly calling contras and English Country and with Phantom Power and Cecil's Harp providing the music. See the brochure at class if you are interested.
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Village  
Green  
Members  
on July 1<sup>st</sup>  
at  
Lower  
Fort  
Garry

**Minnesota Country Dance Weekend.** October 3 -5, 2008. This year Helene Cornelius and Sue Hulsether are the instructors and music is being played by members of Contratopia, Last Gaspe and Coleraine. For more information see the dance brochure at the first class.

### **Village Green Morris Men**

Mark the afternoon of Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September on your calendars. This is the date of this year's "Big Show", an annual event produced by the Village Green Morris Men, the proceeds of which are donated to the Crescent-Fort Rouge United Church as a thank-you for allowing us to practise there all year round.

This year's show will highlight a selection of the Morris traditions in our repertoire, our new, very colourful costumes, sword dancing, some of our finer voices with English folk songs, the ever popular Mummer's Play and a guest musical group.

We have decided on an afternoon performance this year, followed by tea and dainties in the Church. Our ticket prices have yet to be decided, but are always modest.

**Where: Crescent-Fort Rouge United Church** (Wardlaw and Nassau)

**When: Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September**

**Time: 1.30 pm**

**Tickets available from any VG Morris Man or at the door**

## Location and Times of Class

**The General Class and Beginner Class** are held weekly at Harrow United Church which is located on Harrow at Mulvey. Classes begin at 7:30. Please arrive early as dancing will start promptly at 7:30.

The beginner class meets in the downstairs hall and runs until about 8:45. At that time the members of this class move upstairs and join the General Class. Dancing for all continues until 9:30.

**The Challenge class** is held on the first and third Sunday of the month from 1:30 to 3:30. This year we will be at Glenlee Community Centre, 176 Worthington because of renovations happening at Norberry Community Centre. The first class is September 21st.

## Challenge Class Self-selection Criteria

Attendance at the Challenge class is made on the basis of self-selection. **Every year the teachers ask that members who would like to attend the class reflect on the following criteria. DOYOU:**

1. Feel comfortable and confident dancing a straightforward dance (3 or 4 basic figures) with only a talk through or one walk through? (i.e. don't need to walk such a dance through from each position)?
2. Enjoy working on the technical aspects of a dance (phrasing, handing, covering, dynamic of dance, awareness of others in set)?
3. Feel confident dancing an intricate, complex dance after working through it from each position; are you able to recall such a dance in a subsequent class after a briefing?
4. Hear the music and are you able to move in a manner which suits the music?
5. Have a desire to grow in dancing; to be a better dancer?

If you answer yes to the above questions then challenge class would be an enjoyable experience for you this year. If you have questions please call Jeannie at 269-6012 or Liz at 489-2752. Class will be on the first and third Sundays of the month from 1:30 to 3:30 at Glenlee Community Centre

**NOTE: The information on the next page can be used as a poster and put up in your neighbourhood.**



## Village Green English Country Dancers

### Come Dancing!

English Country Dancing is the historic and traditional social dance of England. English country dances are done in formation - lines, squares or circles - and involve two, three, four or more couples. The style of dance is featured in the historic Jane Austen movies and *Gone With the Wind*. At Village Green we perform the old dances as well as modern creations based on the tradition. You are welcome to come alone, with a friend or with a group of friends.

**Attend our Opening Social on Wednesday, September 3, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church, 168 Wilton Street at Grosvenor (\$5.00 admission fee; doors open at 7:15).** See dancing demonstrations, try some dancing yourself, enjoy meeting new friends and have some refreshments. (Wear comfortable shoes or runners and clothes you can move in with ease.)

### Weekly English Country Dancing Classes

**Where:** Harrow United Church, 955 Mulvey Avenue (corner of Harrow and Mulvey)

**When:** Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., beginning Sept. 10th, 2008

**Cost:** Membership cost is \$ 25.00. Cost of Classes for the dancing season (September to April) is \$ 50.00 Cost of Beginner classes, which run from September to December is \$ 25.00



**Hell's Belles**  
**Women's Morris dance group**  
**is welcoming new members!**

**Join us to learn a variety of English Morris dance traditions, and get a great workout, too!**  
**Live music for all practices!!**

**For more information contact Jeannie Gilbert, or come and join us at a practice!**

**Greendell Community Club**  
**Sundays, 9:00 - 10:30 am**

**You'll be most welcome!**  
**(light clothing and runners recommended)**

## Village Green English Country Dancers Registration and Fees - 2008/09

At the May, 2008 AGM changes to categories of membership were made and the membership and class fee structure was outlined. As a result of this we would like to clarify the registration procedure and fees for the 2008/09 year.

For the last few dancing seasons, the membership fee of \$ 25.00 was not identified separately from the class fees. **Every dancer must now pay the membership fee as well as the class fee for each class they choose to attend.**

### CLASS FEES for:

General Class	\$ 50.00	which can be paid in 2 equal installments, one in September and one in January if desired
Challenge Class	\$ 30.00	for 14 classes
Beginner Class	\$ 25.00	this fee is payable at the first class and is non-refundable

### Drop-In Fee:

Only active members with a current (2008/09) paid-up membership will be able to “drop-in” to class on occasion. This fee has been increased to \$5.00 per class. Members using this option will be required to sign-in and pay the drop-in fee.

### General Class Fees:

The dancing season is comprised of two terms; the Fall term from September to December and the Winter term from January to April. If a member is only available to attend class on a regular basis for one term then he/she can pay for that one term only. The payment would be equal to half the annual fee for the General Class.

### Beginner Class Fees:

Beginners pay a non-refundable \$25.00 Beginner class fee which covers the class fee for the Fall term. They may then elect to join Village Green, register for the General Class - Winter term and pay Winter term class fee(\$ 25.00) and the Membership fee (\$25.00).

# VILLAGE GREEN ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCERS

## REGISTRATION FORM 2008 / 2009

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

ADDRESS : \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE : \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE : HOME \_\_\_\_\_ WORK \_\_\_\_\_

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE TOWN CRIER BY E-MAIL ? :YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTER TO HELP VARIOUS COMMITTEES AS NEEDED? \_\_\_\_\_

**Village Green English Country Dancers Privacy Policy**

The executive require your personal information to keep you informed of the activities of the Village Green English Country Dancers.

A membership list is distributed annually to the membership. This list will not include any personal information without written permission from you.

**Village Green English Country Dancers has my permission to include my:**

[ ] NAME [ ] ADDRESS [ ] PHONE # [ ] E-MAIL

**CHECK EACH ITEM YOU WISH TO HAVE LISTED,  
IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR INFORMATION LISTED, PLEASE CHECK HERE [ ]  
MEMBER'S NAME SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_**

**FEES:**

<b>MEMBERSHIP</b> (includes "Town Crier")	\$25.00 .....	\$ <u>25.00</u>
<b>GENERAL CLASS FEES ...Fall term</b>	\$25.00 .....	\$ _____
<b>Winter term</b>	\$25.00 .....	\$ _____
<b>CHALLENGE CLASS FEES:</b>	\$30.00 .....	\$ _____
<b>FALL BEGINNER CLASSES:</b>	\$25.00 (non-refundable)	\$ _____
<b>TOWN CRIER ONLY:</b>	\$15.00 .....	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL:</b>		\$ _____

Make cheques payable to: **Village Green English Country Dancers**  
 Send to: Terry Armstrong  
           718 Beresford Ave; Winnipeg, MB. R3L 1K1  
           OR give to Terry at class