

THE TOWN CRIER

VILLAGE GREEN ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCERS

August 2009



VILLAGE GREEN CALENDAR 2009/2010

2009

Sept. 9	Opening Social, St. Paul's Anglican Church
Sept. 16	First Class, Harrow United
Sept 20	First Challenge Class, Glenlee Community Club
Nov. 7	Contra Plus Evening,
Dec. 9	Last class
Dec. 12	Christmas dinner & social
Dec .20	Last challenge class

2010

Jan 6	First class, Harrow United
Jan. 18	First challenge class, Glenlee Community Club
Jan 30	Contra Evening
Feb. 13	Workshop & Social
Mar.14	John Trevenen Memorial Social St. Paul's Anglican
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

President	Marion Tetrault	222-6630
Vice-President	Joan Cormie	837-6597
Secretary	Sheldon McLeod	261-1682
Treasurer*	Terry Armstrong	475-6591
Publicist	Susan Greenhill	453-0153
Social Convenor	Carolyn Mosher	477-8131
Member-at-large	Arlene Cutts	837-5049
Member-at-large	Lorraine Leo de Jong	231-2522
Past President	Anne Morton	284-2235
Teachers' Rep.	Mary Louise Chown	489-6994
Editor	Liz Goossen	489-2752

*Also Archivist

PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

Welcome to the start of another year of dancing! Even though the weather hasn't been particularly cooperative, I hope you have had some opportunity over the past few months to relax and rejuvenate.

Over the summer, your Executive has been busy getting ready for fall and I would like to inform you of some of the items we have been working on.

For the last few years, when Village Green has attempted to rent various venues, we have been increasingly asked if we have liability insurance. Typical liability insurance provides coverage (up to the recommended limit of \$2,000,000) if a Village Green member or guest becomes injured at dancing, and Village Green is found legally liable. Liability insurance also protects the group should property damage occur to any of the locations we rent. Just picture us accidentally leaving a kettle on in the kitchen of a rented hall and the reality of this issue starts to hit home. If we were held liable for property damage, and the group had no assets, individual members of the executive could be sued.

Many dance groups similar to ours have purchased this insurance. As well, a lack of insurance may be detrimental to renting space in the future. There are only so many companies that provide this type of insurance and even fewer who provide it to a small, non-profit group such as ours. We have spent a fair amount of time looking into our options and the most reasonable policy we could find will cost the group \$500 per year. The Executive has gone ahead and purchased this policy. To cover this additional expense we have increased individual membership fees by \$5.00.

If you recall, last year we delineated our fees as follows:

- a) Yearly Membership - \$25
- b) Fall Term Class Fees - \$25
- c) Winter Term Class Fees - \$25

The increase will be applied to the yearly membership fee increasing it from \$25 to \$30. This increase will likely cover the majority of the cost of insurance. The class fees will not be increased.

The Executive has also been hard at work planning the Auction to be held at Harrow on Saturday, September 26 at 1:00 pm. Thanks to Joan Cormie for all of her hard work in coordinating this event. Please see Joan's write-up in this newsletter for more information. Whether you bid on an item or donate something for the auction, your participation is essential for this event to be a success. I'll see you there

Let's Dance! Marion Tetrault

DANCERS NEED FUEL. 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.

September 9th at St/ Paul's Anglican Church 7:30 pm

Highlights of August 5th Executive Meeting

An Executive Committee meeting was held on August 5th much of which focussed on planning for the upcoming auction and for the coming year's socials, all of which you will see discussed elsewhere in this issue of the Town Crier. Two issues which will not get attention elsewhere, however, are worth exploring a little.

The first relates to the emerging and established need for our group to have liability insurance. There are at least two requirements which such insurance will help us satisfy. The first is that our society continues to move towards being more and more litigious. That leaves groups such as our vulnerable to suits should there be injuries somehow attributable to our actions or the venue we have chosen. Irrespective of the natural inclinations of the injured party in such circumstances, they are often being advised by those around them to seek compensation from any party which could be seen as being at fault. Secondly, increasingly our dance venues are demanding that we have liability insurance or they will not permit us to book with them. This led your Executive to the decision to purchase liability insurance for our regular and special events at a cost of \$500./year.

The second is a consequence of the first. We will need to have additional revenue to purchase the insurance. The Executive decided to increase the yearly membership by \$5.00 per year so that henceforth it will be \$30./year instead of \$25.

Sheldon McLeod

Registration for 2009/2010 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 the penultimate page of the newsletter.

AUCTION: SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2009

Mark your calendars! It's going to be a GOOD time:

What: Auction to fundraise to bring The Flying Romano Brothers to attend Village Greens' workshop in April 16-18, 2010.

Why: As per the AGM, we must raise \$2000.00 before the end of Sept in order to proceed with the planning for the workshop. No problem I say. We can do this!! VG has history here: we have raised money this way before.

When: September 26, (Saturday) 1pm til 3pm.

Where: Harrow United Church

Who: All Village Green members past and present. Spouses and immediate family. If you know someone who would qualify, please pass the message along if they aren't on the current emailing list.

How does this work: There will be 3 events: silent auction, draw tickets and a live auction. You as VG members will have the opportunity to donate a skill, an item you have made, or a service for other members to "purchase" as a donation toward the fundraiser. For example, you may like to make muffins--you make world class muffins--and you would be willing to deliver a dozen to the home/workplace of the highest bidder. Another example, perhaps you like to clean windows and are particularly good at it. Another VGer might be willing to pay big bucks for that! Or how about sewing a period dress for the next ball? Please see page 6 for more details.

<p>Minnesota Country Dance Weekend. October 2-4, 2009 This year Robin Hayden and Ted Hodapp For more information see the dance brochure at the first class or visit http://www.geocities.com/mncountrydance/Country_Dance_Weekend.htm</p>
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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 being held on the **first and third Sunday** of the month from 1:30 to 3:30 for the first half of the dancing year and **then on the second and fourth Sunday** in 2010. The class will be at Glenlee Community Centre 176 Worthington because of continuing renovations at Norberry Community Centre. **The first class is September 20th.**

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

Calling all Members, come one, come all
Join in the fun
September 26, 2009
1:00 to 3:00
Harrow United Church

So, now that you have all marked our Auction event on your calendar, I wanted to give you a couple more examples of things that might be valuable and create high bidding for our fundraiser to bring The Flying Romanos to Winnipeg. I know that you have been thinking about what you would like to donate while sipping your lemonade under a shady tree in the heat of the afternoon, now that we finally have some summer weather.

1. Perhaps you are gifted with a talent for making/creating something: painting, carving, sculpting, or making pottery and would be willing to donate an art piece. Maybe you play a musical instrument and would be willing to play that instrument at a family gathering, anniversary or whatever at a mutually agreed upon date.

2. Perhaps you own something unique that you would be willing to share: a vintage car that you would be willing to drive the lucky winner of the bidding to a picnic in the park on an agreed upon Sunday afternoon. A canoe or kayak trip up the Assiniboine River perhaps. A bicycle built for two....

3. Maybe you would be willing to cater a picnic (minus the ants) Perhaps cooking a dinner: suggest a menu item that you are particularly good at preparing that would be appreciated by many people. (lamb dinner for 6). How about catering a tea party? A wiener roast and marshmallows for 6 people in your back yard fire pit? What about assisting with a birthday party preparation for a child or for a Gramma?

4. How about an offer to dig someones garden in the spring, or weeding for 2 hours or 3 hours assistance with raking fall leaves. Window Cleaning is a fabulous thing to offer. (I'd pay for that with my sore shoulder!!) House cleaning for 3 hours. Wouldn't that be wonderful on the day before you have house guests? WoW!! What about 3 dozen Christmas cookies delivered to your home on December 20?

So by now you realize that this is more than just your average fundraiser. **This is community building in disguise.** You will certainly get to know people better if you prepare a dinner for them, or take them for a drive on a Sunday afternoon. Or clean their windows.....This will help us get to know each other a little better than just a smile and a dance on a Wednesday evening. I am soooooo looking forward to hear what you might like to donate to this wonderful group that likes to dance together. Remember that this is something big or small that you would like to share with someone from VG for a very good cause.

You may wonder why the Flying Romanos. When I asked Mary Louise Chown why, here's what she had to say

“The Fine Companions are very excited about the Flying Romano’s trip to Winnipeg for Village Green’s April 2010 workshop!”

Usually a visiting teacher is brought in for this workshop, and we all benefit from dance styling that is a bit different, and there is also an opportunity to learn new dances. Well, this coming workshop will also feature a very fine dance band, in addition to a visiting teacher. Now the Fine Companions will also have a chance to learn new ways of playing the beautiful English Country Dance Music, and that can only mean good things ahead for Village Green.

Liz and Virginia and I actually heard the Flying Romanos, and danced to their music when we visited New York last November. We were struck by their strong melody, clear dance beat, and interesting arrangements, so that each time through a long dance was energetic and surprising. It was a joy dancing to their accompaniment. Some of their arrangements had almost a hint of gypsy swing as the dance progressed.

If you enjoyed learning “Trip to Tunbridge” in class this past year, then you need to know that you were dancing to a CD version played by the Flying Romanos.

Liz has recently spoken with Robin Russell, who plays piano with the Flying Romanos, and they are keen to come and will be doing some teaching for the band in addition to their dance accompaniment.

Here is what the Flying Romanos have to say about themselves:

The Flying Romanos are a country dance band based in the greater New York City area. English country dance music is what we first got together to play back in 1998, but we've diversified and now we quite happily play music for contras, Scottish country dance, and even a Balkan tune or two, although English music remains our primary focus.

We started out as the house band for North Jersey English Country Dancers, and we still play there every other Sunday. But you can also hear us at various other dances in the New York area and farther afield at balls, festivals, and dance weekends.

Mary Louise, thank you, **Here is what we need to do now.**

Thank you so much if you have already let me know what you plan to donate. I appreciate your timely response. If you haven't decided what you would like to donate to the auction, make that decision with your spouse, a friend or email/phone me with some of your ideas. I NEED A RESPONSE FROM YOU BY THE END OF AUGUST. If you are donating an ITEM you must deliver it to my home or the home of an executive officer by **September the 6th**: addresses follow, find the closest one **PHONE FIRST**. If you are donating a German Chocolate Cake, I would appreciate a picture of the cake to help with the sales at the auction. Even better would be a picture of you **with** the cake. This is going to be an event to remember. It will be a lot of fun, and I can hardly wait.

Places to deliver items

Joan Cormie: 6 Cambrian Cres. Charleswood 837-6597

Terry Armstrong 718 Beresford 475-6591

Mary Louise Chown 35 Cordova 489-6994

Arlene Cutts 389 Lynbrook 837-5049

Susan Greenhill 106-1 Finch Bay 453-0153

Lorraine Leo De Jong 68 Monck Ave. 231-2522

Sheldon McLoed 30 Bryn Mawr Rd. 261-1682

Carolyn Mosher 906-320 Roslyn Rd. 477-8131

Marion Tetrault 34 Binscarth St. 222-6630

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON! SEE YOU AT THE OPENING SOCIAL!

Joan Cormie, Chair Fund Raising Auction

Village Green Morris Men

The Morris Men will be producing this coming dance season's "Big Show" at Crescent-Fort Rouge United Church on **Saturday, October 17th**. It will be setup as a coffee-house in the gym at 7.00 pm.

The production will showcase the Village Green Morris Men and some of their extensive repertoire of Morris dances gathered from many counties of England. It will also feature the Fur Traders' Mummer's Play, musicians Ken Natrass and Jeremy Hull and special guests Nancy Eibner and Al Thomson.

Mark this date into your calendars, October 17th. Ticket prices are always reasonable and proceeds from this evening go to Crescent-Fort Rouge Church."

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 9, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Point Road and North Drive (\$5.00 admission fee; doors open at 7:15). All the dances will be called and our resident band 'The Fine Companions' will play for the dancing. Come out, try some dancing, enjoy meeting new friends and have some refreshments. Wearing comfortable, low heeled shoes means you can move easily and as energetically as the dance requires.

Weekly English Country Dancing

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

When: Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., beginning Sept. 16th, 2009

Cost: Membership cost is \$ 30.00. 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 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 – 2009/2010

Membership fee: This has been increased to \$ 30.00. See President's Musings for explanation

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 16 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 (2009/2010) 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).



Dem Dancing



Two long weekends in the summer of 2009 found the Village Green Demonstration group dancing in the sunshine at historic sites on the Red River. On July 1st, Village Green led off the Lower Fort Garry Canada Day celebrations with our own special brand of music (from the Fine Companions) and dance. Caroline introduced us with interesting historic background of the Fort connecting the dancing of the era to the dem that day. The sparse but enthusiastic audience joined us in a participation dance to

round out the performance. The Dem dance card was full that day so off we went to dance on the grass at the St. Andrews on the Red Rectory historic site. After only a short walk-through of the tiny Rectory historic exhibit, Caroline produced a superb off-the-cuff introduction again weaving the past with the present. With the fine music of The Fine Companions wafting from the Rectory porch, we danced. Under the trees, after an audience participation dance, we ate lunch graciously provided by the organizers.

On August 2nd the Dem group did a return engagement at the St. Andrew's on the Red Rectory as part of their 160th Anniversary celebrations. Under a marquee tent (because Manitoba had entered monsoon season!), we danced to the tunes of the Fine Companions on a stage just about big enough for a four couple set. The Fine Companions entertained the audience with several musical interludes in between dances. We lunched while watching a historic costume review orchestrated by the McPherson's (who did a costume review for Village Green in aid of the Gibraltar Gala).

VILLAGE GREEN ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCERS

REGISTRATION FORM 2009 / 2010

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:

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

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