

THE TOWN CRIER



VILLAGE GREEN ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCERS

February 2010

VILLAGE GREEN CALENDAR

Mar.13	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

English Country Dancing is friendship set to music

President's Musings

In the 1889 publication, "Decorum, A Practical Treatise on Etiquette & Dress of the Best American Society", Richard A. Wells advises that "If you cannot afford to give a ball in good style, you had better not attempt it at all."

Heeding his excellent advice, I am thrilled to announce that we have booked The Gates on Roblin as the location of our April 30, 2011 ball. The Gates consists of 7 acres of river property at 6945 Roblin Blvd (in the same general area as Vasa Lund). Our event will take place in The Ballroom, a large complex at the back of the property. The Ballroom is a spacious room, full of windows, nestled in a lovely treed area overlooking the Assiniboine River. The Ballroom has a large dance floor, a wraparound outdoor deck and river views that aren't to be missed! There is ample, paved parking close by. And, in addition to the beautiful location, The Gates boasts a highly rated kitchen.

We anticipate that tickets will be in the \$55.00 range. Your 2011 Ball Committee visited other possible locations and a ticket price in the \$50 range was standard wherever the location. We are very fortunate to have negotiated such a good deal on The Gates. The fact that our ball is held in April allowed their staff to give us a competitive price. We know that you will share in our excitement at being able to hold our special event in such a special location.

On another note, it is the time of year when the Executive strikes the Nominating Committee to replace members whose term on the board is coming to an end. Those who have served on the Board would agree that the most dreaded job of all is heading up the Nominating Committee. By the time you've asked the fifth person to join the Executive, you realize what a creative group of people we are for you have heard every excuse under the sun.

Village Green has been around for 30+ years due to the efforts and dedication of many members. Let's carry on this tradition. When asked to serve on the committee instead of automatically responding; "I'm too busy", or "I don't have time" take a moment to consider the benefits of serving on the committee. Being a member of the committee is a great way to get to know other members better, to have a voice in the events that are organized and to help Village Green continue to prosper. If you have already been on the committee but it was a number of years ago, please consider serving on the executive again.

The total time commitment to serve on the Executive is 24 to 30 hours per year or 2 to 3 hours per month. If you are wondering about a particular position please ask me or Joan and we'll happily fill you in.

If you love dancing every Wednesday and enjoy the workshops and social evenings, then do your bitVOLUNTEER.

WITH THANKS, Marion

Volunteers

Many will be shocked to find,
When the day of judgment nears,
That there's a special place in Heaven,
Set aside for volunteers.
Furnished with big recliners,
Satin couches and footstools,
Where there are no committee chairmen,
No yard sales or rest area coffee to serve,
No library duty or bulletin assembly,
There will be nothing to print or staple,
Not one thing to fold or mail,
Telephone lists will be outlawed.
But a finger snap will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners
And rare treats fit for a king.

You ask, "Who'll serve these privileged
And work for all they're worth?"
Why, all those who reaped the benefits,
And not once volunteered on Earth.

Author Unknown

Daisies in the Wind Workshop and Social

What a joy to share my Saturday morning with you, dancers and musicians, on February 13th. I thank you all for giving me the opportunity to share my creations with you.... To hear the music and see the dances. I don't think life gets much better than that.

To top it off, to be awarded "1st Place" at the end of the evening. What silliness and fun! It was a evening of great music, dancing and friendship. THANK YOU to all who came, to all who helped decorate (WOW!!!, the hall looked fabulous) and clean up.

With thanks, Liz

TERRY & MARILYN ARMSTRONG

Our thanks to Marilyn and Terry for their many years of volunteering with Village Green. They have served in many capacities. Marilyn served as Vice-President and President. Terry is currently on the committee as Archivist and Treasurer and they have served together as Social Convenors.

Reminiscing just a bit; I remember from my early days in VG how willing they were to dance with newcomers. They were then the social convenors, a position they had held before (and even now are often found helping out in the kitchen). I also remember being intrigued by the fact that they are a couple. It seemed that quite often only one half of a couple, usually the wife, was a VG member. How did they manage this? (See below, for answer.) More recently, I've got to know Marilyn as one of the executive, enthusiastic and hardworking, with a real gift for communication with members. Like others on the executive I've also had the chance to see the Armstrongs' house, which is full of evidence of their creativity and skills.

Marilyn took ballroom dancing lessons in her late teens with a couple of friends. These didn't have the required result since they all became *too* good, which can be a drawback for dancing at socials! But the dancing bug lingered. In September 1994, while at work, she mentioned to Merle McTaggart that she was thinking of taking up square dancing. Merle said she had recently joined a group which did a similar kind of dancing. The very next Wednesday the Armstrongs showed up at Village Green. Terry had no previous experience with dance but, as he put it, "She told me I had to come." In the years since they have seen members come and go but dancing with Village Green has remained enjoyable because of "lots of fun, lots of people – and the balls." One of their special memories is their very first ball, in 1995. This was a really special ball, since it marked Village Green's 20th anniversary. It was held in the Marlborough, and there was a large attendance of about 100 people, some of them Village Green alums who had come back to Winnipeg for the event. A comic note was provided by a special dance flooring, loaned by the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, which seemed to trip dancers up more than smooth their steps.

When I spoke with Terry about why he continues to be so involved with Village Green he answered that being on the committee means having an chance to know other VG members in a more personal way, that it has given them a chance to learn about how events are run rather than just showing up expecting that events will be well organized. They enjoy being part of the organizing and developing an appreciation for the work that goes into running weekly classes and special events..

Once again, thanks, Marilyn and Terry, for finding time to volunteer and keep Village Green prospering.

Anne Morton

Auction Action

On the morning of Louis Riel Day, Linda Clark kindly and generously rendered to me the "service" I had "purchased" at the Village Green Auction in September. What a bargain! What a fun morning! "two hours of computer assistance" and a whole lot more!

Over coffee, before we got started, I asked Linda if she "did" in cryptic crosswords. She said well, no, not yet - but she intended to. I enjoy sitting in the sun at lunchtime and "tinkering" with a Globe and Mail cryptic crossword and so together we looked at a couple I had done, enjoying the clever "twists" of the clues which sometimes give very entertaining solutions, and then together we tackled a new one. Two heads are definitely better than one!!

Eventually (!) we got around to the "matter of the day" - computing. I had already sent Linda a list of questions and possible "computer things" we might discuss or explore, and she was so helpful, so full of good ideas, and so good at explaining - it really was a most useful "auction purchase." I asked Linda what work she was involved with, and so she showed me a couple of "career development" websites with which she is or has been involved. Fascinating - and so useful for people wanting to find out more about careers and how to get on the right track for following that dream.

One was www.immigrantsandcareers.mb.ca, designed to assist immigrants in finding out about prerequisites, what sort of work a given job might entail, and, most interestingly, some individual immigrants' case histories, showing how these people had succeeded in achieving the jobs which they now hold. Another, www.careerdestination.mb.ca, was similarly constructed to provide similar information for Canadian residents, including high school students. These websites were attractive, easy to use, provided information in a very straightforward manner, and must be most useful to those who wish to find out more about the wide range of career possibilities now available. (It's no longer a case of teaching or nursing!!)

Once again it hit me - there are so many hidden talents in Village Green!! What a Most Special "set" of people - dancing, music, friendship - and a Whole Lot More!!

Thank you so much, Linda!!

submitted by Caroline McDowall

The other day when I was browsing the net, (at this moment I don't remember what I was researching) I came across the following Chinese proverb.

“If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody”

Since this newsletter seems to have become one about volunteering, I thought I'd share this perspective.

Liz Goossen

Nominating Committee Report

This year the following executive committee positions need to be filled:

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

Publicist

These position are the voting positions on the committee.

As well, the Member-at-Large (Hall Convenor) and newsletter editor positions are open. These are important positions which require good communication with the Executive, but not necessarily attendance at the Executive meetings.

Positions have 2 year terms. If a position seems overwhelming consider sharing the responsibilities with another member. Don't hesitate to talk to a member of the nominating committee.

If you are interested, please contact Joan Cormie who is heading up the Nominating Committee

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. Mark the date on your calendar, complete your registration form, dust off you formal wear, if you want to wear it for the ball on Saturday evening, and start counting the days.