

THE TOWN CRIER
VILLAGE GREEN ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCERS



January 2010

VILLAGE GREEN CALENDAR 2009/2010

2010

Jan 30	Contra Evening hosted by MIFDA
Feb. 13	'Daisies in the Wind' Workshop & Social
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
Vice-President	Joan Cormie
Secretary	Sheldon McLeod
Treasurer*	Terry Armstrong
Publicist	Susan Greenhill
Social Convenor	Carolyn Mosher
Member-at-large	Arlene Cutts
Member at large	Lorraine Leo de Jong
Past President	Anne Morton
Teachers' Rep.	Mary Louise Chown
Editor	Liz Goossen

*Also Archivist

English Country Dancing is friendship set to music

PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

Now that we are well into the new year, the Village Green Christmas Party seems like a distant memory. However, I am pleased to report that it was a great success! We sold 78 tickets and a total of \$156 was donated to the Christmas Cheer Board. Well-deserved thanks go out to everyone who worked so hard to make sure a great time was had by all: the teachers, The Fine Companions, Carolyn our new Social Convener, who did a great job coordinating her first large event like this, Frances and the others who decorated the hall, Caroline for her reading of "In Winnipeg at Christmas" and everyone who cooked, baked, set up and cleaned up.

Now, with the bitter cold settling in and a long expanse of winter still to come, the winter blahs aren't far behind. The number of members attending dancing drops and even the most enthusiastic amongst us find it hard to get motivated. In the words of Willa Cather, "Winter lies too long in country towns; hangs on until it is stale and shabby, old and sullen."

Here are some ideas to help dispel the doldrums:

1. Dress for winter. While this is obvious it bears repeating. So many of us dress too lightly for the temperature. It's hard to enjoy winter if we are cold and uncomfortable. Take the time to put on that extra layer of clothing. If need be, warm the car up for a few extra minutes. Going outside in winter can be a whole different experience if you are dressed appropriately and feel warm. And, remember that once you've been dancing for a while that cool, winter weather, feels pretty great!
2. Remind yourself that you'll feel better for having gotten out, and, that once you get out you'll enjoy yourself. Numerous studies have shown the positive effects of exercise on stress and depression. Unfortunately, there is no magic elixir to motivate us to get off the couch and out the door. In the memorable words of the Nike ad campaign, "Just do it."
3. Have something to look forward to. Plan events with family and friends and participate in the various activities Village Green offers. Our next Social is Feb. 13 with a half-day workshop in the morning. There is also a social on March 13. Our band and tea nights are scheduled for Jan. 20, Mar. 3, and Mar. 31. In addition to exercise, friendship and camaraderie help to dispel the winter blues and make the dreary months pass more pleasantly.

Marion Tetrault



***Another
'Daisies in the Wind'
Workshop and Social***

***February 13, 2010
Music by The Fine Companions***

***Morning Workshop Session at Harrow United Church
Coffee & Registration 9:00 to 9:30
Workshop 9:30 to 12:00***

***Evening Social at St. Paul's Anglican Church
Point Road and North Drive
Doors Open 7:30
Dancing 8:00 – 10:30***

Guests Welcome

Workshop	\$ 15.00
Evening Social	\$ 10.00
Workshop and Social	\$ 20.00



See Workshop Registration at the end of the newsletter

You are invited to:
Cabbages and Kings Radio Storytelling Show

Features Mary Louise Chown and Kay Stone from Village Green and 5 other fine storytellers



A fundraiser for the new **Manitoba Storytelling Guild**

March 20, 2010 7:30 PM

Aqua Books, 274 Garry St. Admission \$10, at the door

Tune into: Cabbages and Kings CKUW 95.9 FM
Every Thursday 12:30 -1:00PM

radiocabbagesandkings@gmail.com

‘Another Daisies in The Wind’ Social
February 13, 2010
St. Paul’s Anglican Church

The Program will be chosen from dances which are taught during the morning workshop and from the following list:

- Sue’s Maggot
- Rachael’s Romp
- Come, Join the Dance
- Mr. William’s Delight
- Indian Summer
- Prairie Rose

Instructions for Sue’s Maggot, Rachael’s Romp, ‘Come, Join the Dance’ and Mr. William’s Delight are published in this newsletter and as well as they will be taught in the classes leading up to the social.

**Please complete and give to Terry Armstrong
by Wednesday, February 10th**

.....
Name: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

I will attend: ___ Workshop and social \$ 20.00
 ___ Morning workshop \$ 15.00
 ___ Social evening \$ 10.00

Make cheques payable to Village Green ECD.

Thanks, see you on February 13th

AUCTION ACTION

Raising money was never this much fun. First there was the auction itself with all the wonderful choices to bid on, the frenzied action and, of course, Caroline McDowell our entertaining and energetic auctioneer. We were having fun as we spent our money on tantalizing offerings, knowing it was all in the good cause of bringing the Flying Romanos to Canada for our workshop. But the best part was that the fun was just beginning.

This month the History Book Club of the Manitoba Historical Society hosted "Prairie Voices: Stories from the Fur Trade." Mary Louise Chown told the story of Marie Anne Lagimodiere and Anne Morton was Peter Fidler, a Hudson's Bay Company employee of the early 1800s. Their stories were interspersed with the strains of Virginia Stevens' haunting recorder music. You could almost hear the thundering herds of buffalo surrounding Marie Anne and feel the seething frustration of Peter as he tried to survive a winter with his scoundrel North West Company neighbours at Ile-a-la-Crosse. We even feasted on bannock provided by the group, and they attracted a record crowd.

Not only did the auction raise money, but it also brought to light some of the many other talents among our dancing friends. And, to top it all off, the Flying Romanos and the workshop dances are yet to come!

Judy Valenzuela

The John Trevenen Memorial Social March 13, 2010

This social evening, in memory of John Trevenen, has grown out of the 'English Scottish Social'. Many things about the evening will be the same. We will dance both English and Scottish Country dances, The Fine Companions will play, and the net profit will be donated to Winnipeg Harvest.

John was an enthusiastic, energetic member of both groups. He loved dancing and teaching dance. He introduced many of his friends and acquaintances, young and old, to dancing. He ran a folk dance club at the school where he taught and encouraged these young dancers to experience the joy of music and dance.

In organizing this evening we continue to honour John's dream.

Rachael's Romp

Duple minor improper

- A1: First couple dance half figure eight down round 2's, cross down diagonally into 2nd place while the 2's dance up the side, face on the side of the dance and set once.
- A2: First woman and 2nd man, first man and 2nd woman two hand turn once and a half round (all are now in original places). Circle once round,
- B1: First and 2nd couples, face in diagonally, set, and right hands across half way, First couple with the new 2's below left hands across ONCE ROUND.
- B2: First couple, with 2's below face in diagonally and set, then dance right hands across half way, then with next couple below left hands across once round.

Sue's Maggot

Duple Minor Improper

- A One's gypsy with the couple below, one's and 2's circle once round to the left
- B Balance once to partner, change places passing right shoulder, right hands across half way, (2's face up, 1's face down) cloverleaf turn single.
- C Ladies' Chain (open country chain; i.e. Not assisted)
- D First couple balance, dance half figure eight, 1W up round 2's above, 1M down round 2's below; 1's change places passing right shoulders (1W dances a long turn to place ready to gypsy with the 2nd man below)

Suggested Music: Spanish Jig

The dance was devised for my good friend, Sue Stanton, who is always buzzing with ideas.

Mr. Williams' Delight

Duple Minor

Improper

- A: First couple face up, 1M gates 1W half way, dance down the middle, 1M gates 1W half way, dance up the middle, and finish facing down.
- B1: Face neighbour, set, change places, left on men's side, right on women's (1s face down, 2s face up). Meet the next dancer along the side of the dance and gypsy, CW on men's side, CCW on women's. Finish 1s facing up, 2s facing down. (couples finish close to partner in the centre of the dance ready to)
- B2 Turn single, women left, men right, face on the side and set; 1s dance up middle one place and cast to progressed place, finishing in the middle facing up ready to begin again *while* 2s dance down outside and up the middle to progressed places.

Music: 'Mr. Williams' Delight' by E. Goossen

Dedication: to David Williams, co-founder of Village Green

Come, Join the Dance

Longways for three couples

- A: 1 - 8 Second couple allemande turn (R) once and a half, 2W left hand turn with 1M while 2M left hand turn with 3W to finish in second place improper.
- 9 - 16 Second couple dance a half figure eight, the 2W down through the 3s, and the 1M up through the 1s. All three couples allemande turn (left) once round. (come out of the turn early enough to dance out to the side of the dance ready for:)
- B1: 1 - 8 First and 2nd couples set, change places with partner (R), finishing in the centre of the dance facing partner, turn single (L) and flow into CCW circle half round. Now couples are in the order 2,1,3.
- 9 - 16 First and 3rd couples set, change places with partner (L), finish in the centre of the dance facing partner, turn single (R) and flow into CW circle half round.

Couples are now 2,3,1. The new 2's are ready to begin.

Music: 'Come, Join the Dance' by E. Goossen

Dedication: to John Trevenen, co-founder of Village Green

Gary Roodman

This fall Maureen and Mary Louise taught several of Gary Roodman's dances. We have enjoyed Henry's Other Hornpipe, Horseplay, Happily Emma After, Peter and Peggy, A New Beginning and Laisteridge Lane.

Gary discovered English and American dancing in 1976 when he and his family went to Pinewoods Camp for the first time. That experience changed his life forever. He had been an international dancer for many years but had never encountered any dancing that so totally captured his fancy. In 1981, Gary began teaching country dancing on a regular basis, and in 1982, inspired by a James Galway recording of "Le Basque" by Marais, he devised his first English Country dance, "Kneeland Romp". This dance marked the beginning of many collaborations with famous composers (Handel, Bach, Vivaldi, et. al.). In recent years, he has also collaborated with younger composers (that is, ones who are actually alive). Jonathan Jensen is most notable among them. Jonathan and Gary have created 20 or more dances together.

Gary is a retired college professor of Statistics and Applied Mathematics. He considers the music the framework for the dance with the tune usually coming first and he enjoys finding elegant solutions, in a mathematical sense, to interesting dance puzzles. He likes the flow the dance to seem as inevitable as the flow of the music, with little need to concentrate on what comes next.

Out of Town Dance Happenings

Thanks to Frances, who picked up this information when she was away in Texas.

March 19 -21 Dallas, Texas a weekend taught by Joseph Pimentel with music by Foxfire

April 7 -14 Ely, England, Contra Holiday in Medieval England with George Marshall calling

If you would like more information about either of these events, contact Liz