

THE TOWN CRIER
Village Green English Country Dancers
November 2007



*“ENGLISH COUNTRY
DANCING IS
FRIENDSHIP SET
TO MUSIC”*

CALENDAR FOR 2007/08

2007

- December 9 Challenge class, Norberry C.C.
December 12 Last class, Harrow United
December 15 Christmas Social, Churchill Park United

2008

- January 9 First class, Harrow United
January 13 First challenge class, Norberry C.C.
February 9 Daisies in the Wind Workshop & Social,
St. Paul's Anglican
March 8 English/Scottish Social, St. Paul's Anglican
April 13 Last challenge class, Norberry C.C.
April 25-27 Weekend workshop, Churchill Park United**
April 30 Last class, Harrow United
May 4 Challenge class wind up, Norberry C.C.
May 7 Annual General Meeting, Harrow United

Remember that Challenge classes now start at 1:15

Website: www.villagegreenenglishcountrydancing.org
E-mail: villagegreencd@hotmail.com

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this newsletter.

PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

It is so good to still see so many dancers out on Wednesday evenings, especially on Halloween evening when some may have wished to stay home & welcome all the little witches & goblins at their door. We even had one of our own members show up ready to dance as a witch. Way to go. We have been fortunate so far that Wednesday evenings have been nice so far regarding weather. No snow or cold winds as yet to discourage anyone from coming. Hats off to the teachers as well for going over some dances often enough that we now know not only the dance steps but recognize them as soon as we hear the name of the dance - such as Levi Jackson. I think everyone has been enjoying that dance so much & there are very few mistakes during the performance.

I believe everyone had a lot of fun at our second social evening of the season on October 20th held at Churchill Park United Church. It started out with 10 people (even 1 man) at 1:00 p.m. being taught a number of different Garland dances by Liz Goossen & Jeannie Gilbert who worked us very hard before having a short break for water & oranges very gratefully supplied by the Social Convener - Frances Harris. We did a number of dances either in squares of four or eight people & also the usual line dance, the whole time carrying beautifully decorated garlands of red & white flowers & ribbons. A fun time abound when our 1 man participant tried to do the dance as a female but it just didn't work out well so he had to go back to being a man. Just shows us ladies are better at being men than the men are at being women. Oh, well. The Garland workshop ended at 4:00 which meant it was time to decorate the hall for the evening dance at 7:30. Members & non-members were welcomed at Ye Olde Horse's Brass & Public House & Hostelry at 7:00 p.m. to a hall finely decorated with colourful banners & a bar supplied by the Harris family. The dancers were taught three different dances by Jackie & Virginia & accompanied by our wonderful band the Fine Companions. After the dances we were read a poem by Delayne Groen about the Wiltshire moonraker & then Liz Goossen played us some beautiful music on her harp & Mary Louise told us one of her fascinating stories. It just goes to show how much talent Village Green has & is a welcome break from dancing. Well done ladies. After three more dances were taught, we were again entertained with a Garland demonstration (which was just learned that afternoon), a Battle of Hastings story performed by Bob Harris & a song & piano rendition by Ian & Nancy Walker. At the end of the evening three more dances were taught & then refreshments were served. Thank you to Anne Morton for emceeding the Ceildih, for her wonderful introduction of each performer. Thank you to all the performers who gave of their time to make sure we all had a wonderful evening. Thank you also to the teachers who taught the dances & to those who provided food at the closing of the evening.

As you can see we have a lot of fun at Village Green, whether it be a regular Wednesday night class or one of our many socials throughout the season, so the next time someone ask you what you do for fun, you can tell them Village Green of course & invite them to another open social. Don't forget we still have our Christmas social on December 15th to look forward to.

Hoping to see everyone out on Wednesday nights,

Marilyn Armstrong

VILLAGE GREEN EXECUTIVE 2007/08

President Marilyn Armstrong	475-6591
Vice-President Anne Morton	284-2235
Secretary Linda Clark	783-1429
Treasurer John Groen	889-0425
Publicist Marion Tetrault	222-6630
Archivist Terry Armstrong	475-6591
Social Convenor Frances Harris	257-4938

Other Working Positions:

Teachers' Rep. Liz Goossen	489-2752
Dem Co-ord. Maureen McIntosh	783-1488
Editor Vacant	
Member-at-large Arlene Cutts	837-5049

“...an honest English country dance”

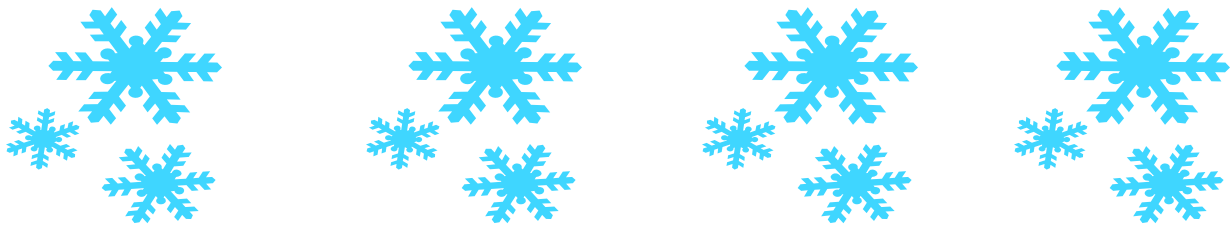
I came across this description of country dancing in *Our Village* by Mary Russell Mitford (1787-1855). The book is a collection of essays describing life in the Berkshire village of Three Mile Cross in the 1820s. One year the village held its “Maying” in early July, to take advantage of the long days and good weather. Despite the date, there was a maypole, topped with a rhododendron (in those days very exotic). There was also a large May-house, “with its walls of leaves and flowers.” At either end of the May-house there was a canvas booth to house eating, drinking and making music. There was apparently no dancing around the maypole.

The main event of the day was a cricket match. The main event of the evening was a dance:

...the band struck up in the May-house, and the dance, after a little demur, was fairly set afloat – an honest English country dance (there had been some danger of waltzing and quadrilling), with ladies and gentlemen at the top, and the country lads and lasses at the bottom; a happy mixture of cordial kindness on the one hand, and pleased respect on the other. It was droll, though, to see the beplumed and beflowered French hats, the silks and the furbelows sailing and rustling amidst the straw bonnets and cotton gowns of the humbler dancers; and not less so to catch a glimpse of the little lame clerk, shabbier than ever, peeping through the canvas opening of the booth, with a grin of ineffable delight, over the shoulder of our vicar’s pretty wife. Really, considering that Mabel Green and Jem Tanner were standing together at that moment at the top of the set, so deeply engaged in making love that they forgot when they ought to begin, and that the little clerk must have seen them, I cannot help taking his grin for a favourable omen to those faithful lovers.

Note: Mabel, Jem and the parish clerk have appeared in earlier essays. Mabel is the clerk’s niece and adopted daughter. A man of some means, he wants her to marry a well-to-do widower “with four children and a squint”, not handsome young Jem. Perhaps he is changing his mind under the influence of the dance?

Anne Morton



Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!

*Oh the weather outside might be frightful,
But the fire will be so delightful,
To a dinner and a dance we can go,
Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!*

*Village Green Christmas Social
Saturday, December 15, 2007*

Churchill Park United Church - 525 Beresford Street

Doors Open @ 5:00

Wassail & Appetizers

Catered Turkey Dinner @ 6:00

With meatballs & vegetarian option

Please note, at request of the church, no alcoholic beverages are allowed

Dancing @ 7:45 to The Fine Companions

Dessert & Coffee

Carol Sing-Along

Dinner Tickets \$25 - Available until December 5, 2007 only

Contact John Groen to purchase tickets

You cannot purchase Dinner tickets at the door!

Dance Only - Tickets available at the door \$10



PROGRAM FOR CHRISTMAS 2007

1. Gathering Peascods	circle	E
2. No Doubt	Dm	A
3. Christmas at Zeist	3C	G
4. Trip to the North Pole	Dm	E
5. Freeford Gardens	Dm	A

6. Rudolph's Jig	circle	E
7. The Touchstone	3C	A
8. Sally in Our Alley	Dm	G
9. Christchurch Bells	Dm	E
10. Jenny Pluck Pears	3C circle	A

11. Cotton Arkwright's Reel	Dm	E
12. Happily Emma After	3C	A
13. Drakes Drum	Dm	A
14. Duke of Kent's Waltz	Dm	E

E means this dance is for **everyone** at the Christmas dance

A means for all **members of Village Green** who dance regularly

G means for all **experienced members** of Village Green who dance in the general class

These dances will be danced in the coming weeks in either the beginner or the general class so you can enjoy dancing them at the Christmas party. **There are dance instructions at the end of the newsletter to add to your dance binder.** If you are unsure what the above categories mean please ask Virginia, Maureen or Jeannie.

Memories of Ron McIntosh
By Virginia Stevens

Wednesday nights at Village Green are always happy times for me. But for the past year or so something has been missing. I keep looking around for one of the best dance partners I ever had. But Ron McIntosh isn't there. I'm not sure I believe in it, but wouldn't it be nice if he could be watching as we dance, knowing how much we miss him, and how good he really was? Not good only at dancing, but at everything he did, whether it was pastoring his congregations, talking to friends, making wonderful vegetarian meals, shopping responsibly, growing native prairie plants in his garden. He cared for the world around him and the people in it; he cared for his family and his friends. He was one of the most honourable men I have ever known, and also, in his quiet way, one of the funniest. Ron McIntosh was a man of humour, honour, and humility. And I miss him.

T-SHIRT NOTICE: In case you haven't had a chance to purchase one, there are still have 10 T-shirts for sale @ \$ 20.00 each. Mostly in large sizes. If you are interested, see John Groen. These T-shirts were designed last year by Marion.

MONTHLY GARLAND DANCING:

After the garland workshop in October, Jeannie and I have both reached the conclusion that it would be great fun to continue dancing garland on a more regular basis.

CALLING ALL INTERESTED DANCERS: to attend a once a month garland session, on the **FIRST SUNDAY** of the month

TIME: 10:30 to 12:00

PLACE: Greendell Community Club

If you are interested in participating, **CALL** either Jeannie 269-6012 or Liz 489-2752. It does not matter if you have never danced garland before, Come out and give it a try.

The first session is planned for December 2nd. Please call by November 28th or talk to Jeannie or Liz at class

Sally in our Alley (longways, duple minor Waltz)
Dance reconstructed by Jacqueline Schwab;

- A1 (1-4) 1st corners cast out left (M1 down, W2 up) around neighbours, pass L in centre and loop R around partner into each other's place
(5-8) 2nd corners cast out R (M2 up, W1 down) around neighbours, pass R in centre and loop L around same-sex neighbour into each other's place
- B1 (1-4) All fall back, return to side of dance & cross with partner, looping R into...
(5-8) Four changes of circular hey (no hands)
- B2 (1-4) First corners (in 2nd corner places) change by L; 2nd corners (in 1st corner places) change by R; Turn single R (all home, improper)
(5-8) Cpl.1 cross and cast off while Cpl.2 cross and move up; Two hand turn partner once round

B2 Winnipeg version

Jenny Pluck Pears (Circle for 3 numbered clockwise) Playford Ball

- A1 Circle L set and turn single.
A2 Circle R set and turn single.
- B1 Partners hold nearest hands. Man 1 passes his lady in front of him to inside of circle. Then Man 2 and Man 3 do the same. All set and honour partner R.
B2 Men skip L round the outside of the ladies who remain back to back in centre. Men turn and skip R round the outside of the ladies to home.
B3 Man 1 with L hand passes his lady in front of him to end beside him in the circle. Then Man 2 and Man 3 do the same. All set and honour partner R.
- A3 Full siding with partner set and turn single.
A4 Repeat A3
- B4 Partners hold nearest hands. Lady 1 passes her man in front of her to inside of circle. Then Lady 2 and Lady 3 do the same. All set and honour partner R.
B5 Ladies skip L round the outside of the men who remain back to back in centre. Ladies turn and skip R round the outside of the men to home.
B6 Lady 1 with R hand passes her man in front of her to end beside her in the circle. Then Lady 2 and Lady 3 do the same. All set and honour partner R.
- A5 Partners arm R set and turn single
A6 Partners arm L set and turn single
- B7-10 Repeat B1-3

No Doubt

Duple Minor

Daisies in the Wind Vol 6 E. Goossen

- A1: First corners forward a double and back *while* second corners cast off/up* one place, dance across the set and into each other's place: second corners forward a double and back *while* first corners cast off/up* one place, dance across the set and into each other's place (progressed and improper).
- B1: All set, fall back a double, dance forward and cross, passing partner by the right, to own side.
- B2: All set, turn single right, circle (L) once round.
- A2: First couple lead up through the 2's above, cast off to place, dance down between couple below and cast up to place.

Christmas at Zeist Three-couple longways, top and bottom couples improper
Progression 2-3-1, waltz time

- A 1-4 Middle couple back to back
5-8 Top and bottom couples back to back, while middle couple cross right shoulder and individually go left, the middle man finishing between the top couple, the middle lady between the bottom couple.
9-16 Heys for three across the set, middle man passes top lady by the right, middle lady passes bottom man by the right; finish facing partner (leading couple faces up and down)
- B 1-2 All turn partner by the left, middle couple three-quarters, bottom and top couples half.
3-4 Facing across set, set to partners
5-8 All turn partner by the right halfway and loop to the left.
9-19 Top two couples left hands across halfway.
11-16 Bottom two couples right hands across, one and a half times around.

Repeat twice.

Drakes Drum

Duple minor, improper

Captain's Ceilidh

- A1 First couple balance twice, give left hands and turn once round to finish between the second couple in the centre and facing contrary.
- A2 Straight hey for four, finish facing down
- B1 Line of four down the middle, turn individually, dance up the middle, 1's cast and 2's finish in top place.
- B2 Ladies chain.

The Touchstone Longways for three couples Twenty Four Country Dances,
(1780)

- A1 First couple cross at the top and hey on opposite side, passing outside second couple to begin.
- A2 First couple cross back and hey on own side, passing outside second couple to begin.
- B1 First couple lead down center through bottom and cast up to middle place, (second moving up on bars 3-4) 1s two hand turn once round
- B2 First couple lead up through second couple and cast down the outside to bottom, (third couple moving up on bars 3-4). 1s two hand turn once round

Now in the order 2, 3, 1 Repeat twice.

Happily Emma After Longways for 3 couples Gary Roodman

- A1 1-4 Top two couples circle once around.
5-8 Top couple leads down through middle couple and around bottom couple, to the bottom, while other couples move up.
- A2 1-4 Top two couples repeat circle.
5-8 Current top couple leads down through middle couple and around bottom couple to the bottom, while other two couples move up to form line of four, 1's in the centre.
- B1 1-4 Lines of four followed by bottom couple, up a double and back.
5-8 Ends of line of four gate middles to finish between bottom couple, facing down in new line of four.
- B2 1-4 Lines of four and two, down a double and back.
5-8 Ends of line of 4 gate middles up into second place.

Repeat two more times.

Freeford Gardens Longways DM

- A1 1-4 All set R and L to partners moving forward; turn single R back to places
5-8 Partners cross set by R, facing as they do so, and loop L to finish improper
- A2 1-8 That again to places
- B1 1-4 1st couple half figure 8 down through 2nd couple
5-8 2nd couple half figure 8 down through 1st couple
- B2 1-4 Hands 4, circle L half way and fall back on sides of set
5-8 All come forward and two-hand turn partners once round

Dance devised by Kathryn and David Wright: Tune "Edgeworth Bumpkins"