



The Town Crier



VILLAGE GREEN ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCERS, October 2007

“English Country Dancing is friendship set to music”



Garland Workshop

Saturday, October 20, 2007

Open to all dancers – Men & Women!

**Come and learn the charm and intricacies of a different tradition in
English Dance – The Garland Dance!**

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Churchill Park United Church

525 Beresford Avenue

(Garlands Provided)

See Registration form on Page 8

Don't forget the Pub Night & Ceilidh Social on the same evening

See Page 7 for full details!

CALENDAR FOR 2007/08

2007

October 14 First challenge class, Norberry C.C.
October 20 Workshop & Pub Night Social, Churchill Park United****
SEE WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 8

December 9 Last 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

** Note change of date and confirmations of venues**

Remember that Wednesday classes now start at 7:30.

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
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Social Convenor	Frances Harris	257-4938
<u>Other Working Positions:</u>		
Teachers' Rep.	Liz Goossen	489-2752
Dem Co-ordinator	Maureen McIntosh	783-1488
Editor	Vacant	
Member-at-large	Arlene Cutts	837-5049

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A Message from Maureen McIntosh

Anne, Ruth, Colin and Orin join me in expressing thanks to all Village Green folk for your sympathy and ongoing concern shown, collectively and individually, in so many ways since Ron's death. We have felt comforted, nurtured, strengthened and cared for. And your memories of Ron which you have shared with us warm our hearts.

Thank you.
 Maureen

President's Musings

Welcome back to dancing everyone for what we know will be another exciting year. It was so nice to see many people back from past years along with a number of new faces at our first social of the year on September 5th at Churchill Park United Church. Lorrie Kirk has contributed an article to this issue to remind us all of the wonderful evening.

About 12 new dancers have been meeting downstairs at Harrow United with Maureen McIntosh and Virginia Stevens for beginners' classes. After spending the first hour away from the main group they get to come upstairs and show the rest of us what they have learned. I hope that they are enjoying it and look forward to coming to classes and socials in the future.

We are looking forward to our next social on October 20th, which will consist of a garland workshop during the day & a Pub Night & Ceilidh social in the evening. Look for details of both events in this issue. Of course we always anticipate our annual Christmas party which will be held this year on December 15th at Churchill Park United Church. It will be a catered event so no one will have to worry about bringing food. We look forward to seeing all members and their friends and relatives at that event.

The executive would like to welcome Linda Clark as our new secretary this year along with Arlene Cutts who is holding the position of Member at Large and Hall Convener.

Our condolences go out to Susan Hall and Maureen McIntosh who lost their husbands this past summer and to Zyna Boyes whose mother passed away in September.

Since our motto is "English Country Dancing is friendship set to music" I hope to continue seeing a lot of dancers out on Wednesday nights and I look forward to meeting all of the new dancers.

Your President,

Marilyn Armstrong

Highlights of October Executive Meeting from Linda Clark

☞ Demonstration Open House was successful; 5 men and 6 women attended, 3 men and 3 women have joined the Dem Team. Demo practice will be Wednesdays, every second week starting October 10th (in the 2nd and 4th week of October and the 1st and 3rd week of November).

☞ The VGCD January 2008 Repertoire class may be run if there are at least 6 to 8 inexperienced people wanting to join.

☞ The closing of the Vasa Lund means that the Ball Committee will need to start very soon to find another venue for 2009.

- The Ball Committee needs to be struck immediately to begin this search.
- The Executive will come to the next meeting with suggestions of who might be willing to be on the Ball Committee.

☞ The Tech Voc Catering Service has been booked for December 15th for the food service. Salad and multi-grains buns will be provided and service will be plated not buffet. VGCD members will supply the desert. 10 people will be asked to bring a desert to serve 10 people. Each desert donor will receive a \$10.00 honorarium. Catering cost will be \$11.00 per person; gratuity and tax extra. Tickets will be \$25.00.

Opening Social – September 5, 2007

Marilyn Armstrong, President of Village Green Dancers, welcomed dancers to an evening of fun in the Churchill Park United Church hall. People mingled, welcoming new faces and assuring them that they ‘are going to love dancing’, or catching up with other Village Green members on how the summer was spent between the last spring class and now.

Decorated in autumn colours, with corn cobs and chrysanthemums, the stage was set for another year of dancing. And the harvest theme continued later in the evening as there was an inviting (aka welcoming) spread of dainties, fruit, breads, and cookies – a fall cornucopia of goodies - to go with coffee, tea, and refreshing punch.

I remember the social about three years ago – my first – when 100 came, all crowded into the Harrow United Church hall, and many of those came back for classes. This year, the same warmth was there as at my first social.

If friendliness and warmth is an outstanding part of Village Green, it is not all. The Fine Companions brought their live, and lively, music to enrich the experience of the dance. As said so many times before and now again, thank you for your music. And, of course, you have to mention well respected teachers, Liz Goossen and Jackie Soble who, with patience and authority, taught various dances, all interesting and accessible for everyone. As usual, they shared their love of the dance, and led us with infectious joy!

We were treated to a ‘half time’ show and watched with delight, as Caroline, Frances, Anne, Roger, Art and John demonstrated how dancing really is done - with confidence, gracefulness, energy and, of course, joy.

Fifty nine attended the fall 2007 social, 17 of whom were new to English Country dancing. Inspired by the teachers, the music, the demonstrations and the warm welcome of the Village Green members, we hope the newcomers will return with dancing shoes (and water bottles) to Harrow United Church to learn the dances, explore the finer points of dance, and enjoy the camaraderie of Village Green that will see us through another long Manitoba winter.

Lorrie Kirk



If you missed the Annual General Meeting in May, you missed another wonderful epic ode courtesy of Zyna Boyes, the Village Green Poet Laureate. Here is the uncut version, to be read in a North English dialect/accnt if possible. See what fun you missed if you didn't make it to either the Ball or the meeting?

Pearls of Wisdom – From The Wise

Editor's Note: the following writing contains scenes of partial nudity and challenging dialogue. Readers' discretion is advised!

*Two year ago, were my first Ball
And I responded to the call
By practicing right up t'day
Until it took my breath away.*

*So my clumping feet did learn
Pousetting and assisted turns
And maggoting, and siding too
A complicated how-de-do.*

*I persevered; St. George's Ball
Was so enjoyed by one and all.
In two year Ball would come again
My dancing must improve by then.*

*That two year passed with lightning speed.
This March we found ourselves in need
Of practicing until we dropped
And our perspiring brows we mopped.*

*The "Pearls of Wisdom Ball" was near
I had more confidence, than fear.
I'd dance far better, know my stuff
And tackle dances that were tough.*

*And then thoughts turned to what to wear.
I know that you lads seldom care
But lassies in this group are keen
To sew great frocks on their machines*

*For my first Ball, I must confess,
I had to wear a borrowed dress.
But this time I vowed to design
A new frock that would end up mine.*

*I trotted off to Fabricland,
And friend Delayne gave me a hand.
The pattern pick'd was Regency
From "Sense and Sensibility".*

*But when I got the pieces out
And looked at them, there was no doubt
That I would have too much on show
If I cut out front piece that low!*

*How was it that ones so refined -
And amply covered up behind -
When turned around the other way
Had all their goodies on display?*

*All be it they were draped with gauze,
Men's downcast eyes were apt to pause.
There was no cause for male dismay
With such resplendence on display.*

*The Mr. Darcys of that time
Must have found viewing quite sublime.
Weren't it thought that they were rude
When gazing on such pulchritude?*

*But I am getting far too old
For fabric frontage quite so bold
And so mine got hitched up, right quick!
A change of pattern did the trick,*

*And then to make my outfit "cool"
I had to make a reticule.
You know, that funny bag with strings
That you can then fill up with things.*

*Now I was ready for "The Pearl"
With feet in slippers, hair in curl.
I'd done my homework, learned my list
By listening to my compact disc*

*When Vasa Lund came into view
I did a double take or two
For entering the dancing hall
Were dozens coming to the Ball.*

*Their costumes were of every hue
Of gold and silver, red and blue
With trains and hoops and cuffs of lace
A rainbow scene was taking place.*

*The room was twinkling away,
And pearly things were on display.
The dancers, we could hardly wait,
To take off from the starting gate.*

*Jeannie, Jackie, Roger, Sue
Seemed to think enough we knew
To leave us moving in a trance,
So they could come and join the dance.*

*Those 'Fine Companions' played their best
Without, it seemed, a moment's rest.
We are so lucky that they play
So we can dance the night away.*

*Our Tallis Canon was so neat
Not one of us did miss a beat.
From up at top right down the Hall
I could have danced right through the wall.!*

*We've learned that ones go down and stay
While twos come up the other way
But Liz delights in changing those
To challenge all our confused toes.*

*Now you can get in quite a tiz
When dancing dances penned by Liz.
She loves to discombobulate
By deviating from the straight.*

*With skirts a-swish, and hoops a-swirl
The lines did zig and zag and curl.
Those groupings were a wondrous sight
As we danced on throughout the night.*

*We backed to back – colliding bums
Danced Liz's Garden – passing tums
Allamanded and chased through –
We all knew just what to do.*

*Our teachers must have been right proud
For none of them had said aloud
What we had heard each practice night
"Now circle right – the OTHER right!"*

*Those teachers they had done their job
Made dancers from the clomping mob.
Jeannie, Anne and Sandra too
Created such a splendid do.*

*A glorious evening was well spent
In friendship and in merriment
We danced until we nearly dropped
But then the music had to stop.*

*So all that's left - or is that RIGHT?
- Are memories of a lovely night.
In two year we'll be back again
The ladies and the gentlemen.*

*Our challenge met, our test was passed
We all got our gold stars at last.
Practice! Practice! They'd advised -
Pearls of Wisdom from the Wise!*

Zyna Boyes

Enjoy an evening of dance, music and entertainment at
the pub on the Village Green - Ye Olde Horse's Brass!



Pub Night & Ceilidh Social - Saturday, October 20th

Churchill Park United Church

Doors Open 7:00 - Dancing 7:30 - 10:30

Open to all - bring a friend or two!

**Would you like to participate in the ceilidh by singing, playing or
telling a story? Please contact Frances Harris by October 17th!!**

Dance Program

1. On the Village Green**
2. Jack's Health++
3. Sprigs of Laurel**

4. Big School Circle Dance**
5. Levi Jackson!!!
6. Cumberland Square Eight**

7. Galopede**
8. Henry's Other Hornpipe++
9. Christchurch Bells**

** Dances are for everyone, whether they are regular VG dancers or not

++ Dances are for beginners as well as upstairs dancers

!!! Only for those who have done it before!

Village Green Notice Board

Dem Team Practices

The demonstration open house was held on Saturday morning, September 29th. Six new dancers have taken the plunge to join the dem team. Jackie Soble has put together a great program of traditional and contemporary dances that should entertain our audiences this season. Dem practices will be held on Wednesday evenings, from 9:00 to 9:45 on October 10th and 21st, and November 7th and 21st. During those practices the rest of the members will have the opportunity to go downstairs for tea and conversation.

******Volunteers are needed to set up help with preparation and clean up downstairs on each evening – please see Frances Harris******

Minneapolis English Country Dance Workshop

Each October our nearest ECD neighbours in Minneapolis hold a weekend workshop and ball. This year it's on the Thanksgiving weekend, October 5th to 7th. Eight intrepid Village Green members are making the trek across the border to dance for their country. Watch for details of the adventure in the next issue of the Town Crier. Perhaps it's something for you to keep in mind for next Fall – it's a great way to hone your dancing skills and meet new friends!

First Challenge Class Sunday, October 14th – Norberry Community Club

Did you pass the Challenge Class Test in the August Town Crier? If so, come and join the Challenge group at the first class on Sunday, October 14th from 1:30 to 3:30 at Norberry Community Centre (St. Mary's Road and Molgat St).

You will learn wonderful new dances that put a whole new spin on English Country Dancing as you know it!

*******Garland Workshop Registration Form*******

Please complete and give to Liz Goosen by Wednesday, October 17th



.....



I will be attending the Garland Workshop!

_____ **I'm attaching \$15.00 cash** or

_____ **I'm attaching a cheque for \$15.00 (payable to Village Green English Country Dancers)**

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Introducing New Dancers After the Start of Classes – A Message from your Executive

With the start of a new dancing season, we often find that we are extolling the virtues of ECD to our friends. Now that the beginners' classes are well under way, it's difficult to introduce new members without disrupting the progress of the class. So, if you know someone who is interested in joining us part-way through the season, please contact Virginia Stevens or Maureen McIntosh first. Similarly, if you want to bring a visiting friend to a Wednesday class, please check with the teacher first. You would be responsible for ensuring that your guest is comfortable with the level of dancing, and able to join in without disrupting the other dancers.

There's opportunity for your friends and visitors to experience ECD at the "open" socials, such as the Pub Night on October 20th. If we find that there's enough interest from new dancers, there's the possibility of another beginners' class in the New Year.

Membership Fees Due!

Please remember that your membership dues are due by the end of October! Don't jeopardize your membership privileges. Cheques/cash happily accepted by Treasurer John Groen at Wednesday classes.

From the CDSS Newsletter:

From *The Wind in the Willows*, by Kenneth Grahame:

"It's like music-far away music," said the Mole nodding drowsily.

"So I was thinking," murmured the Rat, dreamful and languid. "Dance-music - the lilting sort that runs on without a stop-but with words in it, too-it passes into words and out of them again - I catch them at intervals-then it is dance-music once more, and then nothing but the reeds' soft thin whispering."

Survival Dance – How Humans Waltzed through the Ice Age

By Heather Whipps, LiveScience.com

"Some people are naturally graceful on the dance floor, while others seem burdened by to inept left feet. Blame it on the Ice Age.

According to new research, the ability to dance may have been a factor in survival for our prehistoric ancestors, who used their moves to bond and communicate with each other when times were tough." **- I guess what goes around comes around!**

Story and Music concerts feature Village Green members!

The Magic of One Storytelling and Music Concerts is back again for a fifth season. Come out and hear some of Village Green's members when they're not dancing! Liz Goossen will be playing harp at the January concert, and Monica Hultin and Linda Kane are members of a medieval choir who will sing at the January concert. Kay Stone is performing at the March concert, and Mary Louise Chown is performing at the October and March concerts.

Our 2007/8 series is in the final stages of planning, so here are the dates so you can mark your calendars as well as some information about each concert. All concerts will once again be at the Unitarian Church Hall on Wellington Crescent. We're keeping tickets prices low ... \$12.00 for advance tickets, \$15.00 at the door and \$10 per concert for a season pass. You can buy a season pass from Mary Louise or Art Quanbury (her husband) at Wednesday night dancing.

SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMMING

October 26 Under the Harvest Moon: Stories and Music from the Celtic North

Stories Mary Louise Chown, Kate Isaac, and Larry Fisher

Music.... Susan and Paul Hammer, with Cathy Rayner on fiddle, Larry Fisher on harp

November 23/07 Mail Order Brides and Manitoba Laundry: Stories of Courage

Stories.... Guest tellers Glenna Janzen & Carol Leigh Wehking from Hamilton, Ontario

Music..... Tusia Kozub, playing the grand piano

Some of the stories come from the Mennonite people who settled in Manitoba in the 1800's.

***On Saturday, Nov.24, Carol Leigh and Glenna will give a workshop on telling stories from true life.

Contact Mary Louise 489-6994 for information and to register.

January 25 The Age of Chivalry: Stories from the Middle Ages

Stories: Guest teller Melanie Ray from Vancouver, and Tom Roche

Music: Michael Cobus and Liz Goossen

Prelude music: Medieval songs sung by members of This Merrie Companie, including Monica Hultin and Linda Kane

March 14 Magic Cloaks and Caravans: Stories of Journeys

Stories: Earthstory (Kay Stone, Jane Cahill, Mary Louise Chown)

Music: Flamenco Guitar and hopefully flamenco dancer Claire Marchand

All concerts are at the Unitarian Church Hall on Wellington Crescent @ 8:00PM.

Tickets \$12 in advance, from McNally Robinson Grant Park and Prairie Sky Books

\$15 @ the door. Season Pass \$40 available from Mary Louise/Art at class or by calling 489-6994