

# The Town Crier

VILLAGE GREEN ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCERS

October 2008



*English Country Dancing is friendship set to music*

VILLAGE GREEN CALENDAR 2008/09

2008

Nov. 1 Workshop & Social, Churchill Park United Church  
Dec. 10 Last class  
Dec. 13 Christmas dinner & social, Churchill Park United Church  
Dec.21 Last challenge class

2009

Jan.7 First class, Harrow United  
Jan.18 First challenge class, Glenlee Community Club  
Feb.7 Workshop & Social, Churchill Park  
Mar.7 English/Scottish Social, St. Paul's Anglican  
Apr. 25 Spring Ball, Fort Gibraltar  
Apr. 29 Last class  
May 3 Challenge class wind up  
May 6 Annual General Meeting, Harrow United

VILLAGE GREEN EXECUTIVE 2008/09

President	Anne Morton	284-2235
Vice-President	Marion Tetrault	222-6630
Secretary	Sheldon McLeod	261-1682
Treasurer*	Terry Armstrong	475-6591
Publicist	Susan Greenhill	453-0153
Social Convenor	Frances Harris	257-4938
Member-at-large	Arlene Cutts	837-5049
Past President	Marilyn Armstrong	475-6591
Teachers' Rep.	Jeannie Gilbert	269-6012
Town Crier Editor	Liz Goossen	489-2752
Dem Coordinator	Maureen McIntosh	783-1488

\*Also Archivist

website address <http://www.villagegreenenglishcountrydancing.org/>

Thank you to Anne, Frances, Jeannie and Mary Louise for their contributions.

## **PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS**

Giving thanks is naturally on my mind, since I'm writing this on the Friday before Thanksgiving. In the Anglican prayer for Thanksgiving Day, thanks are offered "for power to work and leisure to rest [and] for all that is beautiful in creation and in our lives." Doesn't that sound like Village Green? It certainly brings beauty into our lives. And while dancing is a leisure-time activity for us it still requires effort and energy from dancers, teachers and volunteers.

Thanks to all who worked to make the opening social such a success, the teachers, the musicians, Frances Harris the social convenor, all who helped with the food and the decorating, with a special mention to Zyna Boyes for her brilliant notion of transforming the church bulletin boards into striking works of art. The social was a success because it was an enjoyable evening in itself but even more because many of those who came to try English country dancing for the first time have since shown up on Wednesday nights. Welcome to all the new dancers. It's wonderful to see you come upstairs from the beginners' class with such happy faces and a pleasure to join with you in the dancing.

I hope as many as possible can make it to the November 1<sup>st</sup> workshop and/or the Saints and Sinners social in the evening. (There are details elsewhere in this issue.) If you have never been to a workshop and are wondering what it might be like, on the basis of my own experience I'd say workshops are a lot of fun. Everybody is there to learn and try something new, and the atmosphere is relaxed – there's no learning without getting it wrong now and then, so why worry? The times of the two sessions, 10-12, and 1-3, were chosen by Jeannie Gilbert so as to give people time in both morning and afternoon for their usual Saturday chores. Thanks to Jeannie for thinking of this, and for all the work I know she is putting into her preparation for the workshop.

Costumes aren't obligatory for the evening social but they do add to everyone's enjoyment. Isn't there some saintly or sinful person you've always wanted to dress up as? I plan to come as Saint Jerome – just wait until you see the lion!

*Anne Morton*

**ARE UNTIED SHOELACES SLOWING YOU DOWN  
ON THE DANCE FLOOR?**

**HELP IS AT HAND!**

**Go to Ian's Shoelace Site**  
at <http://www.fieggen.com/shoelace/tying.htm>

**and learn how to master those pesky laces.**

## **Highlights of Executive Meeting**

The executive met at Harrow United on October 1, prior to the class. Most of the meeting was spent on the workshop and social on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Other highlights:

The Opening Social had a loss of \$162.29, probably because of the extra expense of renting St. George's and paying insurance as required.

As of October 1, there were 64 paid-up members, eight of them new. Members who have not yet renewed for 2008/09 will be contacted.

There is \$7804.26 on deposit, with some bills remaining to be paid.

After class teas will be held, as in previous years. Dates will be: October 22, November 19, January 21, February 25 and March 25.

Manitoba Theatre Centre responded to our suggestion of a performance of period dances in connection with the run of *Pride and Prejudice*. Unfortunately, their past experience has been that the lobby is not large enough to accommodate both dance groups and theatre-goers.

This year Village Green paid for an ad in the Caboto Centre's guide, which is distributed with the *Free Press* in the southwest part of the city. Last year we purchased an ad in the Leisure Guide. In order to see the effect of such ads and other publicity, in future there will be a space on the membership form asking how new members heard of Village Green.

## **Biography: Cecil Sharp**

Cecil James Sharp (1859-1924) was the founding father of the folklore revival in England in the early twentieth century, and many of England's traditional dances and music owe their continuing existence to his work in recording and publishing them

He was born in November 1859 in Denmark Hill, South London, the son of James Sharp, a slate merchant. He attended Uppingham School before starting a mathematics degree at Clare College, Cambridge. In October 1882, he departed for Australia where he resided for nearly ten years, working for five years as Associate to the Chief Justice of South Australia and then as a partner in a private venture, the Adelaide College of Music. There, despite his lack of formal musical training, he taught singing and music theory, and in his spare time conducted the Adelaide Philharmonia Society and began composing.

In 1892 he returned to England and on 22 August 1893 at East Clevedon, Somerset, he married Constance Dorothea Birch. Sharp taught music at Ludgrove School, a preparatory school in North London. During his seven years in the post, he took on a number of other musical jobs, most notably as Principal of the Hampstead Conservatoire of Music (1896-1905.) He also later acted as music tutor to the Royal Household (1904-7).

Two central events would turn Sharp's attention to English folksongs and dance. On Boxing Day 1899, Sharp was staying with his mother-in-law in Oxford and happened to see the Headington

Quarry Morris Men performing a set of 5 dances. He was fascinated and called back their musician, William Kimber, to notate the tunes and later arrange them, although at this point with seemingly little idea of what to do with them

The second event would transpire during the summer of 1903, when he overheard his gardener singing the traditional "The Seeds of Love." These events led Sharp to realize that there was a wealth of traditional dance and folksong material that needed to be preserved. He would devote the remainder of his life doing just that.

Sharp founded the English Folk Dance Society in 1911 which, together with the Folk-Song Society, forms the basis of the English Folk Dance and Song Society today.

Sharp's legacy as a collector and promoter of folksongs and dances would echo throughout the music community in a number of ways. His labour laid the groundwork for a revival of Morris dancing and he would influence English art composers Ralph Vaughan Williams, Gustav Holst, and George Butterworth. In 1930, six years after his death, the Cecil Sharp House was founded in London, dedicated to the preservation of folksong and dance.

Between 1916-1918 he made three trips to the United States to study the English folksong in the Southern Appalachians. Sharp would spend 46 weeks in remote communities collecting some 1,682 tunes, many of English origin, and others -- such as the square dances -- of American origin. These song-finding trips would also have a great impact on American universities, encouraging them to become more active in collecting their own folk culture. He provided the impetus for the 1915 founding of the Country Dance & Song Society, which has done a lot of good work in promoting English, Contra, and ritual dance. (CDSS started out as the American branch of the English Folk Dance & Song Society, and changed the name in 1940 to reflect a growing interest in American dance.)

CDSS is now a well established energetic organization. John Trevenen and David Williams, the co-founders of Village Green, both attended summer dance camps which were organized by CDSS. CDSS is the central organization in North America for promoting English Country Dance and Song. Village Green is a group affiliate of this organization. You can browse their website <http://www.cdss.org/>



## *Workshop with Jeannie Gilbert*

Mark November 1<sup>st</sup> on your calendar. We are happy to have Jeannie Gilbert teaching workshops during the day. Jeannie began dancing with Village Green about 20 years ago and has been teaching for at least 10 years. Come and enjoy Jeannie's enthusiastic teaching style. She delights in seeing dancers being confident and comfortable enough with the dance that their enjoyment is visible. The workshops are guaranteed to be fun and informative.

**After All Hallows' Eve comes All Saints' Day  
Join us for the**



**Workshop & Social!  
Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>  
Churchill Park United Church**

**Workshop Sessions 10 - 12 and 1 - 3  
With live music!**

**Join us for a potluck lunch from 12 to 1**

**Evening Social \$5.00  
Guests Welcome  
8:00 (doors open @ 7:30)  
Music by the Fine Companions  
Come in costume as your favourite saint or sinner!!**

**Bring a snack or dessert  
(Maybe Angel food cake or Devilled eggs!)**



# Workshop Registration Form

Please complete and give to Terry Armstrong by Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>

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I have a devilish urge to attend the following Workshop sessions!

- \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, November 1 Morning Workshop 10 – 12 \$15
- \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, November 1 Afternoon Workshop 1 – 3 \$15
- \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, November 1 Evening Social 8 – 11 \$ 5
- \_\_\_\_\_ I'll be a devil and attend all 3 events! \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ I'm attaching \$\_\_\_\_\_ in cash or

\_\_\_\_\_ I'm attaching a cheque for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (payable to Village Green ECD)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Heavenly Potluck Lunch

Please detach and give to Frances Harris by October 29

I'll join in the heavenly potluck lunch from 12 – 1, and I will bring (to serve 4):

Soup \_\_\_\_\_ Sandwiches \_\_\_\_\_ Fruit \_\_\_\_\_ Yogurt \_\_\_\_\_ Muffins \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## *Evening Program*

*November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008*

*Churchill Park United*

*7:30 pm*

1. Midnight Ramble	Duple minor	Thompson 1773 (G. Fogg)
2. Trip to Tunbridge	3 Couple	Playford Ball
3. Teacher's choice		
4. Dover Pier	Duple minor	Playford Ball
5. Ore Boggy	Duple minor	Neal Collection (Fogg & Jackson)
6. Trip to Lockport	Duple minor	Mary Louise Chown
7. Teacher's choice		
8. Peascods	Circle	Playford Ball
9. Dick's Maggot	Duple minor	Playford Ball
10. Red River Soldiers' Joy	Duple minor	Mary Louise Chown
11. Peterchurch	3 Couple	Book of Everyday Dances
12. Teacher's choice		
13. Waterfall Waltz	Sicilian circle	Pat Shaw Collection 3

# Trip to Lockport

(Duple minor, improper)

## Meeting and Invitation

- A-1 1-4 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> couples balance forward diagonally, turn single (R) to place  
(1s finish facing down, 2s finish facing up  
5-8 "**Come with me**" figure: Men give right hand to partner and lead them in a  
CW ring  $\frac{3}{4}$  round to finish with the 1<sup>st</sup> couple on the man's side and the 2<sup>nd</sup> couple  
on the woman's side

## Fun along the Way

- A-2 1-8 Ladies chain

## Lining up for the Locks

- B-1 1-4 All dance back to back with opposite.  
5-6 Men change places.  
7-8 All set to partner.  
(Dancers are progressed, 1s improper and 2s proper)

## Going Thru the Locks

- B-2 1-4 All up a double; 2s cast off one place, 1s follow , also casting to finish above 2s  
Both couples face down  
5-8 All dance down a double, 2s cast up, 1s follow, also casting. Both couples  
finish in progressed places ready to begin again

Devised by Mary Louise Chown, after she accompanied the Village Green Morris Men on a tour on 27 July 2008 from St Andrew's on the Red to Maple Grove (Captain Kennedy House), ending at Skinner's in Lockport.

Suggested Music: The Good Hope Reels as recorded on the CD for the Vesey Collection.