



THE TOWN CRIER

VILLAGE GREEN ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCERS

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING IS FRIENDSHIP SET TO MUSIC



October 2011

Visit our website at <http://www.villagegreenenglishcountrydancing.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

CHALLENGE CLASS DATES

Sundays: Nov, 6 & 20; Dec 4 & 18

Nov. 11- 13 CDSS Weekend Events
Dec. 10 VG Christmas Social

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec. 7, 2011 Last class of Fall Term
Jan. 11, 2012 First class of Winter Term

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CDSS on the web: <http://www.cdss.org/>

Hello all Village Green members,

The weather this fall has been so glorious it is hard to believe we are already well into October. Our "Bring a Friend" opening event on Sept. 14 was a time to reconnect with people I hadn't seen all summer. We welcomed new members as well as guests from Albany, New York. Thanks to the executive who brought the delicious food and Sandra Johnston who so capably runs these special evenings.

Classes have begun. You will have noticed a change to Wednesday night. The teachers and executive decided to trial a new model. We start at 7:30 with a focus on basics. In the first half of the evening teachers choose dances that will allow everyone to enjoy dancing and to learn the basics. Usually we have been doing 4 dances in this section. After the break, the complexity of the dances increases along with the speed of the teaching. The teachers are grading the dances from 1-5 to help dancers decide whether they are ready for a particular dance. Thank you everyone for recognizing that there is a time to dance and a time to watch. This allows for a more satisfying experience for all. A comments box will be available for feedback.

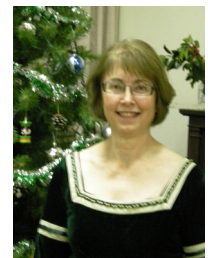
The challenge class started on Sept 18 with a potluck and dance to say farewell to Mike and Robin Lynch. Mike and Robin were founding members of VG. They have been involved in many ways with the group – serving on the executive, teaching but most importantly dancing with us. They are heading to a BC for a new adventure. We will miss them and hope they will visit often.

We are delighted to be hosting the Country Dance and Song Society Board on Nov. 11, 12 and 13. Thank you to Katherine Himelblau, Mary Louise Chown and Jeannie Gilbert for organizing this weekend and to all who are billeting our guests. The dances on Friday and Saturday are a wonderful opportunity to let friends know that they are welcome to join us.

Another exciting event will be held on Sunday afternoon Nov. 27 – the launch of the Fine Companions' CD. Come and celebrate this wonderful achievement (more details inside this issue).

I hope everyone is enjoying the fall dancing. I look forward to another great year.

PRESIDENT'S PODIUM



Cheers!
Sue Stanton

DANCEOPHILE'S CORNER



Interesting and Educational Information for Dancers

Here's Looking At You! Or, We Dance With Our Eyes, Not Just Our Feet.

In the July/August issue of *The Walrus* magazine there is an

article by Anne Casselman about her first experience of English country dancing*.

Although her piece is called "Regal Steps," what the dancers did with their eyes impressed Casselman more than what they did with their feet. It seemed to her that in English country dance "the most intimate contact occurs between the eyes."

As a new dancer, I found it quite disconcerting to look steadily into someone else's eyes. In our society, we associate prolonged eye contact with intense emotion, either hostile or sexual. We tend to avoid looking at strangers as we pass on the street. The increasing popularity of devices such as smart phones has made it even easier to ignore the physical presence of others. Yet after a while I realized that one of the joys of English country dance is the freedom to look at other people, and to be looked at by them, in an open, friendly way. As a dancer quoted by Casselman says, "We learn something interesting about the spirit inside, the light, the twinkle in the eye."

Keeping eye contact also has a surprisingly strong influence on what the rest of the body is doing. Perhaps we instinctively mirror the actions of another person. You can hold hands, as in a right hand turn, but unless you make eye contact, the two of you are not really connected. You may get out-of-sync and you won't feel the energy of the turn in the same way. In a hands across or a hands four circle look at the person diagonally across. In a hands six circle look at the person directly across. If everybody does this, the circle should keep its circular shape—and be a lot more fun.

Looking at other dancers also helps you to know what to do and when to do it. There is a natural tendency to look down when feeling flustered or trying to puzzle something out. Withdrawing into yourself in this way is really not a good idea when dancing. Dancing is about the other people, as much, or even more, than it is about you. We need to look at each other. Or, as Casselman found: "Eye contact serves as both coquette and traffic cop, providing cues for when to progress and when to yield."

Contributed by Anne Morton

* The article describes a dance in Vancouver; read it at <http://www.walrusmagazine.com/articles/2011.07-field-note-regal-steps/>

The CDSS Weekend Committee will have a sign-up sheet for members who can bring "goodies" for the post-dance socializing on Nov. 12th. Watch for the sheet at class.

SANDRA OR FRANCES, OUR SOCIAL CONVENERS, WILL ALSO HAVE SIGN UP SHEETS FOR THE UPCOMING TEA NIGHTS

2011-2012 VG Event Calendar CORRECTED!

Nov. 11 Churchill Park United Church	CDSS Contra Dance Evening hosted by MIFDA
Nov. 12 St. Paul's Anglican Church	CDSS English Country Dance Evening
Nov. 13 Fred Douglas Place	CDSS Community Discussion & Breakfast
Nov. 27 St. Paul's Anglican Church	Fine Companions CD Launch
Dec. 10 St. Paul's Anglican Church	Christmas Dinner & Dance Evening
Feb. 25 (TBC)	Workshop & Dance Evening
May 2012 (TBC)	Weekend Workshop

Ed. Note: Apologies for any confusion caused by the errors in the previously published schedule.

YOUR 2011-2012 VILLAGE GREEN EXECUTIVE

A Workshop in May?

Yes, it is an unusual time to have a workshop. However, the guest teacher of choice is available then - but not in April. Much more detail to come in future issues of the Town Crier. Watch for it! Your TC Editors

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ANY CONCERNS/SUGGESTIONS FOR EXECUTIVE DISCUSSION: CONTACT THE PRESIDENT OR VP.

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Constitutional Changes Enacted at 2010-2011 Village Green AGM

Two sections of the Constitution were revised as follows (excerpt from the AGM Minutes)

- Under Duties of the Board - The Board of Management may authorize any "unanticipated" and "unbudgeted" expenditures only if they are considered to be essential to the holding of classes and the running of the group. Such expenditures would include for instance, repair or replacement of essential equipment. The Board of Management is required to call an Extraordinary meeting for any "unanticipated" and "unbudgeted" expenditures of over \$1000.00 or an amount set at an AGM previous to the expenditure. Note: At all times, an adequate "float" must be maintained so that such expenditures could not result in an unplanned year end deficit or the inability to initiate classes for the following dancing year.
- Under Extraordinary Meetings - The Board of Management may call an Extraordinary meeting at any time with two weeks notice to the membership. Notification to membership will be by e-mail and through the phone tree for those without e-mail. The extraordinary meeting will be held on the general class night. When a member has brought an issue to the attention of the Board and does not consider that it has been resolved, the member may initiate the following process to request that an Extraordinary meeting be held. The member will submit a petition signed by at least ten members or a quarter of the membership, whichever is less, to a member of the Board of Management. An Extraordinary meeting will be called as above with two weeks notice to membership

Moved by Sue Stanton and seconded by Deb Scott that we add under duties of the Board section#1 passed unanimously.

Moved by Sue Stanton and seconded by Mary Louise Chown that #2 replace the paragraph on extraordinary meetings, passed unanimously.

<p>DANCING & MORE DANCING</p>	<p>MIFDA Weekly Greek Dance Class Sunday Evening Starting Oct. 23</p> <p>\$50 Annual Registration</p> <p>5 – 7 p.m. at Hellenic Cultural Centre,</p> <p>St. Demetrios Church Grant and Shaftesbury Contact: fr.ted@mac.com</p>	<p>Irish Set Dancing Mondays</p> <p>7:30 -9:30 p.m.</p> <p>Free!</p> <p>Riverview School, 253 Maplewood Ave. Multi-purpose Room Downstairs</p>	<p>MIFDA Halloween Party, Oct. 28 Contact Jeremy Hull (hull.jeremy@gmail.com for more details)</p> <p>Kefi Greek Dance Conference Nov. 11- 13</p> <p>Register at: http://www.kefidancers.com</p>
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Three Women Go on Dance Binge in California: A report on "Hey Days"! English Week Music & Dance Camp

Blurb from the Web: "Come join us August 21-28, 2011 for Hey Days, the 31st annual BACDS English Country Dance and Music Week, in our new location at the Bishop's Ranch, in the scenic wine country of northern California. We look forward to a wonderful week of dancing, music-making, singing, and merry abandon, all in the comfort of a first class retreat facility."

As the car drove away, I realized that all the wine was still in the trunk. So much for happy hour!

We met our three roommates and settled into our 2-bedroom cabin. It seemed quite luxurious, since there was a living room as well as a shower, toilet, and sink. Bishop's Ranch is a 360-acre Anglican retreat centre which is a bit of heaven (*ed. note: pun intended?*). Some of my favourite places were:

- the arbour covered walkway with vines laden with grapes and kiwifruit,
- St. George's chapel with lovely stained glass,
- the terrace around the dining room and main dance hall overlooking rolling hills with mountains in the background,
- the garden filled with bright pink lilylike flowers on leafless stems,
- the flowering trees and the comfy chairs scattered around so invitingly.

The daily schedule at 'Hey Days' was:

- 7:30 chapel bell for morning prayer
- 8:00 breakfast, 9:00 class 1 (English dance/Singing/Music)
- 10:30 class 2 (English dance/Longsword/Music)
- 12:00 Gathering (large group time)
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:30 class 3 (Waltz/Callers' workshop/Uke) **or** Class 4 (English Advanced/ English for all/Band) **or** Teas **or** Class 5 (Open mic/Partnering/Song writing)
- 6:30 Dinner
- 8:00 Evening Dance.

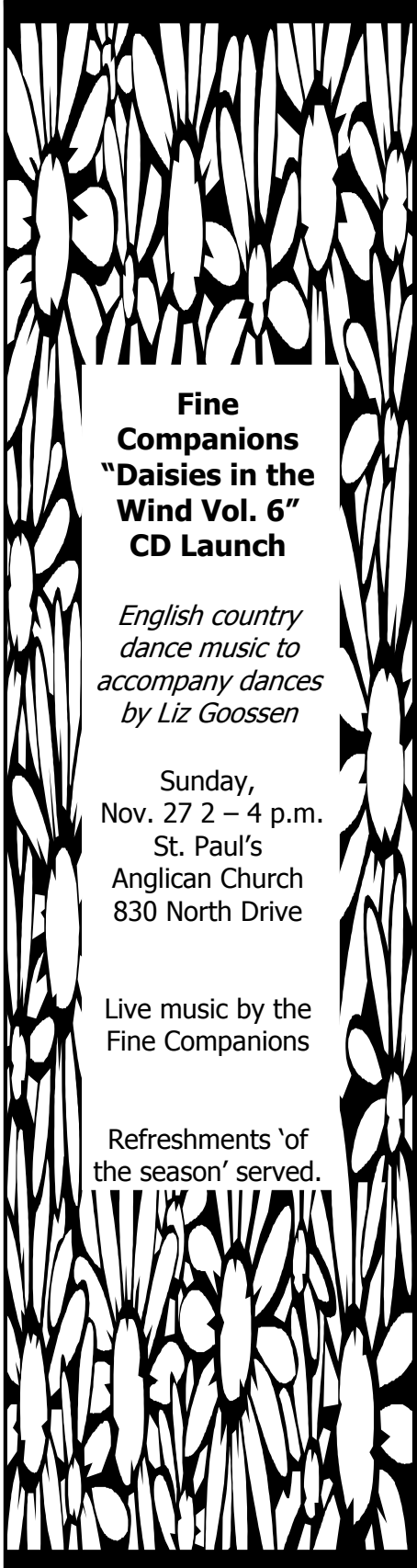
The many options made it difficult to choose where to go. Liz (Goossen), Katherine (Himmelblau) and I chose different classes and found all to be worthwhile. My sprained ankle (which could not take endless dancing) turned out to be a blessing in disguise. I so enjoyed finding my voice in the singing group and developing sore fingers as I learned basic ukulele. Exploring these new realms was exciting and energizing. I would now love to see the VG incorporate more singing.

Everyone joined together for delicious meals served smorgasbord style and the electrifying evening dances. It was a fluid and friendly group with much mingling as we got to know each other.

The week was one of rejuvenation on many levels. In this quiet beautiful place the stresses of regular life seemed far away. I hope that I can bring back to Winnipeg the sheer joy and energy that I experienced at camp. I plan to host a few evenings to share the experience in more detail. I hope you will sign up.

Thank you for the opportunity to have this wonderful experience. I had forgotten how fabulous dance camp can be!! By the way, we stayed in the area for a few days after camp and enjoyed the wine!

Sue Stanton



**Fine
Companions
"Daisies in the
Wind Vol. 6"
CD Launch**

*English country
dance music to
accompany dances
by Liz Goossen*

Sunday,
Nov. 27 2 – 4 p.m.
St. Paul's
Anglican Church
830 North Drive

Live music by the
Fine Companions

Refreshments 'of
the season' served.

*Dance two nights away
With the
Country Dance and Song Society
Visiting callers and musicians
The Fine Companions and other fine
Winnipeg musicians*

*An evening of contra dance
Friday, November 11, 2011
8:00 p.m.
Churchill Park United Church
525 Beresford
Hosted by MIFDA, cost—\$10*

*An evening of English Country Dancing
Saturday, November 12, 2011
8:00 p.m.
St. Paul's Anglican Church
830 North Drive
Cost—\$10*

*Potluck Breakfast Buffet and discussion with our CDSS
guests about our dance community
Sunday, November 13, 2011
9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.
Fred Douglas Place
333 Vaughn St.*

*For further information see Jeannie Gilbert
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Katherine Himelblau (kihimmelblau@yahoo.ca) and Mary
Louise Chown (mlchown@shaw.ca)*