



THE TOWN CRIER

VILLAGE GREEN ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCERS

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING IS FRIENDSHIP SET TO MUSIC



October 2012

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

Hello, Everyone!

A Very Brief History of Hawk Green Folk Dance Club and Twinning with Village Green English Country Dancers

The Hawk Green Folk Dance Club in Marple, Cheshire, England, is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. To honour them, Village Green will be having a workshop and dance during the day on Saturday, November 3rd. It will coincide as nearly as possible with Hawk Green's festivities. What is our connection with Hawk Green? Well...

After dancing with Village Green for a number of years, Caroline McDowell wondered whether the English Country Dances we dance in Winnipeg were the same as those danced in England. Had dances evolved differently in each country?

In 1999, Caroline wrote to the English Folk Dance and Song Society at Cecil Sharp House*, their headquarters in London, asking whether they might be able to suggest an English Country Dance group with whom Village Green might be able to "twin". The hope was that there would be a group with whom Village Green dancers could dance when visiting England.

Over a year later, in October, 2000, Caroline received a telephone call from Graham Smith of Hawk Green Folk Dance Club. Graham, an experienced dancer and caller, had seen Caroline's letter in the newsletter published by Cecil Sharp House. He assured her that they are dancing the same dances we are dancing and welcome to dancers from Village Green! They would love to "twin" with us! To celebrate the link between the two groups, Liz Goossen choreographed a new dance, "Friends Across the Water," which both groups danced for the first time, almost at the same time, in Canada and in England. Caroline keeps in touch with Graham via email and sends him *The Town Crier* to keep him and Hawk Green apprised of our events.

Several of our members have had the good fortune to dance with Hawk Green Folk Dance Club and to experience their wonderful hospitality. Now we will be able to extend our own hospitality to Graham Smith: Caroline has very recently learned that Graham and Christine Smith will be visiting Canada next August!!

Come dance your feet off to honour Hawk Green's 30 years on November 3rd. Have a look at their website, <http://www.hawkgreen.org/index.html> Village Green is listed as a link!

Many thanks to Caroline for talking to me about the history of our relationship with Hawk Green and for steering me to past Town Criers for further information.



Cheers,

Katherine Himelblau

** Cecil Sharp (1859-1924) played a central role in the revival of folk dance and music in both England and the USA, and in the founding of the English Folk Dance and Song Society and the Country Dance and Song Society (USA).*

**PRESIDENT'S
PODIUM**



UPCOMING EVENTS

**1st Tea Night,
October 17th, 2012
Be Environmentally Aware-
Bring Your Own Mug!**

**Correction:
Challenge Class is 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.**

**VG Registrations
are still being
accepted at
Wednesday
night class.**

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DANCEOPHILE'S CORNER

"The Author Mr. William Shakespeare"

During the lead up to our spring ball, 'Ado About Something,' the Danceophile will feature Shakespearean themes: first, the man himself. Much information can be found on www.shakespeare.org.uk

Shakespeare was born in the market town of Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire in 1564, the son of a well-to-do glover and tanner. He was baptized on April 26th and, since his birthday is not known, it is traditionally observed on St George's Day, April 23rd. He was probably educated at the local grammar school, as his plays reveal a knowledge of Classical literature and history. In 1582 he married Anne Hathaway and their daughter Susanna was born the next year. Twins, Judith and Hamnet, followed in 1585. Their son died in 1596. Both their daughters married and had children but no grandchildren. So Shakespeare has no direct descendants but there are people alive today who can trace their ancestry to his sister, Joan Hart.

Sometime after his marriage Shakespeare moved to London and by 1592 had established himself as a successful actor and playwright. In 1594 he became a shareholder in the Lord Chamberlain's Men, an acting company. Later known as the King's Men, the company built two theatres—the Globe and the Blackfriars.

Shakespeare did well financially out of his theatrical career and around 1613 he retired to Stratford as a wealthy landowner. He died there on April 23rd, 1616, and is buried in Holy Trinity Church. His wife died in 1623. In that same year his collected plays, 36 in number, were published as *Mr. William Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories & Tragedies*, known today as the First Folio. It was unprecedented to treat plays in this way, as literature rather than popular entertainment of no lasting value. A tribute by Ben Jonson, titled "To the memory of my beloved, The Author Mr. William Shakespeare: And what he hath left us," was published in the First Folio. One line claims: "He was not of an age, but for all time!" A bold statement: four centuries later, we know it was no more than the truth.

Hawk Green Celebration

November 3, 2012

Harrow United Church

Continental Exchange

Workshop and Dance

To commemorate the long and friendly association with the Hawk Green Folk Dance Club, located near Manchester in the UK, Village Green is planning a morning workshop to review/learn the dances that Village Green and Hawk Green have shared over the years. Our event will 'mirror' the Hawk Green celebrations in the UK (see next page).

There will be an opportunity to send greetings and congratulations to Hawk Green on their 30th Anniversary during this celebration of our friendship. Dress in 'English Picnic' style encouraged (think wide-brimmed hats!).

CONTINENTAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM	
9:30	Registration & coffee and tea (Please bring your own mug)
10 AM - 12	Liz Goossen, workshop teacher, will guide us through some of the favourite dances of both Hawk Green and VG – some dances will be on the Tea Dance program
12-1 P.M.	An English Picnic Lunch: Get together with 4 – 6 other people to plan your picnic basket with food, plates & utensils. Traditional English picnic menu ideas: cucumber sandwiches, pork pie, cheese, paté, biscuits (cookies), fruit cake. You are only limited by your imagination! Tea and coffee provided.
1 – 3:30	Tea Dance with a dance program from Freeford Gardens, Friends Across the Waters, Caroline's Capers, Barbarini's Tambourine and other favourites.
3:30-4:30	Cream Tea supplied by the workshop; cost included in your registration.
COST	Pay What You Can – suggested payment Workshop only \$15; Tea Dance only \$10; Both \$20. Payment accepted at the door.

Our **Continental Exchange** Celebration will be 'twinned' with this Hawk Green event – just in case you might be in the UK in November.

AUTUMN DANCE
 Afternoon and evening of
 Dance
 Saturday 3rd November 2012

HILARY HERBERT
 WITH
PENDRAGON

at
*****St. Peter's Parish
 Centre*****
**Green Lane, Hazel Grove SK7
 4EA**

workshop 3.30 - 5.30
 evening dance 7.30 -11.00



Fine Companions will be joining us on Oct. 17th and 24th and in November and December (dates to be confirmed).



Since the last Town Crier, Deb Scott has decided, after much thought and soul-searching, to withdraw from the position of Secretary on the Village Green Executive.

I have so enjoyed being on the executive with Deb: I love her ideas, her enthusiasm. Thank you, Deb, for all of the time you have spent and the work you have done for Village Green. Please keep on dancing!

Cheers,
 Katherine Himelblau
 VG President 2012-2013

Two volunteer opportunities for your consideration:

1. *Sign up for Oct. 17th Tea Night Goodies*
2. *Volunteer to fill the position of Secretary on the VG Executive*

Teachers for the First Term:

Sept. 12 – Oct. 24:
 Liz Goossen and Sue Stanton
 Oct. 31- Dec. 5:
 Maureen McIntosh and
 Sue Stanton

**HAWK GREEN HOE DOWN CLUB
 CELEBRATES 30 YEARS**

Hawk Green Hoe Down Club a social folk dance club offering a friendly welcome and relaxed atmosphere, where anyone can learn and enjoy a variety of social folk dances, will be celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

Hawk Green Hoe Down Club first started in October 1982, when the club met monthly, and the majority of the members were new to folk dancing. It proved so popular that club meetings quickly changed to weekly on Friday nights and still continues today. During the 1990s, the club ran a regular folk festival at Ridge Danyers College. Many bands, callers and dance teams, both local and national, have appeared at the festival, which offered a range of folk music and dance opportunities for all ages.

The club is currently enjoyed by around 60 members with an even balance between men and women, and the task of calling the dances is shared between a team of seven experienced dancers. The club has an extensive library of manuals and CDs which cover dances from across the years, from those enjoyed by Jane Austen to modern day Ceilidhs, as well as American squares and contra dances. Country dance is a living tradition, with new material constantly being produced, and the club library is regularly updated. The club is also affiliated to the English Folk Dance and Song Society.

The club also organises two public dances each year with visiting bands and callers, and there is a dance party every bank holiday Saturday at the Reading Room, as well as Christmas and New Year's Eve. Now, in our 30th year, the club is staging various celebratory events for past and present club members. The club recently changed its name to **Hawk Green Folk Dance Club**.

Ed. Note: Excerpt from the Hawk Green Website

YOUR 2012-2013 VILLAGE GREEN EXECUTIVE

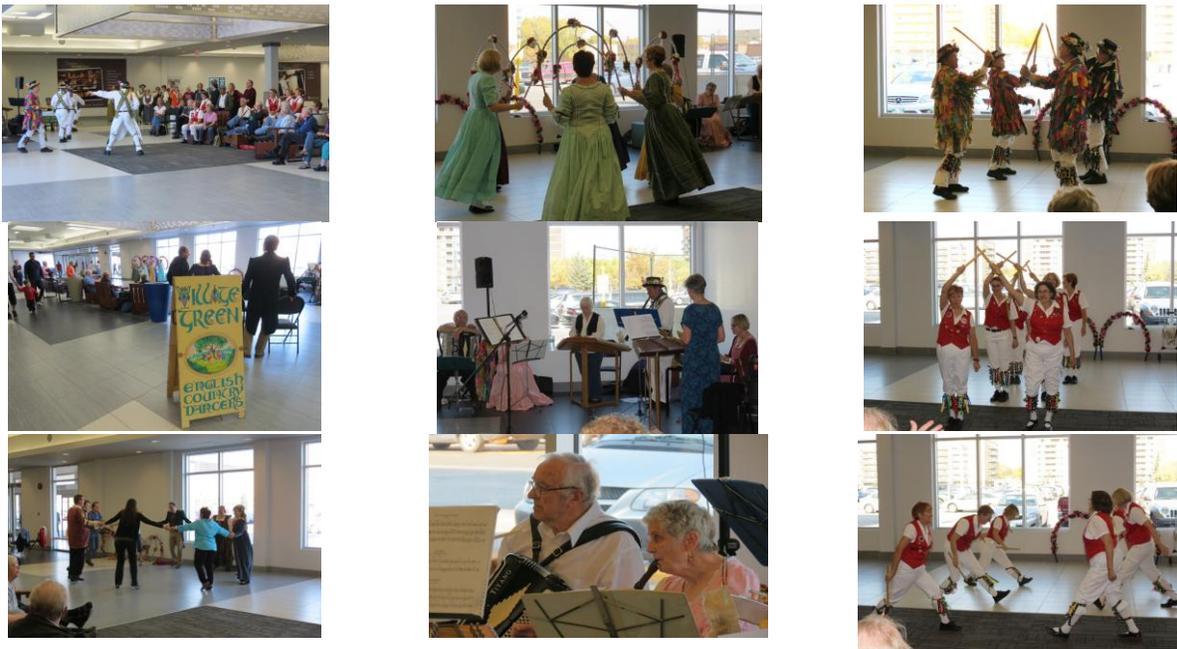
ANY CONCERNS/SUGGESTIONS FOR EXECUTIVE DISCUSSION: CONTACT THE PRESIDENT OR VP.

NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING: NOV. 13, 2012

President	Katherine Himelblau
Vice President	Sandra McKenzie
Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>
Publicist	Anne Morton
Treasurer	Molly Pind
Social Conveners:	Sandra Johnston
	Frances Harris
Hall Convener	Sue Stanton
Communication/Member @ Large	Iris Moehring
Past President	Sue Stanton
Teacher's Rep (non voting)	Maureen McIntosh

Photo Gallery from Culture Days September 29th, 2012 Grant Park Shopping Centre

Dancers from Village Green, Hell's Belles and the Morris Men, with musicians The Fine Companions and The Boatmen, and members of the public who happily joined in some of the dances— they all celebrated English culture in great style. Thanks to Gerri Sweet for acting as MC and to Grant Park for providing the venue as well as these photographs

**October Gave A Party**

*October gave a party;
The leaves by hundreds came –
The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples,
And leaves of every name.
The Sunshine spread a carpet,
And everything was grand,
Miss Weather led the dancing,
Professor Wind the band.
The Chestnuts came in yellow,
The Oaks in crimson dressed;
The lovely Misses Maple
In scarlet looked their best;*



*All balanced to their partners,
And gaily fluttered by;
The sight was like a rainbow
New fallen from the sky.
Then, in the rustic hollow,
At hide-and-seek they played,
The party closed at sundown,
And everybody stayed.
Professor Wind played louder;
They flew along the ground;
And then the party ended
In jolly 'hands around'.*

*George Cooper
With Thanks to Frances Harris*