



TOWN CRIER

OCTOBER 2014

VILLAGE GREEN ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCERS

Step in Time

October 25th - Silver Heights United Church

Morning 9:30 to 11:30 (doors open at 9:00 - coffee, muffins and fruit provided)

Liz will be teaching the workshop. We will look at stepping in time to the different rhythms of English country dances. We will explore these different rhythms, how the music and dance fit together and how the music changes the dance.

The workshop is for NEW and experienced dancers. Members of the Fine Companions will be playing for the workshop. Cost: \$15.00

Evening Dance 7:30 to 10:30

The evening program will include dances from the morning workshop, favourites and focus dances from last year and this year. The Fine Companions will play for the evening.

Cost: \$10.00

ATTEND THE WORKSHOP AND EVENING DANCE FOR \$ 20.00

Volunteers are required to provide **ready-to-serve** food items to accompany evening refreshments. Look for sign-up sheets at Wednesday classes and please sign up to bring a suggested food item. **Please remember to bring your own mugs!**



Victoria Dance Weekend

Hands Across the Water

It was a beautiful weekend in Victoria, the first weekend in September. Warmth, glorious mountains and water, trees beginning to show some colour—a lovely setting for a weekend of dance. Liz Goossen, Frances Harris and I danced to Colin Hume's teaching and calling and the delightful music of The Dancehall Players during the Victoria English Country Dance Society's dance weekend. All of the dancers were very welcoming and fine dancers.

A number of the people I danced and spoke with were from "away"-- from along the west coast, several from the Seattle and Portland areas. Folks came from Vancouver, from Quadra Island (that would be Workshop instructor extraordinaire, Robin Lynch), the Gulf Islands and from various towns on Vancouver Island, including former VG members Roger and Lynne Palser, now from Metchosin. Several people have Manitoba connections; we exchanged email addresses and hope to see them plan to visit their Manitoba families around the time of a Village Green Ball or weekend.

We danced Friday night, Saturday morning and afternoon. A Saturday night Ball and Sunday morning dance rounded out the weekend. Colin taught his own dances as well as traditional and other contemporary English dances. Although we danced in longways sets, a number of dances were danced in sets of three or in squares. Throughout, The Dancehall Players provided exquisite music for our dancing pleasure. Colin Hume called it "music with guts"; there was a wonderful drive to it, making the dances more than just a pretty set of figures. During the weekend, they played in various groupings, including keyboard, cello, fiddle, and flute.

I can hardly wait to go back--

Katherine Himelblau

CDSS – Country Dance and Song Society

Village Green is a member of this vibrant organization, which offers us many wonderful opportunities for being a part of the wider dance community in North America. You can join CDSS as an individual member, and find out more about dance events and opportunities that you can attend. They publish a regular newsletter, which is a fund of information about the dance (and song) community. You can view excerpts from the newsletter on their website at www.cdss.org.

2015 marks the 100th anniversary of CDSS, and they are planning a number of events. As part of CDSS' anniversary celebrations, they will have an online journal during 2015. They are accepting proposals for articles from the general membership. If you are interested in contributing to this journal, you must submit a proposal to them by October 31st. The articles themselves are due by March 15th. It would be wonderful to have a Winnipeg presence in the journal.

Also, CDSS are producing a "Passport to Joy". Members take their passport with them wherever they go dancing, and they can get it stamped to win prizes. The VG Executive has agreed that VG should register with CDSS as a "Passport to Joy" destination. Perhaps that will encourage some cross-border dancers!

CDSS has a T-shirt Quilt Project planned, with details to be announced later. We will be sending them one or two of our VG T-shirts when the project gets underway.

Minnesota Country Dance – “Kommunity Kotillion”

On the first weekend in October, members Liz Goossen, Sue Stanton and Rod Thorleifson travelled to Minneapolis for the annual Minnesota Country Dance weekend. This year, the theme was “Kommunity Kotillion” with caller Kalia Kliban. Music was proved by Coleraine and the Krazy Kats.

The weekend started, as is the tradition, with a lively “Kontra” dance (do I detect a theme here?) with music by Pete’s Posse from Vermont. On Saturday and Sunday, there were English Country dance workshops, with an evening ball on Saturday. During the workshops, Kalia called one of Liz’s dances, Indian Summer, and she was delighted to learn that Liz was in the hall.

The Minneapolis dance community is a vibrant one, and the closest to us here in Winnipeg. The October workshop is a wonderful way to make connections with other dancers who share your interest and passion. Think about marking your calendars for next year!

Save the Date!



Village Green will be “Dreaming of a White Christmas” on Saturday, December 13th at the annual VG holiday potluck dinner and dance. Mark your calendars, and start planning your potluck contributions now. Succulent turkey will be provided, but we will need all the lovely trimmings that help to make our potluck meals such a success.

Watch for more details, and sign up sheets, at upcoming classes.