

President's Message

Even though we are well into the new year I wish you all much happiness in 2015. It is with thanks that we look back on the first term of dancing which concluded in grand style with the Christmas dinner and dance on December 13th. Thank you to all who had a hand in making it such a wonderful, enjoyable evening. The hall was magnificent, thank you to Frances and her crew; the food was delicious, thank you to Sandra for organizing us; the music and program were fine, thank you to the Fine Companions and the teachers; the evening finished with carolling lead by Monica, thank you; a final thank you to all who stayed to clean up.

The new year will be an exciting one as we join in the 100th anniversary celebrations of CDSS. There is a schedule of events listed elsewhere in the bulletin. Be sure to mark all these dates on your calendar. Village Green members have been hard at work organizing; a) a special presentation at the end of class on Feb 25th, b) a morning workshop and evening dance on March 14th and c) the "Daffodils in the Sun Ball. Keep reading to find out more.

Sue Stanton

Who is Cecil Sharp? What is CDSS? How are they connected? How is Village Green connected to CDSS? Were you at class on January 28th? then you are in the know.

Dan, thank you for your presentation. Awesome!!

Attached to the bulletin is Dan's powerpoint presentation where you will find pictures and links to videos that we saw on Jan 28th. In his powerpoint material Dan summarizes Sharp's accomplishments, his views on the importance of going back to our roots and explains why Sharp succeeded.

Here is a brief biography of Cecil Sharp

Cecil James Sharp was born on 22 November 1859 at Camberwell, London. After graduating from the University of Cambridge (B.A., 1883) he emigrated to Australia, acting on his father's suggestion. Cecil was a talented musical young man. He was musical director in 1883-84 of the Adelaide String Quartet Club, assistant organist to Arthur Boult at St Peter's Anglican Cathedral. He was the conductor of several choral societies and the Adelaide Philharmonic Choir.

He returned to England in 1892 and on 22 August 1893 at East Clevedon, Somerset, he married Constance Dorothea Birch. He continued his musical endeavors, writing and directing choral groups. His life changed after he saw a Morris dance performed in 1899; he concentrated on recording and reviving folk-song and dance; his notebooks contain over 1700 variants. The first

collections he published were part I of *Folk Songs from Somerset* (with Charles Marson) in 1904, and *The Morris Book* (with Herbert Macilwaine and George Butterworth) in 1907; a list of his published collections is in Maud Karpeles's biography. In 1911 he founded, and in 1912-24 directed, the English Folk Dance Society.

In 1919 he became an occasional inspector, in folk-song and dancing, of training colleges, to spread his enthusiasm among teachers. Sharp had travelled twice to the United States of America, discovering English folk-songs and dance in the Appalachian Mountains. In 1923 his old university made him an honorary master of music; in the House of Commons he was described as one 'to whose work in this field British education owes an almost irredeemable debt'. He died in London in 1924



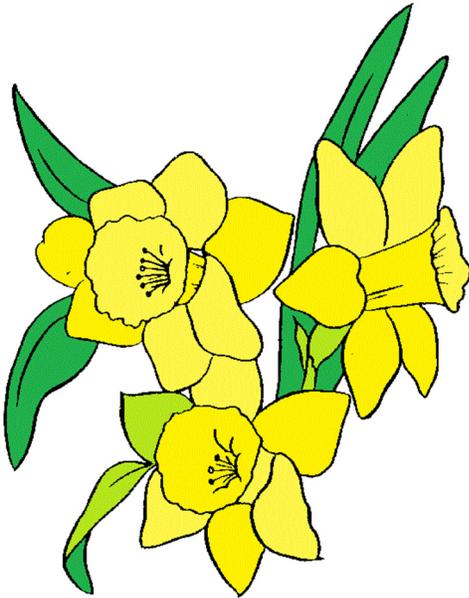
One Member's thoughts on the evening

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you how very much I am enjoying my time with Village Green English Dancers. I particularly would like to comment on last Wednesday's dance session (Jan 28th) when we enjoyed dances from the early Playford publications.(1651 – 1710)- Childgrove a longways set , Hit and Miss dance for 2 couples, Three Meet 3 couple longways traditional, Juice of Barley, Black Nag 3 couple longways historic, Gathering Peascods the circle dance for 5,6,or 7 couples (the one we saw in the video), Indian Queen longways set and The Geudman of Ballingigh longways set

Dan did a wonderful job explaining the history of Cecil Sharp and the revival of English Dancing. I was thrilled to see in the video one of the dances that we had performed earlier in the evening, namely, Gathering Peascods. It just made the whole experience so surreal (fantastic). Watching the group dancing in the grass on the video with Cecil Sharp where he was being human enough to make a mistake during the dance made me feel better about myself when I sometimes miss a step or make an incorrect turn. As in the early days the group just carried on and I appreciate that in these days our group does the same!! Thank you for making my Wednesday evenings a very enjoyable dancing experience.

Valerie Morrow

Would you like to do more dancing? Maureen and Jackie are running **afternoon tea dances** at Fred Douglas Place on several Friday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30. The dates for the remainder of this season are [February 20](#), [March 20](#), and [April 17](#)



**Celebrate Spring at the
Daffodils in the Sun Ball**

April 18, 2015

Officer's Mess 17 Wing Airforce Base

The registration form with all the details will be emailed toward the end of February and available at class on February 25th.

Tickets are on a sliding fee scale \$ 45 - \$ 60. Suggested \$ 55. We offer a sliding fee scale to ensure the Ball is affordable for every member. The suggested amount covers the cost of attending the ball.

It has been 2 years since our last ball and we are happy to say that the price is staying the same. You might be asking yourself... What should I wear to this year's ball.... Keep reading to find out!

What to wear to the 'Daffodils in the Sun' Ball

Since 2015 is the 100th Anniversary of CDSS and as a group we are planning events to join in this celebration you might think it fun to research formal wear in the 20th century. What was being worn in the 1920s, 30s, 40s.. 80s ? If none of those styles appeal to you, arriving in a gown or formal wear from the 17th to 19th century would be equally grand. The ball program is drawn from the dances first published by John Playford (1651) and reconstructed by Cecil Sharp as well as dances devised in the 21st century.

Many of us enjoy recreating the feeling of a time passed.... Time travel the easy way. We encourage you to dress in your grandest, finest style but also want you to be comfortable and be able to enjoy the evening of food and dance.

On February 25th, there will be a display of finery worn at previous balls. As you will see there is an energy and joy in attending a ball. Come and get into the spirit as we celebrate the end of our dancing season and the mid-point of the CDSS celebrations.

**March morning workshop and
John Trevenen Memorial Dance Evening
March 14th, 2015
Silver Heights United Church**

**The morning workshop will be taught by Dave Edwards and Elizabeth Goossen.
The focus will be on running set dances from the Appalachians and Scottish
Country dances.**

**MIFDA and RSCDS have been invited to the evening dance where we will dance
a mix of English, Scottish and Running set.**

Registration form with more details will be emailed separately

What is the John Tevenen Memorial Dance? Why does Village Green continue to organize this evening dance?

It is an evening of dance in the memory of John Trevenen. John loved both English and Scottish Country Dancing. He and David Williams introduced English Country Dancing to a group of friends in the 1970s. This group became the core of Village Green. John continued his involvement with Village Green and the Scottish Dance group (RSCDS) for many years

After having taught at the Pinewoods English Scottish Dance Weekend Camp, John came home with a dream of creating such an evening of dance in Winnipeg. He realized his dream, organizing several such evenings before his untimely death. **From the start this special evening has been a fundraiser for Winnipeg Harvest.** We continue this tradition and there will be a silver collection which will be given to Winnipeg Harvest.

2015 Village Green Events – Celebrating 100 Years with CDSS

Jan 28 - Dance and tea with presentation – Who was Cecil Sharp?

Feb 21 -Family Dance

Feb 25- Dance and tea with presentation – Maude Karpeles

March 14- Morning Workshop. Evening Dance – the early years

April 11 -Family Dance

April 18 Ball – Daffodils in the Sun

May 20- AGM and Dance

Aug 15 – Summer dance at River Hills

Sept 16 – Opening Dance and Special Guest Presentation

Oct 24 - Morning workshop. Evening - Potluck dinner followed by Dance

Nov 7- Family Dance

Dec 12 -Christmas Dinner Dance – To the Next 100