

# THE TOWN CRIER

March 2017



**English Country Dancing is friendship set to music**

<http://www.villagegreenenglishdancers.org/>

## **Executive for the current season:**

President:	Sue Stanton
Vice President	Bruce Berry
Secretary	Frances Harris
Treasurer	Karen Burton
Publicity	Lorraine Krahn/ Lynette Dyck
Social Convenors	Anne Morton; Linda Clark; Marion Tetrault
Teachers' Rep	Virginia Stevens
Town Crier Editor	Elizabeth Goossen
Member at large	Iris Moehring

## **Dates for the remainder of the dance season**

**General Class at St. Mark's Lutheran 600 Cambridge 7:15 to 9:30**

May 3rd                      Last Class  
May 10<sup>th</sup>                     Special Dance evening hosted by the Fine Companions

## **Special Contra Dance sessions: at Harrow United Church**

May 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and June 7 7:30 to 9:30  
Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>        7:00 to 10:00

Greg will be calling this series of contra evenings which will windup up with a contra evening on June 10<sup>th</sup>

**Registration for contra session:** - \$25 for 3 classes and Sat dance  
Sat dance alone will be sliding scale of 12 - 15.

## **Challenge Class at St. Mark's Lutheran Church 1:30 to 3:30**

Mar 26th

Apr 9th

**Please note the April 23<sup>rd</sup>** date is no longer the challenge class windup.... This will be a last rehearsal for the team of dancing who will be dancing on April 29<sup>th</sup> at the CD launch.

May 7<sup>th</sup> windup 1:30 to 4:30

### **Functions:**

<b>Spring workshop/CD launch</b>	<b>Apr 28-30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>attached to email as a separate pdf file</b>
<b>AGM** note change of date</b>	<b>May 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>St. Mark's Lutheran</b>

### **President's Message**

Well, this is the last message I will be writing as president. We will be welcoming Bruce Berry into this position at the AGM. This has been a exciting year with sooo much going on. The major focus has been the upcoming workshop and CD launch. Thank you Liz for all the work you have done in writing this wonderful music and choreographing the dances; for working with the Romanos, producing the CD, chairing the weekend and spearheading the fundraising to underwrite the costs. Bringing in the Flying Romanos for the dance weekend and the CD launch, as well as the guest teacher, Sharon Green, from California is very costly... Especially with the Canadian dollar being at its current value. If you wish to make a donation to Village Green we would be pleased to accept your generous gift. We cannot tax receipt it but we promise to use it well to further the work of the group.

One of the activities we have undertaken is to clearly delineate the process and form for applying for a scholarship from the group. We hope members will find this helps them participate in the camps run by CDSS and others. It is an event that is hard to describe and wonderful to experience!! We have also been looking at our insurance and more will be coming regarding that issue. Finally a discussion of our constitution has begun and we will be providing information for discussion at the AGM. We will not be voting on changes at that time as we want to have input and ideas from everyone. I hope you will take time to read materials that will be coming by email so that you are well prepared for the meeting. We have moved the AGM by 1 week please mark your calendars - the date is May 17. I have enjoyed my time as president - thank you for the ongoing support and friendship that the members have extended to me.

Sue Stanton

Thank you to Sue, Jeannie and Frances who have submitted articles for this newsletter.

## 'Hole in the Wall'

I recently enjoyed a wonderful holiday in England and Wales. I met up with most members of my family and some special friends, Frances and Bob Harris at their winter get-away in Porthmadog, Wales. After a very rainy start to the day, we decided to travel over the Llanberis Pass in Snowdonia and have lunch in Caernarfon. I hadn't visited North Wales in many years and we travelled through some wonderful scenery (see below). In Caernarfon, we were thrilled to find 'The Hole in the Wall Street' and, of course, photographed the event.

There are 'Holes in the Wall' throughout the UK! It describes many pubs and taverns even today usually denoting a small establishment set in a terrace or building row. But sometimes the name is more literal: "Playford's title may refer to one tavern called Hole-in-the-Wall in London's Strand, scene of the capture of one of the most famous highwaymen in England, Claude Duval, around 1670. ~" (Online -The Session, Ceolachan)

In Dublin, the McKee Barracks, originally called Marlborough Barracks in Phoenix Park, was built by the British Army in 1888. While stationed there between 1891 and 1922, the soldiers would sometimes sneak off and go to the tavern for a pint of beer! The owner of the pub served the men through a hole in the park wall. The name of the pub was changed from Blackhorse Tavern to 'The Hole in the Wall' in 1970 to commemorate the history of serving the army through a hole in the wall.

In York, the church of Holy Trinity, dating from 1250-1500 can be reached via an eighteenth century brick archway. Inside the church is a chapel which was once blocked off from the rest of the church so it could be used by lepers. A squint 'hole in the wall' was purported to allow lepers to see the altar and participate in the mass through the hole in the wall, although this has been disputed recently (In the Middle Ages, leprosy was a most feared disease and lepers would in all likelihood been refused entry to the city, let alone a church).

The Hole in the Wall Street in Caernarfon runs parallel to the castle wall. Does the name refer to the narrow slits used by archers to defend the walls from attack? There is a present day pub in the street sporting the same name and a sign with the slits in the wall used to defend the castle. I couldn't find the answer for certain, but have enjoyed speculating.



Submitted by Jeannie Gilbert



Hello from Wales!

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> winter that Bob and I have spent in our spiritual home of Wales. If you look at a map, there is a peninsula in the north of the country that projects into the Irish Sea – if you consider this as an arm, you can locate us in Porthmadog – right in the “arm pit” of the peninsula!

However, that is a misnomer, as it is a lovely location – we are right on the coast of Cardigan

Crocuses in Bourton on the Water, Cotswolds Bay – sheltered from most of the ocean’s waves, but with the benefit of sea air. We are also on the estuary of the Glaslyn River, which tumbles down the mountains of Snowdonia just 10 miles away. So, unlike Winnipeg, we have access to both sea and mountains in minutes.

Our weather this year has been a bit gloomy, but warmer than Winnipeg! There has been quite a bit of snow, but it stays on the mountains, where it belongs, and looks lovely. There has been a fair amount of rain, and a lot of blustery, windy days, too.

Jeannie Gilbert and her sister and brother-in-law visited with us for one day in late January, and we were able to show them bits of the area through the raindrops.

All of this rain makes for a lovely green land, even in winter, and we have had flowers blooming since we arrived. There is a camellia in our back garden that starts blooming in January, and continues for most of our time here. The snowdrops have carpeted the verges, but are now fading and making room for the daffodils – one of the symbols of this land.

Crocuses are showing all over now, as well. We had a few days in the Cotswold region of England last week, and enjoyed an afternoon in the lovely village of Bourton on the Water – a magical place at any time, but with a lovely show of crocus at this time of year.

We are here until Easter weekend, and then we head off for an adventure in the form of a river cruise on the Danube. We will be home on April 29<sup>th</sup>, and we look forward to catching up with you all at the CD Launch party. It will be an exciting weekend!

See you in the Spring, Frances & Bob Harris

Bob’s sister’s garden near Wolverhampton





On a wet and windy day there is always a pub with  
A blazing fire



snowdrops on the riverbank



The Snowdonian mountains living up to their name.  
This is the view just 5 minutes walk from our front door



Daffodils are everywhere

Thank you to Dan for the following bit of English Dance trivia

Found in the pages of the Winnipeg Evening Tribune --

**1930-07-16** (Page 2)

Headline: "THOUSANDS CHEER COLORFUL PROGRAM PRESENTED IN PARK BY NEW CANADIANS". The occasion was Manitoba's Diamond Jubilee.

The event took place in Assiniboine Park where "thousands of people of all ages cheered lustily the colorful spectacle of brightly-garbed maidens and dextrous youths dancing their gay fandangos to the merry notes of fiddle and accordion."

Eight national groups were represented

**"English folk dancers from the Winnipeg Playgrounds association** captivated the crowds with their delightful measures and the athletic display with which O.E. Holmes as leader was enjoyed."

## **Fundraising to date:**

There are many members to thank for the fundraising which has happened so far. Thank you to Roger for donating the Gnome Home, thank you to Jackie for hosting the Flashback to 1993, thank you to Katherine and Liz for preparing the Mid-winter feast and thank you to Lorraine for making the daisy pins. As well, thank you to all the members who have supported these events. The financial results of these events are summarized below:

Gnome Home Raffle \$ 365.00  
Flashback to 1993 \$ 120.00  
Mid-Winter Feast \$ 450.00  
Sale of daisy pins \$ 60.00 to date

Here are the directions for two more dances to add to your collection and which will be danced on April 29<sup>th</sup> at the CD launch. They will also be danced in class leading up to the workshop.

### **Indian Summer**

Duple minor

Music Susan's Waltz  
Jonathan Jensen

A1 1 - 8 First corners set, advancing toward each other, turn single right to place and then dance a clockwise gypsy once round.

9 - 16 Second corners repeat bars 1 - 8

B1 1 - 8 Join hands in a ring, balance in and out (moving on one place CW as you balance out) balance in and out (moving on one place CW). Face partner, set and change places passing right shoulder. (now progressed)

9 - 16 First couple with the couple below dance right hands across, then first couple with the couple above dance left hands across.

### **Prairie Rose**

Sicilian Circle

E. Goossen

Music: Rosebud Reel

A1 Couples facing clockwise round the room, dance between the other couple round them and return to place. The same couple right hand turn once round.

A2 Back to back (right) with opposite. Back to back (left) with partner.

B1 Give right hands to opposite, balance together and away and change places, (the women turning under the man's arm). Give left hand to partner, balance together and away and changes places( W under partner's arm). Finish facing a new couple. (men have partner on their left at this point) (ie improper)

B2 With the new couple form a ring, balance in and out(not moving the circle round)and then circle half round. Swing partner. Finish facing a new couple ready to begin again.