

THE TOWN CRIER

November, 2017



English Country Dancing is friendship set to music

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

Executive for the upcoming season:

President:	Bruce Berry
Secretary	Frances Harris
Treasurer	Karen Burton
Publicity	Lorraine Krahn/ Lynette Dyck
Social Convenor	Lesley Summers
Teachers' Rep	Sue Stanton
Town Crier Editor	Elizabeth Goossen
Member at large	Bruce Marshall

Dates for the upcoming dance season

General Class at Harrow United Church 7:15 to 9:30

Nov 22 nd , 29 th	Christmas Dinner/Dance preparation
Dec 6 th	Last class and preparation for Dec 9th
Jan 10th	First class
May 3rd	Last Class

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

Nov 19th	Feb 11 th ; 25th
Dec 3 th ; 17 th	Mar 11 th ; 25th
Jan 14 th ; 28 th	Apr 8th; 22 rd

Please mark the above dates on your calendar as well as the special dates listed below so you don't miss out.

Functions:

Christmas Dinner and Dance	Dec 9th	St. George's Anglican
Founders Dance	Mar 3 rd , 2018	St. Mark's Lutheran
Spring Ball	April 28, 2018	The Winter Club
AGM	May 16 th	St. Mark's Lutheran

President's message

There is a lot to look forward to this season and a variety of activities and initiatives. I have to say it's wonderful to be involved with a group of people who can pull together like this.

Looking back:

In September many people came out to help make the **Opening Dance** a success. The **Fall Workshop and Dance** followed soon after on Oct 21st. The workshop was a lot of fun, as I'm told (since I couldn't attend) – but I can attest that the evening dance was super. Next year it might be scheduled further into the fall to make it available to more people. Some of our members attended the **Pride and Prejudice Ball** held Oct 28, and the enthusiasm in Winnipeg for all things Jane Austen was not exhausted by that large event, since the next one is scheduled for June, and seems on track to be just as well received.

I hope you will have a chance to see the second video that was commissioned from [Black Kite Entertainment](#), a local film company operated by U of Winnipeg student Miranda Moroz. They are designed as trailers, to help generate interest in our group. The two videos reveal different aspects of our dance activities, and I think both do credit to the spirit of those who come out to dance with us.

Please take a look if you have not seen these:

<https://youtu.be/NdDMeHiRuQ> <https://youtu.be/qItz5ZVHbBw>

For the regular Wednesday class folks, it is easy to overlook the **Family Dance** series that is also run by Village Green's usual suspects. You're never too young to dance, right? There were five families at the September outing, and another is coming up on Jan 6th. We hope to pull together some pictures and video of these parents and kids having a great time with ECD. Don't be shy about mentioning the Family Dance to those as yet undiscovered dancers that you know!

The **Bylaw Update** went smoothly – thank you to all who helped with that including the Extraordinary meeting to pass it. Special kudos to Sue Stanton, whose appetite for meetings to drill through these documents is only surpassed by Frances's capacity to keep it all straight.

Now, looking ahead:

Contra Dance : Saturday Dec 2, 2017 at Harrow

Greg Allan continues his Contra events with a special one - and I don't know if I could say this better than the event description itself:

The stellar fiddle talents of [Patti Kusturok](#) and [Troy MacGillivray](#) blend the spirit of the prairie winds with the mysteries of salt spray in a special Concert and Dance. Accompanied by masterful musicians Dan Koulack and Jeremy Rusu, the twin fiddles fill your sails with joyful tunes. Caller Greg Allan will pilot beginners and experienced dancers alike through a series of fun Contra dances. A special treat from "down home" is included - a show of step dancing ! Please bring indoor shoes, a water bottle, and a friend!

Tickets are \$20 in advance at class on a Wednesday evening, [here](#) or at the door.

Christmas Dinner and Dance : Saturday Dec 9, 2017 at St. George's Anglican

Let's get dressed up for a "Blue Christmas" !

The Christmas dance will be in a new location at St. George's Anglican Church and it is a dress up event, so bring out your get up from Elizabeth One all the way to Elizabeth Two. We are making extra efforts to help newcomers learn the dances by offering a package of three Classes and the Dance. Those tickets can be found [here](#) . It would be great if we could introduce ourselves and make these people feel at home (as I'm sure you'll do!)

So help us usher in the Christmas season once again, thank you **Frances** for coordinating this event, think about the potluck part of this - and warm up your pipes for carol singing!

Bruce

Report from Ottawa Dance weekend

Molly and Liz went to Ottawa to attend the Trip to Ottawa Dance weekend. We enjoyed a wonderful weekend of dancing to the playing of The Flying Romanos. An added bonus was dancing "**From Sea to Sea**" at the Sunday afternoon workshop. **This dance was created by Mary Louise Chown and Art Quanbury** several years ago for friends who were cycling across Canada. Hence the name and the great fit for inclusion in the ECD-Sea to Sea booklet. A very lively fun dance!

Thank you to Ann, Liam, Frances, Bruce for their contributions to this newsletter

Report from Hey Days 2017 Liam Berry

Protip: don't plan travel around the possibility of sleeping on an airport floor. Either you'll end up underslept and with an intimate understanding of carpet thinness, or the worst will happen and you'll have nothing with which to start a story for a newsletter. In any case, after spending five nights visiting my brother in Vancouver and one night visiting a rather thin carpet, I was off to California — and Hey Days, the BACDS's annual explosion of dance, song, and storytelling.

Upon arriving in sun-dried San Francisco, I meet up with the Lurias: a doctor/nurse couple extricating themselves from retirement in Mexico to partake, as they had for many years, in this strange ritual of convening in west coast America to perform English dances. After hopping in a rental car, we disentangled ourselves from the spaghetti bowl of San Francisco highways, and we were off to camp.

What followed was rhapsody: a week of dancing, eating, musicking, and apparently — though I'm not sure if I believe it myself — some people even got some sleeping done in between! For me, dancing was kept to the evening general dances, since my mission at the camp was musico-educational. I don't think I stopped playing once, not only participating in the music workshops, led by David Knight and Owen Morrison, but also constantly jamming with other campgoers in whatever spare moments we could find. An outstanding memory was my opportunity to shadow the camp pianist, Charlie Hancock, during Brooke Friendly's morning dance class, and even trade off with him to play for the class alongside fiddler Jon Berger. All this music-making reached a summit with "Campers' Night", where camp musicians played for the evening dances, also called by campers. Summits are rather terrifying things, but fortunately most of the time you don't notice because of all the fear-induced adrenaline. I would do it all again!

Sadly, the week came to an end. The Lurias gave me a lift back to the Bay Area, where I stayed a night at a quaint little Air BnB in Oakland. In the morning I was off to the airport. After a blur of customs, dour lobbies, and airline clerks who by all appearances had forgotten their souls on the previous flight, I was home.

I would like to thank the Village Green, who so kindly granted me funding for the journey hither and thither, and of course the BACDS, who awarded me the Jude Biggs scholarship which paid all tuition costs to study at the camp. I met many wonderful people and learned many wonderful things — and in the future, I think I'll be avoiding thin-carpet-bound slumber.

Liam

From Shaw to Shore: morning workshop and evening workshop

While the end of summer may often be met with a degree of melancholy, for Village Green members there is always the consolation of a new dance season! The highlight of the fall in the past has been the October workshop and dance and I was sure this year will be no exception.

The workshop, held October 21, had a dual theme: commemorating two significant birthdays. The first was the centenary of the birth of Pat Shuldham Shaw, an iconic figure in the history of English Country dancing. The second was Canada's 150th, celebrated in the form of the Sea to Sea booklet, a collection of dances written to honour the sesquicentennial event.

The morning began with a series of dances from the Sea to Sea booklet written by contemporary Canadian composers. We danced **Stitcher's Birthday**, **Fundy Tides**, **Whiskey Jack**, **Le Carrousel du Mont Royal** and **Active Pass** (by Rosemary Lach, whom some of us will have met last November as she attended our workshop with her husband, Robin. The music is by Dan Page.)

The remainder of the morning was devoted to some very memorable dances by Pat Shaw. **The Windsor Knot** confounded all but a few of us with the intricate double cross Morris Hey. **The Albert Memorial Square** was set to a beautiful piece written in 1971 for the centenary of Royal Albert Hall. The only tragedy of **The Berkshire Tragedy** was the shortness of the dance! One of the most challenging dances of the morning was **The Rayleigh Wheel**, the formation being a number of 3 couple longways sets radiating like the spokes of a wheel. It took us awhile to get our heads (and feet) around it but we ended up dancing it without a flaw! Three musicians came to play for us for the morning, Joan Stevenson, Mark McLearn and Mike Wahn, and we are grateful for their skilled accompaniment.

The day ended with a very enjoyable evening of dance. On the program were several dances from the morning workshop along with Pat Shaw's lovely **Waterfall Waltz** and **Twelve Reel**. It was also fun to dance Liz's own **The Extra Mile** from the Sea to Sea booklet. The musicians for the evening were Art Quanbury, Mary Louise Chown, Virginia Stevens, Kathy Hornshaw, Mark McLearn, Kevin Scott, Liam Berry and Liz Goossen. What a treat to have great live music. All in all, it was a very active, challenging and fun-filled day of dancing. A big thank you goes to Liz Goossen for planning and leading the workshop and dance as well as to the musicians who came out to play. We are a very fortunate group to have such talented and willing teachers and musicians.

On a related note: The Pat Shaw Legacy Group is recording Pat's dances which have been danced around the world in 2017 on their website. Check it out at <http://www.patshaw.info/dances/Dances2017/> and look for Winnipeg!

Ann Friesen

Christmas Program December 9, 2017

From Elizabeth to Elizabeth

Dunham, Oaks	Duple Minor	Brian Wedgbury 1973
Indian Queen	Duple Minor	Playford 1701-1728
The Holly Berry	4 couple longways	1850 Mrs. Henderson
Duke of Kent's Waltz	Duple Minor	Cahousac 1801
Zephyrs and Flora	Duple Minor	Walsh 1715
Dancing across the Atlantic	Duple Minor	Holtz 2005
Elizabeth	Duple Minor	Hume 1991
Albert Memorial Square	Square	Hume 1971
Childgrove	Duple Minor	Playford 1701-1728
Hole in the Wall	Duple Minor	Playford 1696-1728
Corelli's Maggot	Duple Minor	Miller
Whiskey Jack	Duple Minor	Roe 2017
Le Carrousel	Circle	Alonzo 2017

These dances will be the focus of the classes on November 22nd, 29th, and Dec 6th. Written instructions and videos will be available after the dances have been taught.

Remember for non Village Green members we are offering the 3 + 1 event for \$ 45.00 which includes attendance at the three classes above and the Dinner Dance on December 9th. If you have friends or acquaintances who would be interested in this 3 week crash course with a culmination at our fabulous Christmas Dinner/Dance please pass this information on to them and encourage them to come..... what does such encouragement mean??? Offer to pick them up so you arrive at class together, offer to help them find a costume

Do you have a facebook page? If so please go and share the information which can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1744516335850636/>