

THE TOWN CRIER

August, 2018



English Country Dancing is friendship set to music

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

Executive for the upcoming season:

President:	Bruce Berry
Secretary	Frances Harris
Treasurer	Anne Morton
Publicity	Lynette Dyck/ Margaret Paterson
Social Convenor	Iris Moehring
Teachers' Rep	Sue Stanton
Archivist	Frances Harris
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

Sept 5th	First Class for returning members
Dec 5 th	Last class
Jan 9th	First class

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

Sept. 30	Jan 6,20
Oct. 14, 28	Feb 3, 17
Nov. 4, 18	Mar 3, 17,31
Dec. 2, 16	Apr 14

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

Functions:

1st Welcome dance	Sept 12th 7:00 to 10:00	Harrow United
October evening dance	October 27st	Harrow United
2nd Welcome dance	October 31st	Harrow United
Christmas Dinner and Dance	Dec 8th	St. George's Anglican
3rd Welcome Dance	Jan 9th	Harrow United
St. David's Day Potluck & Dance	Mar 2rd	St. Mark's Lutheran
4th Welcome Dance	Mar 6th	Harrow United
Weekend Workshop	Apr. 26-28th	Harrow United
AGM	May 15th	St. Mark's Lutheran

President's message

"Welcome to the hot, dry summer of 2018! There is a lot of dance happening in the off-season, and I hope you've been able to get to some of it. Please have a read of the articles inside this newsletter about those events !

In this age of digital everything, its worthwhile checking with you every so often about the format of this newsletter. Do you read this electronic version? Would you prefer to read hardcopy ? Is there content you would like to see more of ? Please feel free to send your thoughts and comments to the regular VG email – many thanks!"

Bruce Berry

Special note: Remember to wear your name tag, especially at the opening dance on September 13th

From the Teachers' Rep:

The teachers have been preparing for our new model where there are 4 entry points for new dancers. If dancers arrive on other nights then they will be invited to join in 1 dance and encouraged to come back at the next entry point. We will have registration forms available to sign them up and a reminder will be sent before the next session starts. The entry points Sept 12, Oct 31, Jan 9, and March 6. Each of these are a welcome dance and the first class is the following week.

All newcomers and anyone else who is interested will start class at 7:15. The Basic and Beyond portion of the class will last until 7:55. After a 5 min break the second portion of the class will start. Dances will be levelled and rosettes will be used. We hope that this will mean the classes move fairly quickly and are enjoyable for all. Liz will be teaching the beginning of the evening from Sept to Dec. Sue and Jeannie will be teaching the second portion of the night.

When talking to your friends please let them know about the new welcome dance dates and encourage them to come. The new format brings our group more in line with the leisure guide

and other organizations - with definite entry points and shorter blocks. This way people can come, try for 5-6 weeks, and enjoy the dance event at the end of each session. If they want they can come back or if they find it not to their liking they can move on to the next activity. Apparently shorter commitment blocks are preferred by newcomers trying out a new activity. We hope this will build the group and help make the classes enjoyable for all. This is an experiment and we will be evaluating it at the end of the dance season.

Challenge Class

This class is targeted to members who meet the following criteria. Whether you are considering the class for the first time or have attended the class in the past please review these statements.

DO YOU

- 1) feel comfortable and confident dancing a straightforward dance (3 or 4 basic figures) with only a talk through or one walk through? (ie don't need to walk such a dance through from each position)
- 2) enjoy working on the technical aspects of a dance (phrasing, handing, covering, dynamic of dance, awareness of others in the set)
- 3) feel confident dancing an intricate, complex dance after working through it from each position and are you able to recall such a dance in a subsequent class after a briefing.
- 4) hear the music and are you able to move in a manner which suits the music.
- 5) have a desire to grow in your dancing; to be a better dancer.
- 6) are able to move with vigour, have the energy to participate in a 2 hour class and have a moderate fitness level.

IF YOU ANSWER YES to all the above questions then challenge class might be for you. If you are interested in joining the class please call either Liz 204 489-2752 or Jeannie 204 269-6012 to discuss your readiness in the class.

Another weekly opportunity to Dance in Winnipeg:

Good Neighbours Active Living Centre – 720 Henderson Hwy (Bronx and Henderson) organizes many daytime programs. On Tuesdays 11:35 – 12:35 Liz, assisted by Sue, teaches an English country dance class. It is held in the gym so there is plenty of space and the floor is good for dancing. The dancing is modified when necessary to better suit the challenges of aging. We don't do many turn singles, slip step circles, stepping, rapid directional changes or swinging. We do dance both traditional and historic dances and move for a solid hour. The class is fun and has a great spirit. After class we often stop for tea at the Hobnobs café (which is in the building) . There is a drop in and try it class on Aug.21 at 11:35 which is free for all. You can visit their website gnalc.ca for details about this class which begins on Sept 11th.

Summer Activities:

Dancing at St. Norbert's Market

Village Green participated in the summer long celebration of the Markets 30th anniversary year by providing entertainment for 1 hour on June 23, 18. We danced to music by the Fine Companions. For the event we chose Regency costuming which was lovely visually and very hot to wear! On this beautiful day we did 2 new dances written by Elizabeth Goossen for the occasion - Early Morning at the Market and Meeting at the Market. They captured the energy and history of the market and I do hope we will dance them again as they were lots of fun.



It was great to have a large number of spectators join in the participation dance. It was the largest circle I've seen at such an event! Thanks to all who worked to make this a successful event – teachers, dancers, and musicians. A special thanks to Robert Butler and Sue Stanton for whipping up a costume for the occasion. Rod Thorleifson

First Friday in the Exchange

On Friday, August 3rd, 2018 Village Green enjoyed the hospitality of The Mayberry Fine Art gallery. Liam, Lynette, Laura and Ayla began the evening with a selection of English dance tunes and continued playing for the dancing. It was wonderful to see and hear them. How fortunate Village Green is to have musicians willing to play for us. We called simple traditional dances and invited guests to join in. The 9 Village Green members in attendance ably assisted the newcomers through the dances. The fine art and the beautiful hard wood floors created a beautiful space for dancing. I am looking forward being here again in Oct. Thanks to Lorraine for setting this up and thanks to the Mayberrys for having us participate in their First Friday event. Sue Stanton



60th Anniversary afternoon tea



On August 6th over 40 members of Village Green met to celebrate with two very special people on the auspicious occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. Jackie and Roman Soble have been an integral part of the group for over 30 years and it was a pleasure for everyone to extend their good wishes on their diamond day.

Guests were treated to a delicious English afternoon tea with everything from scones with cream and jam to iconic cucumber sandwiches. Tea (of course!) was served in china cups and saucers on elegantly set tables. As my English grandmother would have said, "The queen could not have had better!"

Many thanks go to the anniversary tea committee for the time and energy they spent planning the event, decorating and preparing food not to mention all the work serving and entertaining on the day of the tea. Committee members were Frances Harris, Liz Goossen, Sue Stanton, Molly Pind and Jeannie Gilbert. Thanks also go to able assistants to the committee Katherine Himelblau and Virginia Stevens and to Roddy Thorleifson, Robert Butler and Ann Friesen for their help at the event.

We wish Jackie and Roman many more happy years together.

Ann Friesen

Keep your eyes open for an email with a poster for the first Welcome Dance on September 12th

Upcoming events:

Aug. 26th at River Hills Farm and Apiary Once again, Mary Louise and Art have invited us to come out to their farm for some dancing and a potluck. Please contact them at mlchown@shaw.ca no later than Aug 21st to let them know you plan to attend. It would be helpful for you to bring your own plate and cutlery and a lawn chair if you have one. The weekend prior to the potluck and dance there is a Boreal Shores Art Tour. You can visit borealshoresarttour.ca to find out more. Mary Louise is one of the artists exhibiting work in the tour and will still have it on display in the barn on Aug 26th.

Minneapolis workshop October 19-21st with guest teacher Susan Kevra You can visit the <http://tapestryfolkdance.org/programs/yearly-dance-events/star-of-the-north/> for details

Registration:

The registration form will soon be available on the Village Green website:
villagegreenenglishdancers.org

Weekend Workshop with guest Brad Foster April 26- 28, 2019

This dance season concludes with our biennial weekend workshop. We are very excited to confirm that Brad Foster will be the guest teacher for the weekend. **Brad** has been dancing and teaching English country, contras and squares, and morris and sword for over 40 years. He is well known for sharing the joy found in dance, and has taught throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe, including at Pinewoods, Ogontz, Buffalo Gap, Timber Ridge, Berea, Mendocino, John C. Campbell Folk School, Augusta, the Festival of American Fiddle Tunes, and Lady of the Lake. He is Executive and Artistic Director Emeritus of the Country Dance and Song Society, after 28 years as Director. He is also founder of the Bay Area Country Dance Society as well as co-founder of their English and American dance weeks.

Please mark this weekend on your calendar. More details to follow as the dance season progresses.