

# The Town Crier

February 2020

English Country Dancing is friendship set to music

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

## Executive:

President:	Bruce Berry
Secretary	Frances Harris
Treasurer	Anne Morton
Publicity	Margaret Paterson
Social Convenor	Iris Moehring
Teachers' Rep	Sue Stanton
Archivist	Frances Harris
Town Crier Editor	Elizabeth Goossen
Member at large	Ayla Manning

## Dates for the remainder of the dance season

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

Every Wednesday until May 6th

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

Feb 23

Mar 8,22

Apr 5, 26

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

Thank you Bruce, Sue, Ayla and Linda for your contributions to this newsletter

## Functions:

St. David's Day Potluck & Dance  
Ball  
AGM

Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>  
April 18<sup>th</sup>,  
May 13<sup>th</sup>

St. Mark's Lutheran  
Fort Garry Hotel  
St. Mark's Lutheran

## President's message

Hello fellow dancers!

We've enjoyed some really wonderful events during the first half of the 2020 season. Many thanks to all the volunteers who have made it happen for all of us. The level of interest in our group is at a healthy level with new people coming out regularly, and will continue with the help of improved communications (thanks Ayla!). One thing I'd like to mention for you to consider is to become part of the executive at the next opportunity in May. Speak to me to find out how you can contribute to keep VG running smoothly!

There is lots to look forward to in the second half of this season,

especially the **Peacock Masquerade Ball !**

See you there!

Bruce Berry





Have you heard the news?

## **The Peacock Masquerade Ball is happening on April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Historic Fort Garry Hotel**

Mark your calendar and start planning what you will wear. Our costume collection is about to be launched (see article above)

- The dances will all be thoroughly taught on April 1, 8, 15. Be sure to be at the classes so you can truly enjoy the dancing.
- Video instructions for all the dances will be posted on Youtube in early April.
- A poster will be emailed soon and it will have more details.
- Our registrars are Tara and Molly and can be reached at

[VGBall\\_2020@mymts.net](mailto:VGBall_2020@mymts.net).

Tickets will be available in class and by email in early March.  
Ball Committee Sue, Molly, Ann F.

### **Village Green Costume Collection**

**Ann Friesen, Sue Stanton, Roddy Thorleifson (photographer), and I (:Linda Clark)** have organized the collection of costumes and accessories donated by members including a considerable number of pieces from Robert Butler. The 'committee' decided that a photographic archive (pictures in a book) of each piece with an identifying number would best serve as a 'low tech' way to give members a view to the collection.

The photographic archive will be available for viewing at class in the weeks prior to a VG event – i.e. the upcoming Ball in April. There is a work in progress to include the collection on its own page in the VG website (high tech as we get).

VG members who wish to borrow an item or two from the collection will be required to leave a refundable deposit (a cheque). The cost of ongoing costume maintenance will be covered through a small handling fee payable upon borrowing.



**Mark your calendars: On Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup> at 1 – 3 pm there will be a Costume Collection Open House for viewing and dressing up in the costume(s) of your choice.**

More information on this event and the Costume Collection will be available at the Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> class.

Costume Collection 'Committee'

Linda Clark, scribe

**Thank you to the costume committee for all their work to date!!**

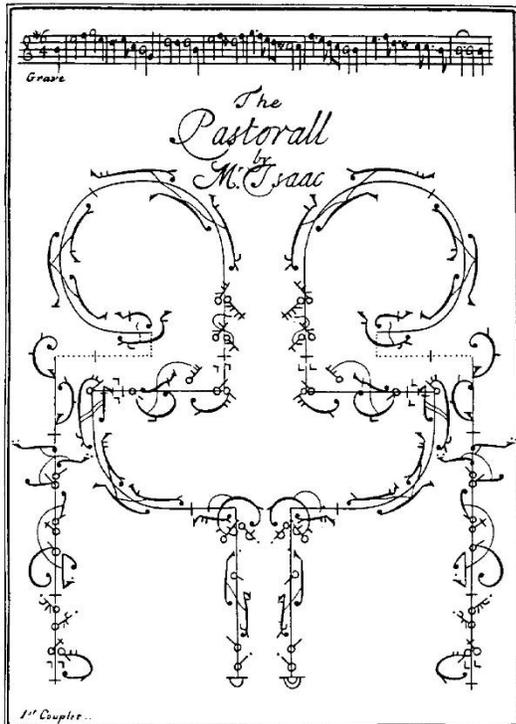
## Report from Ayla: Member-at-large

It's been a busy few months as the member-at-large - although a more accurate title might be graphic-designer-in-residence. It started innocently enough: a registration form that needed some tweaks. And then a dance poster that needed to be made. And tickets. Before I knew it (and before the rest of the board knew it either, as I went a bit rogue and asked for forgiveness afterwards) an entirely new set of brochures, booklets, cards, forms (logo et al.) had been devised. My thanks to everybody who gave invaluable feedback.

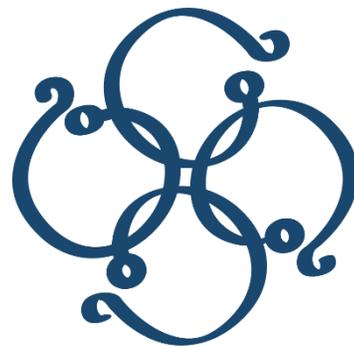


More on the logo, since it took quite a lot of tries to fashion something that communicated the feeling of dancing without actually showing dancers. One of my primary inspirations was Baroque dance notation, which is like sheet music but for dance. The other inspiration was the familiar "set and turn single," and the groups of four that are the foundation of so many dances. These are just my ideas though! It's your logo now, and whatever you see in it is as true as what I do. My hope is that I've captured a bit of the joy and camaraderie that come from dance in this small graphic and that you will be proud to be represented by it.

The next few months hold even more transformations for the visual identity of Village Green. Stay tuned!



  
VILLAGE GREEN  
ENGLISH DANCERS



**Ayla, Thank you for all your work**

## St. David's Day and Founders' Day all rolled into One

Are you in need of good food, good music and good fun?  
We have the event for YOU!!



**Where** you ask? St. Mark's Lutheran Church (Corydon and Cambridge)

**When** you ask? Saturday -Feb 29/20 6pm -We will be gathering for a true potluck

**Why** you ask? For food, friends and fun

**What** you ask? After dinner we will dance

In the Break we will enjoy some ceilidh items

After that we will dance and sing some more

**How much** you ask? A bargain at twice the price – just \$10.00

**Who** should come you ask? All VG members, alumni and anybody else looking for a good time.

There will be some straight forward dances for everybody and some more challenging ones for only those who have been coming to class. We will let you know which is which as well as posting the program.

**What else I need to know?**      **Bring your own cutlery, dishes and cup**  
**Bring a dragon if you have one to add to the decorations**

(St. David is the patron saint of Wales and dragons are a Welsh symbol. The aforementioned founders are David Williams and John Trevenen who started Village Green in 1976.)

**Hope you will come and help us chase away the midwinter blues!!**

**Want a place at the table? RSVP to Village Green [villagegreen.vgecd@gmail.com](mailto:villagegreen.vgecd@gmail.com)**

**Interested in being in the ceilidh? RSVP to Sue @ [roddyth@mymts.net](mailto:roddyth@mymts.net)**

**There will a silver collection. The money collected will be added to the Trevenen Willizms Scholarship Fund**



## The dances for the evening will be chosen from

Childgrove  
The Old Hob  
Come, Join the Dance  
The Extra Mile

Autumn in Amherst  
Flirtation Reel  
Gold for the Mahieus  
Duke of Kent's Waltz

Lichfield Ruby Surprise  
Freeford Gardens  
Prairie Rose

The Scholarship fund was created to help members attend a dance or music camp and several members have received funds in the last few years. Last summer Ayla travelled to California to attend the music week at Hey Days.

## Trevenen/Williams Founders Award Yields Tuneful Results

Last summer, thanks to the Trevenen/Williams Founders Scholarship, I travelled to the Sonoma Valley to spend a week learning as much as I possibly could about English Country Dance music at Hey Days. The generosity of Village Green donors covered my travel costs, and BACDS covered the cost of the week-long camp. Last year, and the year before, Liam Berry travelled to the same camp, also with the help of Village Green and The Fine Companions. We both benefitted tremendously from the excellent instructors, and our fellow musicians in the workshops. I felt as though I learned as much in that week as I had in a year playing for dances here in Winnipeg. The immersive experience, and quality of the dancing and music meant that it was impossible not to improve

One of the biggest benefits was the frequency of playing. Five hours of instruction and practice a day, plus quick rehearsals tucked into any spare moment, then dancing or playing more late into the evening, was exhausting and exhilarating. If I made a mistake playing something in the morning, I got to fix it in the afternoon. If I learned something one day, I had four more days to put it into practice.

Coming back home, I was eager to put all my new energy into playing. But I had to wait until September for the Open House... And then I had to wait until the Guy Fawkes Dance! And then all the way until December! That just seemed like it would be too long in between playing. Liam felt the same, so we hatched a plan. We had heard of a mythical Challenge Class, and that they met every other Sunday. We approached the teachers, and asked if we might play for the classes, to get extra practice. It's one thing to rehearse in your living room, and quite another to be in a room full of dancers. They agreed, and it's been a fantastic experiment thus far. We get to benefit from playing regularly, and the dancers get live music. This wouldn't have come about without the chances to attend dance camps and the lessons learned there. We look forward to continuing using the Challenge Class dancers as our creative-interpretation-of-tempo guinea pigs into the new year and beyond.

Ayla Manning (and Liam Berry)

