

# Burpham & Wepham News



*The Monthly Newsletter of the village of Burpham & Wepham*

*Your Village Website:*

<http://Burpham.arun.gov.uk/main.cfm>

*Friends of Burpham Church:*

[fbc@fbcburpham.org.uk](mailto:fbc@fbcburpham.org.uk)

*From the Vicarage, October 2014*

*Dear Friends,*

We seem to have gathered the Harvest – but as one is ‘safely gathered in’, the work begins to provide for another year. It is often held that the date of this new beginning is Michaelmas Day, the Feast of St Michael on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

In England it has long been one of the ‘Quarter Days – when rents for a quarter of the year were due. Farmers obviously being expected to be able to pay !

This was also the day when contracts between landlords and tenants, as well as masters and servants officially ended. This meant many were looking for jobs, and so fairs were held – known as ‘hiring’ or ‘mop’ fairs, and these were the place where many new working agreements were made. This is now almost extinct but used to be a time of feasting and family festivity – and often the central element was a goose ‘Whoso eats goose on Michaelmass Day, Shall never lack money his debts to pay’. For the writer it is the day on which I was Ordained – but I never claimed I was ‘goosed’!!

At the end of the month All Hallows Eve (now known as Halloween) is celebrated. This was a mixture of ancient pagan ideas, folklore and religion, often accompanied, on the 31<sup>st</sup> October – the end of the Celtic year – with the ceremonial extinguishing and lighting of fires. The next day, Nov 1st became, All Saints Day –considered a very holy day. Halloween was/is a

time of mystery, when ghosts, witches and the 'little folk' had to be avoided and evil spirits needed to be driven away. It was a busy time as these manifestations dared not be around on All Hallows! Bonfires were said to drive them away, as well as stomping and shouting in the fields – which evil spirit would brave a horrible face cut in an hollowed-out turnip or a candle? Apples and nuts also proliferate in Halloween – the Roman festival was in honour of Pomona – goddess of fruit, and there were all sorts of stories about apples and pips and discovering whom young maidens would marry. Duck-apple (in a bowl) and Snap-apple (on a string) are still popular today.

But times change – and people (generally) are no longer afraid of evil spirits. Halloween is now an evening of fun. An old Scottish prayer (which I can use, as they're still with us!) ;-:

*'From ghoulies and ghosties and long leggety beasties  
And things that go bump in the night,  
Good lord deliver us.'*

I hope to start the Confirmation sessions on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 6.30 in the Vicarage but will try to contact people directly – these 6 (?) meetings will last for approximately 40 minutes per session.

*Maurice Slattery*

## **From the Church Warden.**

**Calling all Volunteers for tidying the Churchyard, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 10.00am – 12.30pm.** We need to give the Churchyard a thorough Autumn clean before winter sets in. If you can help, even for a short time, please come along with your secateurs, rakes etc. There will be bread & cheese and beer afterwards. We would be delighted to see you, so if you can make it, we would be most grateful



**A big thank you to everyone who contributed to and helped at the Church Coffee Morning on the 20<sup>th</sup> September.** There will be a fuller report in next month's Newsletter.

**Mike Mills, Church Warden**

**Village Companions.** Our next meeting will be on Monday October 6th at 7.30pm at Bonnie's at Thomas Cottage (which incidentally looks amazing after it's rise from the ashes!) Let me or Bonnie know if you would like to come along. All welcome – wine and refreshments will be available.

**Liz White 882654.**

**Halloween Dinner & Drip Action 31<sup>st</sup> October.** This event has proved very popular, and we are now completely sold out. It is possible that someone might have to pull out, so if you do not have a ticket but are still interested, you should contact either **Bonnie Hamilton 885923 - [bonnie.ham@virgin.net](mailto:bonnie.ham@virgin.net)** or **Liz White 882654 - [phizzie@btinternet.com](mailto:phizzie@btinternet.com)** - nearer the day.

**An Evening with Rod Stewart.** Our thanks go to the village Entertainments Sub-Committee for organising a splendid B-B-Q and film afterwards in the Village Hall. It was a great evening enjoyed by all who attended. Our thanks also go to Michael who helped everyone with their cooking. **Bob Baynes**



**Paint the Village Hall.** Following a very successful Cricket Club sponsored event last weekend, Burpham and Wepham now has a nice shiny Village Hall. My personal thanks go to the Cricketers, Villagers and their wives and partners, who made this happen. I am aware that there were a number of you who were not able to contribute in terms of labour, but who wanted to make a contribution by way of sponsorship. Some indeed have already done so, but for those still wishing to make a donation, I would be delighted to receive anything, (cheques made payable to BWCC), at the following address :- The Brow, Wepham, Arundel, West Sussex, BN18 9RE.

Kind regards, **Kevin Foster**

**A Smile for October.** This is a story about a senior greeter in a large store in the USA. You just have to appreciate this one. Young people forget that we old people had a career before we retired.....

*Charley, a new retiree-greeter at the store, just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day he was 5, 10, 15 minutes late. But he was a good worker,*

*really tidy, clean-shaven, sharp-minded and a real credit to the company and obviously demonstrating their "Older Person Friendly" policies.*

*One day the boss called him into the office for a talk.*

*"Charley, I have to tell you, I like your work ethic, you do a bang-up job when you finally get here; but your being late so often is quite bothersome."*

*"Yes, I know boss, and I am working on it."*

*"Well good, you are a team player. That's what I like to hear.*

*Yes sir, I understand your concern and I'll try harder.*

*Seeming puzzled, the manager went on to comment, "It's odd though your coming in late. I know you're retired from the Armed Forces. What did they say to you there if you showed up in the morning so late and so often?"*

*The old man looked down at the floor, and then smiled.*

*He chuckled quietly, then said with a grin, "They usually saluted and said, "Good morning, Admiral, can I get your coffee, sir?"*

## **Forthcoming Events**

Sun 5 Oct	10.30am	<b>Family Service, Coffee &amp; Produce</b>	St Mary's
Mon 6 Oct	7.30pm	<b>Village Companions Meeting</b>	Thomas Cottage
Tue 7 Oct	7.30pm	<b>Village Committee Meeting</b>	Village hall
Thu 9 Oct	7.30pm	<b>Sir Chris Bonington, Life &amp; Times</b>	Worthing
Sat 11 Oct	10.00am	<b>Church Yard Tidy-up</b>	St Mary's
Sun 12 Oct	10.30am	<b>Family Service</b>	St Mary's
Sun 19 Oct	10.30am	<b>Family Service</b>	St Mary's
Sun 26 Oct	10.30am	<b>Family Service</b>	St Mary's
Fri 31 Oct	7.30pm	<b>Halloween Dinner &amp; Drip Action</b>	Village Hall

**Please send your articles for the November Newsletter to  
Bob Baynes at Court Leet Cottage, or preferably by e mail to  
[baynes755@btinternet.com](mailto:baynes755@btinternet.com)**

**by the last week of October 2014. All your articles of interest to the Village are  
welcome. With very many thanks, Bob Baynes**