

# 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, July 2015*

*Dear Friends,*

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July an unusual procession wends along Upper Thames Street in the City of London. At the front, 2 top-hatted, white smocked wine porters sweep the road. This is to ensure that the following procession does not ‘slip into any foulness’ – which might well have happened 700 years ago when the custom began. This is the procession of the Worshipful Company of Vintners, who have just elected their new Master and Wardens.

They are going to church to attend a special service. They are accompanied by the Company’s Barge Master and Swan Markers. (The Vintners, Dyers and the Queen own the swans on the Thames between Henley and London Bridge). Towards the end of July this group takes to the river for the ceremony of Swan Upping – marking all the cygnets to indicate to whom they belong. 2 marks on beaks says Vintner, one says Dyers, whilst none says Queen! Representatives of these companies meet on Midsummer Day to elect two sheriff fs for the City of London and, later in the year the Lord Mayor. (Not Boris – who is Mayor of London, not the City and, I suspect, would not be voted for by Black Cab drivers!!)).

These are very colourful occasions and steeped in history. These customs are not dissimilar to those of weddings. We are well into the season of weddings - Kate and Simon, Xochi and Ben, having already been ‘done’, whilst Jenni and Greg, Claire and Jaime, and Louise and Harlan are ‘straining like greyhounds in the slips’.

Weddings abound with customs and traditions – not always understood, or appreciated. The Bride is ‘given away’ – this goes back to Roman times (when arranged marriages were the norm) and the woman was, literally, given

away to a new 'owner'. The Bride's father walked down the aisle with his daughter on his left hand side – leaving his sword-hand free if he was attacked. The ring is placed on the third finger as the Greeks believed the third finger was connected to the heart. Bridesmaids were used to distract evil spirits should they try to trespass upon the bride. After the wedding it was the tradition to throw rice – a symbol of fertility for the Romans. Pagans handed out sugared almonds (or their version of them) which represented health, wealth, happiness, fertility and long life. This was overtaken by shredded paper – popular with Victorians but who quickly got tired of picking it out of their hair and invented confetti! The 'something blue' element in the wedding mantra was to show purity. The white dress was a Victorian 'fashion fad' following the wedding of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert - and, thus, quickly adopted by ladies of gentility.

For all the interesting customs that add colour to our lives today we give thanks, Lord. Bless all those who have been, and will be, married in this place.

*Maurice Slattery*

## VILLAGE EVENTS

**Village Companions.** The annual visit to Arundel for putting saw us playing in ideal conditions being warm and sunny and with a good turnout. Afterwards we walked over to The Swan and celebrated with the winner Ron Chapple and the 2 'hole in one' players Phil White and Pam Chapple.



Our next meeting will be at Doug & Marion's Chestnuts, Burpham on Monday July 6th at 7.30 p.m. All are welcome – come and try us! Please let Marion know if you are going on 884499

On Saturday July 18th the Burpham Country Hotel is hosting a 'Taste of The Levant' evening. There will be a tasting menu of dishes from The Lebanon, Syria and Turkey and the price is £30 per person. This is being made available to Village Companions and if you would like to go then call me and let me know asap. **Liz White 882654**

**Village Committee AGM.** The Village Committee AGM will be held in the Village Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30am, and will be followed by a presentation by Southern Water on the works at the Coombe Lane water plant.

**The Alternatives - Arundel's Rock Band,** This popular event is taking place on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> July from 7.30pm in the Grain Barn, Home Farm, Wepham. Tickets are still available from **Chris Hayles 885404 and Heather Birch 882839**

**Saturday, 1st August - Annual Clump Bar-b-q.** Come along and join us at the popular annual full moon bar-b-q at the Clump. Bring along your friends and family, your own tipples - we will supply the bar-b-q's, music and hopefully the sun.

Join us from 6 o'clock onwards.

Any queries please phone either **Heather (01903 882839) or Chris (01903) 885404.**

**Dinner in the Church Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September.** A fund raising dinner with music will be held in the Church to raise money to go towards repairs and general running costs. Tickets are £35pp including ½ a bottle of wine. There are still some tickets left so please get yours now to avoid disappointment!  
**Tickets from William Tyler 884337 or Bob Baynes 883667. Bonnie Hamilton.**

**Village Hall Decoration.** You will notice a big improvement already. An energetic working party removed all the yellow tape and the sticky stuff from the floor which is looking a lot smarter now. The whole interior of the hall will be redecorated in mid-October and then we will have the court professionally marked out with painted white lines, all ready for the autumn and winter badminton season. The Committee expresses their warmest thanks to everyone who helped out so willingly for all their hard work; we've saved £504 by doing this work ourselves! **Val Belton**

**Village Committee Treasurer's Report for 2014/15.** Our financial year ended on 5<sup>th</sup> April and thanks to the efforts of a great many people, it has been a very successful one. A special mention is due to the Social Committee, who organized many enjoyable events this year which collectively have made a handsome profit of c£1,075. We don't expect all social events to be profitable but it's nice when they are, as we can then use some of those funds to lay on a children's Christmas party and refreshments for everyone after the

carol service, as well as achieve improvements to the facilities in the village hall; this year these included effective new lighting, replacement of most of the cutlery, some smart new china serving dishes, a tea urn and Christmas tree lights. Many many thanks to everyone whose hard work made all this possible. **Val Belton**

**Final result of Fete '15.** The items so kindly donated by the Secombe family to sell at our Fete realised £307 at auction, so we made a grand total of £5,187.78. After expenses, the PCC and BVC have each received £2,227.62 – a truly terrific reward result. **Val Belton**

**Open Garden Charity Event. Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June.** Bill and Rosie achieved great things by opening their beautiful garden in Wepham, and I can't help thinking how much we've accomplished in the last month, both for worthy causes within the village and outside, when so many people have been willing to join forces with their different skills and energies, resulting in two wonderful events. We can all feel very proud of ourselves, don't you agree?  
**Val Belton**

## Forthcoming Events

Sat 4 Jul	10.30am	<b>Burpham &amp; Wepham AGM</b>	Village Hall
		<b>Presentation Southern Water</b>	
	7.30pm	<b>Alternatives Rock Band</b>	Home Farm
Sun 5 Jul	10.30am	<b>Family Service, Coffee &amp; Produce</b>	St Mary's
	1.30pm	<b>BWCC v Amberley (Home)</b>	Rec Ground
Mon 6 Jul	7.30pm	<b>Village Companions</b>	Doug & Marion
Sun 12 Jul	10.30am	<b>Family Service</b>	St Mary's
	2.00pm	<b>BWCC v Littlehampton (Away)</b>	Littlehampton
Sat 18 Jul	tbc	<b>Taste of Levant Evening</b>	Hotel
Sun 19 Jul	10.30am	<b>Family Service</b>	St Mary's
	2.00pm	<b>BWCC v Rustington (Home)</b>	Rec Ground
Sun 26 Jul	10.30am	<b>Family Service</b>	St Mary's
	2.00pm	<b>BWCC v Grasshoppers (Home)</b>	Rec Ground
Sat 1 Aug	6.00pm	<b>Norfolk Clump BBQ</b>	Home Farm
Tue 4 Aug	7.30pm	<b>Village Committee Meeting</b>	Village Hall
Thu 6 Aug	7.00pm	<b>St Mary's Burpham PCC meeting</b>	St Mary's

Please send your articles for the August 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 July 2015. All your articles of interest to the Village are welcome.  
With very many thanks, Bob Baynes