



WOLF VALLEY NEWS

January Edition

2022

Welcome to the new Wolf Valley News!

Hope everyone had a fabulous holiday and we can look forward to bright new year.

This news sheet is supported by your Parish Council for Germansweek and Eworthy and covers those areas and beyond.

All are welcome to be involved. Please send your copy to the editor, details here and on the back page.

We hope to include all events locally, some advertising and all upcoming events along with ideas, suggestions, jokes. Please send us all that helps and encourages the community.

Regular contributors will be from the Vicar, the Parish Council and local clubs.

Copy deadline is the 25th. day of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue.

Paper copies to be found in Germansweek Telephone Box, Outside the Dairy in Germansweek, Eworthy Telephone Box (formerly the Scone Box). **Online** at www.germansweekpc.co.uk or contact: wolfeditor@icloud.com

Germansweek Parish Church:

Message from the Reverend:

Absentmindedness in the parish choir – a seasonal tale by Thomas Hardy

It happened on Sunday after Christmas—the last Sunday they ever played in Longpuddle church gallery, as it turned out, though they didn't know it then. The players formed a very good band almost as good as the Mellstock parish players that were led by the Dewys; and that's saying a great deal. There was Nicholas Puddingcome, the leader, with the first fiddle; there was Timothy Thomas, the bass-viol man; John Biles, the tenor fiddler; Dan'l Hornhead, with the serpent; Robert Dowdle, with the clarionet; and Mr. Nicks, with the oboe—all sound and powerful musicians, and strong-winded men—they that blowed. For that reason they were very much in demand Christmas week for little reels and dancing-parties; for they could turn a jig or a hornpipe out of hand as well as ever they could turn out a psalm, and perhaps better, not to speak irreverent. In short, one half-hour they could be playing a Christmas carol in the squire's hall to the ladies and gentlemen, and drinking tea and coffee with 'em as modest as saints; and the next, at the Tinker's Arms, blazing away like wild horses with the "Dashing White Sergeant" to nine couple of dancers and more, and swallowing rum-and-cider hot as flame.

Well, this Christmas they'd been out to one rattling randy after another every night, and had got next to no sleep at all. Then came the Sunday after Christmas, their fatal day. 'Twas so mortal cold that year that they could hardly sit in the gallery; for though the congregation down in the body of the church had a stove to keep off the frost, the players in the gallery had nothing at all. So Nicholas said — at morning service, when 'twas freezing an inch an hour, "Please the Lord I won't stand this numbing weather no longer; this afternoon we'll have something in our insides to make us warm if it cost a king's ransom."

So he brought a gallon of hot brandy and beer, ready mixed, to church with him in the afternoon, and by keeping the jar well wrapped up in Timothy Thomas's bass-viol bag it kept drinkably warm till they wanted it, which was just a thimbleful in the Absolution, and another after the Creed, and the remainder at the beginning o' the

sermon. When they'd had the last pull they felt quite comfortable and warm, and as the sermon went on—most unfortunately for 'em it was a long one that afternoon—they fell asleep, every man jack of 'em; and there they slept on as sound as rocks.

'Twas a very dark afternoon, and by the end of the sermon all you could see of the inside of the church were the pa'son's two candles alongside of him in the pulpit, and his spaking face behind 'em. The sermon being ended at last, the pa'son gie'd out the Evening Hymn. But no choir set about sounding up the tune, and the people began to turn their heads to learn the reason why, and then Levi Limpet, a boy who sat in the gallery, nudged Timothy and Nicholas, and said, "Begin! Begin!"

"Hey, what?" says Nicholas, starting up; and the church being so dark and his head so muddled he thought he was at the party they had played at all the night before, and away he went, bow and fiddle, at "The Devil among the Tailors," the favourite jig of our neighbourhood at that time. The rest of the band, being in the same state of mind and nothing doubting, followed their leader with all their strength, according to custom. They poured out that there tune till the lower bass notes of "The Devil among the Tailors" made the cobwebs in the roof shiver like ghosts; then Nicholas, seeing nobody moved, shouted out as he scraped (in his usual commanding way at dances when the folk didn't know the figures), "Top couples cross hands! And when I make the fiddle squeak at the end, every man kiss his pardner under the mistletow!"

The boy Levi was so frightened that he bolted down the gallery stairs and out homeward like lightning. The pa'son's hair fairly stood on end when he heard the evil tune raging through the church; and thinking the choir had gone crazy, he held up his hand and said: "Stop, stop, stop! Stop, stop! What's this?" But they didn't hear 'n for the noise of their own playing, and the more he called the louder they played.

And at last they heard 'n through their playing, and stopped.

Then the unfortunate church band came to their senses, and remembered where they were; and 'twas a sight to see Nicholas Puddingcome and Timothy Thomas and John Biles creep down the gallery stairs with their fiddles under their arms, and poor Dan'l Hornhead with his serpent, and Robert Dowdle with his clarionet all looking as little as ninepins; and out they went. The pa'son might have forgie'd 'em when he learned the truth o't, but the squire would not. That very week he sent for a barrel-organ that would play two-and-twenty new psalm tunes, so exact and particular that, however sinful inclined you was, you could play nothing but psalm tunes whatsoever. He had a really respectable man to turn the winch, and the old players played no more.

If you would like to hear an audio version:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAKL0Z4VYCU>

Germansweek Parish Church Services, Notices and Events:

Church Services in January

2nd	Holy Communion, Germansweek	11.15am
9th	Plough Service, Bratton Clovelly	3.00pm
16th	Holy Communion, Bratton Clovelly	9.30am
23rd	Evening Prayer, Bratton Clovelly	9.30am
30th	Patronal Service, Bridestowe	11.00am

Plough Service

We are pleased to be able to host the Farm Community Network annual Plough Sunday Service this year. This is a County wide event and will be attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Devon and the Mayor of West Devon. The service will include the traditional blessing of the plough, followed by refreshments in the parish hall. The collection will be given to help the work of the FCN.

Agriculture remains one of the most dangerous industries in the UK, every year there are a large number of fatalities and injuries through accidents, isolation, long working hours and financial pressures have added to a rise in mental health issues and suicide. FCN offer support and practical help to farming families across the country.

Friends of Germansweek Church:

A HUGE THANK YOU.

The Friends of Germansweek Church would like to thank everyone that donated items and purchased tickets for their Christmas Hamper Raffle.

An amazing Hamper was kindly donated by Dianne Manning and due to generous donations, the Friends were able to fill an additional four hampers. The winning tickets were drawn by Rev Adrian Brook.

1st prize – Graham Mayo

2nd prize – Ben Walker

3rd prize – Jim Randall

4th prize – Robert Northcott

5th prize - James Rose

Due to great support and contributions, the fantastic sum of £400 was raised towards the upkeep and repair of our village church.

Thank you to all, and we wish you a happy and healthy 2022.

From 'The Friends of Germansweek Church'

News from the Parish Council

That was a year that was, it's over so let it go.....onwards to a brighter time. We have gone past the Winter Solstice so by the end of January the days will begin to be longer! Here's hoping! It should start to lift our spirits and better days to come. We met on the 17th December, and having had legal advice it was decided to no longer meet due to the current state of the Omicron epidemic. Currently our next meeting will be in May when by law we meet for the AGM and village meeting. Due to the current legislation we are not allowed to use Zoom so to keep the parish up to date we have given the Clerk certain powers to help us through this period. Essentially she will collect our views by email on important matters that arise, collate them and send them on as a response but not as a final view. We are not allowed to vote by email.

The good news is that we had agreed our precept for 2022/2023 so we are all set up for the coming months and only planning matters will be outstanding. Life can be complicated but, who knows, we may be able to meet in the coming months. Finally, the Councillors and Staff would like to wish everyone a very happy, peaceful, safe and healthy New Year. Look after yourselves, family and do be kind to others in the parish.

Jacky

Village Hall:

Did You Know?

Our Village Hall runs a monthly lottery for all to join and win!! It helps to keep the Hall going for heating, lighting and water and all the necessary stuff to do with running this historic building. It's possible that Voysey, a renowned architect planned the building as he stayed with the then squire back in the day. He did design Winford Hospital and two cottages there.

Everyone is welcome to join in the monthly draw with prizes for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd every month. The Hall takes a percentage but the remainder goes in prize money. If you have not joined, why not? Here is your invitation: for the princely sum of £2 monthly you can help to keep the Hall going and possibly win a prize! Lots of us have over the years!

It's easy to join in.....

Phone Ellie on 01837871317, or

Call in at Landford Farm in the middle of Germansweek.

Good luck and we will all be winners if our Hall is kept in a good condition.

Upcoming/regular events or meetings;

Ivyhouse Garden Club (Broadwood). Please check www.nextdoor.co.uk for the next session . All welcome.

Sing along round 2 hold sessions every month in Germansweek Church.

Germansweek Cribbage Social meets regularly every month. Check www.nextdoor.co.uk for regular updates and meetings.

Much more local information and events can be found on www.nextdoor.co.uk
Please take some time to join up and keep up!

From Ed;

We thought we would publish the refuse collections notice as it is a bit 'all over the place' this month

Recycling & Waste Collections

Collection day	New collection day
Mon 27 Dec	Wed 29 Dec
Tues 28 Dec	Thur 30 Dec
Wed 29 Dec	Fri 31 Dec
Thur 30 Dec	Tues 4 Jan
Fri 31 Dec	Wed 5 Jan
Mon 3 Jan	Thur 6 Jan
Tues 4 Jan	Fri 7 Jan
Wed 5 Jan	Sat 8 Jan
Thur 6 Jan	Mon 10 Jan
Fri 7 Jan	Tues 11 Jan
10 - 13 Jan	Two days late
Fri 14 Jan	Mon 17 Jan
17 - 21 Jan	One day late
24 Jan onwards	No change

 West Devon recycles this Christmas
www.westdevon.gov.uk

 [westdevonboroughcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/westdevonboroughcouncil)

 [@WestDevon_BC](https://twitter.com/WestDevon_BC)



West Devon
Borough
Council

