



WOLF VALLEY NEWS

November Edition

2021

Greetings and welcome to the new Wolf Valley News!

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

From The Editor:

Ash dieback is a devastating disease which is predicted to severely affect or kill over 90% of Ash trees so dramatically impacting Wolf Valley's wooded landscapes. Infected Ash trees should be left where possible. Dead ash trees remain a vital habitat for many species including birds, beetles and lichens. The good news is we can help the trees! Using advice from Devon Wildlife Trust, help maintain our beautiful vistas. Plant at least 3 new trees for the loss of a large tree, 2 for a medium tree and 1 tree for a small tree. Promote natural regeneration wherever possible, particularly in woodlands. You can collect seeds now, from any native tree. Keep the seeds in a dry place away from light. Try and emulate the seasons. Maybe put them in a sealed container in the fridge for a few weeks when it's cold in January or February. Then pot them up in March. Plant out where they have the best chance of growing to maturity. If you decide to help by acquiring saplings, it is important to choose trees



which have been grown in Britain by reputable nurseries, preferably from seed sourced from South West England. This will reduce the risks of introducing new diseases when planting trees.

Ash tree affected by die back

Germansweek Parish Church:

This month's narrative from the Reverend

Have you ever been to a place that has made you feel uneasy? Or perhaps you have had a feeling that someone is watching you or following you? The supernatural is usually explained away these days but sometimes we encounter phenomena that are just, well...spooky. Ghost stories have abounded throughout history from Shakespeare to the Bible.

Theological colleges still train priests to deal with supernatural manifestations which usually take the form of psychic disturbances (poltergeist activity), apparitions (a sort of echo in time) and ghosts (lost or trapped souls) but compared with some of our forebears we are mere beginners.

The Cornish writer, Elizabeth Dale has researched old 18th and 19th century tales of encounters with ghosts by priests known as 'ghost layers'.

“In the West Country, particularly in Cornwall, there was a tradition of conjuring parsons, clergymen who practiced the binding of demons and the ‘laying’ of ghosts.”
“These accounts are completely fascinating in so many ways, of course on one level they are delightfully ghoulish stories to be told by candlelight at Halloween, but they also give us incredible insight into the lives of Cornish people hundreds of years ago – their worries and fears, their foibles, their way of thinking. Above all, however, I think it is the representation of the clergymen themselves that fascinates me the most. They are portrayed as these darkly powerful men, often with supernatural, otherworldly abilities. For them there appears to have been a very fine line between

their actions as a Christian minister and the world of the occult and the dark arts. These clergymen were sometimes referred to as 'conjuring parsons' aligning them as much with magic and mysticism as with the church."

Nearer home, Miss Francis, daughter of Revd. Francis of Bridestowe 1869, recorded many examples of 'ill wishers', people who had the ability to bring misfortune and sometimes even death to those they cursed. She recounts how her father was often called in to reason with the ill wishers because it was thought their curses could not harm the parson. Some also believed that the parson could 'turn the curse' with a prayer of exorcism.

Nearer in time, Sir Leslie Fielding, in his memoirs of his life in the Diplomatic service, recalls his time in Germansweek.

'One summer day in 1975, I purchase an old vicarage in the badlands to the north of Dartmoor – twisty, single tracked roads; contorted folds of poor, bethistled pasture; scrubby, windswept woodlands. My hamlet has no shop, no pub; but the house enjoys a clear view of the Tors. The place, say my detractors, is a mere toy, a detested 'holiday home'. To me however, it is a place of refuge from jet-setting and slick city life. The immediate locals are friendly but when I enter training as a Lay Reader, to save the Norman Parish Church from episcopal accountants and axemen, the arrival of a 'Preacher' attracts the attention of a coven across the hills. Animal entrails start to appear on the doorstep; cabalistic signs are daubed in blood on windowpanes. Misshapen rag dolls congregate in the shrubbery; a manikin, with pins protruding from rude places, is propped up on a stick outside my study window. Discreetly, I ask around. No immediate joy but a few oblique and embarrassed looks. And then it all stops, as abruptly as it started. Metaphorically, I shrug and pop another bottle of Bolly, leaving the diocesan exorcist unsummoned. The Rector from two parishes away, a jolly former Veterinary Surgeon, wisely persuades me to sweep it all under the carpet.

On another day, one year before, when still house hunting I am less phlegmatic and do actually do a runner. A farmhouse is for sale; has been for sometime; is now unoccupied. I grab the particulars and go for a gander. It turns out to be an ancient timber framed building; pretty enough but a touch too small with too many dilapidated buildings – and too tucked up the chine. Not a soul is in sight.

I complete my inspection and start to move down the track to my car. But there is footfall. Out of nowhere pops an elderly rustic, his green eyes flecked with brown, like a deep dewpond. I make the first move.

"Good evening. How do you do? You must be the owner?"

He replies: "That I were young master"

"You have already sold then?"

"Noo. But I'm not here no longer"

"No. So I observe. You must be very sorry to have left such a nice place"

"Yes. Very sorry."

"Moved to somewhere nearby?"

"Near enough sir. More like six foot."

"Ah, jolly good."

"Kind of you to say so I'm sure, but 'tis under the ground, look."

"Ah, become a Troglodyte then? Gone to earth, sort of thing...? (nervously) Ha, Ha"

"Well thing is, I be dead now so I don't need'n no more."

"My dear chap. Frightfully sorry to hear that. How terrible."

I look at my watch and mutter about being late for my next appointment.

"Terrible it was. 'Twas the milk lorry, early in the morning, a year or two back. Misty like. Us didn see him, then Bang! I were dead. So I had to sell up."

I began to walk briskly on feeling for the car keys.

"I can show you round the back sir. I can show you summat special!"

I am off, in a puff of high octane from my V8 engine.'

Elizabeth Dale: <https://cornishbirdblog.com/2020/10/31/the-parson-ghost-layers-cornwalls-exorcists/>

"Kindly Call Me God" Leslie Fielding Boerman Books 2009

Germansweek Parish Church Services, Notices and Events:

Church Services in November

7th Holy Communion, Germansweek 11.15am

14th Remembrance Sunday;

Bratton Clovelly 10.30am Followed by coffee in the School room

Germansweek War Memorial 2.30pm

21st Holy Communion, Bratton Clovelly 9.30am

28th Evening Prayer, Bratton Clovelly 4.30pm

Roadford Lake Rowing Club Update

The sunshine in October brought new Rowing and Social Members (👍) and some great weather - which in turn brought some great rowing too! Welcome to all our new members.

We also held our first Coaching/Training Session last weekend, and because we have taken onboard new memberships, we had two of our Coastal Fours out at the same time! Brill! Again, the weather was been kind to us.

We hope to support a few more folks who are interested in rowing during November but may have to close our doors re any additional interest, until the Spring. I will, though, try and provide an update for the next magazine.

Meanwhile, if you are down at the Activity Centre or walking around the lake, do look out for us - generally on Sunday morning after 10am. Anyone is welcome for a chat - shoreline chat only though! 😊

Ian Lamb

Park Cottage Eworthy

Ian.h.lamb@hotmail.co.uk

07837 190678

Friends of Germansweek Church:

Christmas Hamper Fund Raiser

The 'Friends of Germansweek Church' are a group that raise and hold funds for the upkeep and repair of our historic village Church. We are planning to hold a Christmas Hamper Raffle to raise funds, whilst giving you the chance to receive a wonderful hamper in time for Christmas!

Any donations of 'goodies' to help fill the hampers would be greatly appreciated.

Donated items can be left in the church, dropped off at Lynne Moyses' (Eworthy) or

if easier please contact Linda Tame on 01837 608208 or 07947104474 to arrange collection.

Details of how to buy tickets will be in next month's newsletter.

Thank you in advance for your support,

The Friends of Germansweek Church.

The Parish Council Missive

My first missive for our relaunched Parish Magazine. I hope everyone is enjoying having it back! Remember you can get it electronically via the Parish Council website under the heading of news...you might have to search for it as various things are posted there.

First thing is to say thank you to the people who farm round here who during the night of yet another storm were out in the downpour and wind clearing the blocked road by the viaduct of fallen willows. It was impassable until they went out at midnight and worked for two hours clearing the road in foul conditions to ensure people could commute, walk their dogs, have access to animals and had we needed, access to emergency vehicles. A huge thank you.

As is the Council's routine, we met on the third Wednesday of October. We had much to discuss. Salt for the local roads is available from our Snow Warden, Cllr Lynne at Eworthy Farm if anyone needs some but Cllr's Steve and Andy are out checking our usual drop points. Last winter we had it easy with the weather but who knows what the coming season will bring? Get organised, get ready!

We also began to discuss our budget for the coming financial year, 22/23. We shall try to be as economical as possible but we do have certain legal obligations and our Precept is already one of the smallest in West Devon and with everyone feeling the financial squeeze we are very mindful of saving pennies but we can't promise unfortunately. The Council also discussed the West Devon Plan on the next 25 years...you can look at the discussion document on the WDC website and the Memorandum of Understanding for planning issues.

Onto lighter things, due the current COVID infections we feel it is inappropriate to hold a social gathering to celebrate the start of the Christmas Celebrations but there will be the lighting of our new, living eco tree and the singing of Carols around the tree led by the singing group on December 4th. We also hope to have an important mystery guest attending to switch the lights on. Who or what will it be this year? Cllr Carlie is busy creating a new Christmas Quiz and treasure hunt so all is not lost with all these infections roaming around. Get that date in your diary now so you don't double book.

November is here and this is the time when we remember those in the village who served and fell during many conflicts. As usual all are welcome to gather at our proudly listed war memorial on Sunday 14th November. As yet there are no timings available but the short service is generally in the afternoon. Our silent soldier will again make an appearance during this period to give the parish an opportunity to reflect those who gave everything so we might live in this beautiful parish.

Our next meeting is on November 17th at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. In the mean time, take care, be aware and stay safe and enjoy the turning of the year with all the joys it brings.....Jacky.

Defibrillator update

We are fundraising to install a defibrillator for the parish at the Village Hall. Thanks to the amazing generosity of people near and far on our Just Giving page and having secured a grant to support the installation, we are now in a position to order a fully automated unit and heated cabinet which hopefully will be with us in November!

We are continuing to fundraise to meet our target of £2,000 (currently we're about 70% of the way there) to cover installation, training and manage ongoing costs, so if you'd like to contribute in any way, please support events as they come about (thanks

to Sid and Eli for the fantastic pop quiz held on Saturday 23rd October!) or visit Just Giving <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/germansweekdefibrillator>

Upcoming/regular events or meetings;

Road closure: Landford Farm to Pittons for a maximum of 5 days from 9th November 08.00 to 18.00

Ivyhouse Garden Club (Broadwood) Their next meeting is Monday 8th November at Lakeside Conference Centre, Roadford Lake. 7.30pm. This week entitled 'Christmas from your garden'

All welcome.

'Sing along round 2' hold sessions every month in Germansweek Church.. This month Friday 5th of November. Starts 6/7pm. All are welcome.

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

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

Contact Information:

Adrian Brook	Parish Vicar	01837 861580
--------------	--------------	--------------

Jackie Theobald	Parish Council Chair	01837 871446
-----------------	----------------------	--------------

Rachel Ward Parish Clerk Crane Cottage, Germansweek, EX21 5BA
germansweekpc@gmail.com

Germansweek Village Hall bookings; contact Eli Collins 01837 871317

Please send your details and your consent to be included in future lists



Editor: wolfeditor@icloud.com

Please send your copies for inclusion. The deadline is 25th. of every month
Online copies to be found at www.germansweekpc.co.uk under news