

David Phillips

Jan Reynolds and the Devil at Widecombe-in-the-Moor.

And the story goes that Jan Reynolds was a local land owner and he decided that he wasn't having much luck as a landowner, he wanted to make a bit more money than that and he fancied himself as a bit of a gambler, so he made a pact with the Devil to have seven years good luck with his cards and in return the Devil would come back and claim his soul, and Jan met the Devil here, made their pact and off he went to have seven years good luck. He was often to be found on a Sunday in the Church at Widecombe playing cards with his mates in the pews at the back, and when the seven years were up the Devil came back to claim his due, and he also heard the story that Jan could be found in Widecombe Church on a Sunday, so the story goes that he stopped off at the Tavistock Inn in Poundsgate to ask for directions.