

ORIGINS OF THE TRUST.

A group of concerned parishioners and conservationists got together in September 1982. Following that date they remained in existence monitoring, at a low level, matters which might affect the quality of life in the Parish. This naturally came to a head with the large scale development proposed at Higher Farm. This catalysed these people into forming the Thorncombe Village Trust as a more active public body. Documents relating to earlier trust activities are available on file. The name Thorncombe Village Trust was formally adopted on Wednesday 14 May 1986.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

The names of the officers and committee of the Trust who were elected at the Inaugural Meeting on 14 May 1986 are: Chairman - Mr Ron Hawkes, Vice Chairman - Mr Peter Moreland, Secretary/Treasurer - Mr John Whitbread, Committee - June Ede, Brian Maber, Janet Walker, Rosie Ede, Carolyn Bonfield, Derrick Comley, Shirley Cooper, Leslie Harman.

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A NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS YEAR.

Talk and slide show by Colin Varndell. A look at a typical year of taking nature photographs through the seasons. This entire sequence of pictures was shot during a 13 month period from May 1981 to May 1982 and are shown in order. Most aspects of wildlife are covered including flowers, insects, reptiles, birds and mammals.

In the VILLAGE HALL THORNCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 9 July at 8 p.m.

Admission 25p Trust Members FREE REFRESHMENTS

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SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS WITHIN THE TRUST.

Members of the committee have offered to lead and co-ordinate these groups to get them underway. They are as follows:

FLORA, FAUNA, TREES, RIVERS ETC.

We are fortunate to live in 'An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' and this group hopes to bring together Trust members who have a particular interest in the natural beauty of our Parish. The type of activities in which we become involved will depend on suggestions coming from those of you who join the group. The illustrated talk by the wildlife photographer Colin Varndell has been organised with the intention of promoting this group's formation. If you would like to become involved, in whatever way, then get in touch with either of the two committee members who have offered to co-ordinate initial activities. John Whitbread - Winsham 525 or Shirley Cooper - Hawkchurch (02977) 441.

HISTORICAL.

Where does one start in a village so full of interest as Thorncombe? We have historic buildings, listed buildings and buildings which have disappeared. Old mills, old factories and reams of old estate, church and civil documents, which need studying and recording. We already have a complete transcript of the 1841 census and half of the 1851 census, which still remains to be completed. Tithe maps need to be copied and old field names preserved. It is an endless task but so rewarding. Last but not least research into the personal history of Thorncombe's population and the famous sons and daughters of yesteryear. We need help, lots and lots of it, so no matter how little time you can spare, your assistance and ideas will be welcome. Initially contact R.D.J.Hawkes - Winsham 359.

FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS.

This group will endeavour to establish, with the aid of the Ordnance Survey maps, the position of all footpaths and bridlepaths in the Parish of Thorncombe. Together with those which continue beyond the Parish boundary to the County road. It is hoped to produce 2 booklets, one on footpaths and one on bridleways, which will contain a map and text listing starting points, direction, destination and points of interest along the way. A start will be made on the well established regularly used routes with easy access, suitable for all age groups and later the more difficult and overgrown paths that are less well defined will be tackled. This will be carried out in consultation with the Parish Council Footpaths/Bridleways Liaison Officer, Mr Mark Roper and the County Officer with the co-operation of the land owners and occupiers. Anyone interested in joining or helping this group please contact Carolyn Bonfield Winsham 426 or Derrick Comley Winsham 675. Site of any existing footpath/bridlepath maps of the approved kind with path numbers and reference would be most welcome.

PARISH GLEANINGS.

This group is one which will gather to itself all items of interest, happenings and events past and present, odd snippets of news etc., which concern Thorncombe parish and its inhabitants. These will be card indexed or written about if they are of general interest to the Parish. By this we do not mean gossip, who worries if Mrs So & So has run away with a travelling salesman, but if Farmer X turns up a stone age axe head or an old key, or finds an old implement at the back of a barn, then let us know. Suppose when pulling down an old wall or cupboard some old local newspapers or bills or advertisements were found, we will be most interested in seeing them and adding to our records. If you would like to help this group or have anything of interest to contribute please contact R.D.J.Hawkes - Winsham 359.

LITTER AND RECYCLING.

We are collecting all information from the Council and Blue Van to see what services are available beyond the dustbin collection. If there are then any gaps in general litter collection we hope to find ways of sorting out these problems. We are also starting to investigate the recycling processes available. Our attention initially will be focused on bottle banks. We hope to involve the children in projects related to the environmental problems. If you are interested in this group please contact Gussie Greenlees Winsham 791.

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HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN THE PARISH.

We understand that a number of Planning Applications have now been lodged with the W.D.D.C. These are 1) Higher Farm, 2) Jay's, Chard Street, 3) Opposite the village hall, Chard Street, 4) Holditch, together with the offer of land made for low cost starter homes by Mr B Maber. The Chief Planning Officer has obtained a 2-3 month deferment on all applications for a thorough investigation and reports.

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NEWSLETTERS.

All future newsletters will be issued bi-monthly and will be within the Parish Magazine (Thorncombe edition). If you do not receive this magazine please contact Carolyn Bonfield - Winsham 426 for your copy of the Trusts newsletter.

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MEMBERSHIP is open to all who are interested in furthering the objectives of the Trust. Those wishing to join contact John Whitbread - Winsham 525.