

Thorncombe Village Trust **NEWS**

OCTOBER 1987.



VIEWS OF HOLDITCH by kind permission of Ron Frampton.

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THE RIVER AXE.

The Trust will be holding a SLIDE SHOW & TALK entitled 'THE RIVER AXE' by John Keylock in the VILLAGE HALL, THORNCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER at 8.00 p.m. This illustrated talk will reveal the River Axe from its source, to the east of Winyards Gap, at Chedington to the sea. ADMISSION 25p. TRUST MEMBERS FREE. REFRESHMENTS. RAFFLE. BRING & BUY. ALL WELCOME.

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MEMORIES OF THORNCOMBE.

The following passage is an extract from a letter received from a Trust member now living away from the village who regularly receives the Trust Newsletter. "I like the photo of the Royal Oak - which was still functioning as a pub when we arrived in 1940 - one of 3. I can't see if the name on the (then) Post Office is already Bonfield. The first time I went in there to send a telegram in 1940, a scull-capped head slowly emerged from behind an immense high counter and a rheumy eye regarded me - that was Mr Bonfield, father of Chris, the then coal and everything else man, and grandfather of Howard - I never thought my telegram would be despatched but it was! About the Parish Records held by the late Mr Retter, is it possible they are in the archives at Dorchester? I think I have told you before, Mr Retter showed me a huge volume of cuttings and general information about the Parish which he had had passed on to him - mostly dealing, as I remember, with the latter half of the 19th. Century - the decline period - giving prominence to the activities and good works of the ladies of Forde Abbey. This volume must be somewhere. I am glad to note that you have contact with the Parish Magazine - I think it was dormant during the war and just after - when there was a very eccentric Vicar, whom I think had been shell shocked as a Naval Chaplain on some battleship that went down".

DORSET ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS CENTRE.

About twenty residents attended an illustrated talk on the County Environmental Records Centre in Dorchester by its supervisor, Mr Surry, in the Village Hall on Wednesday the 9 September 1987.

The Centre, which has charitable status, was created about ten years ago to maintain geological and natural history records under the general supervision of the County Planning Department, Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society, the Dorset Naturalist Trust and the Nature Conservancy Council. The information obtained is used both to provide permanent and comprehensive records in one place and to furnish local authorities (re. new roads etc.) and private individuals with relevant data. Generally speaking prior to the creation of the Centre natural history records in the County were spread among a number of societies etc. and related particularly to the Eastern and more populated half of Dorset. The rich wild life in the Western half is still much under-recorded and Mr Surry showed examples of the misleading distribution maps which result from inadequate data. He therefore appealed to all interested persons to take an active part in the wider recording of the wild life of the area and showed details of the form in which recordings would be welcomed by the centre. The Trust feels that many residents could assist in this work and would like to create its own satellite centre which would then collate and relay its findings to Mr Surry. Anyone who would like to take part in this work or would like further information should contact R.D.J.Hawkes - Tel: Winsham 359.

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PARISH WALK.

At 10 o'clock in the morning the weather didn't look too grand, would the Parish Walk go ahead or would it be rained off? The raspberries had been picked, the sandwiches made and the cakes baked. All we needed was a fine afternoon and some people! Just before 3 o'clock at the top of Wittey's Lane and people were arriving from all directions - young, old and inbetween - all with great enthusiasm and the thought of a cream tea approximately 2 hours later. Over 40 people walked the planned route along local footpaths arriving in the field behind Little Orchard for a well earned rest, chat and tea. Everyone seemed to enjoy the afternoon and wanted to know when the next one would be! Many thanks to all those who helped to make the afternoon such a success.

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KEEP THORNCOMBE TIDY.

We are very fortunate in Thorncombe in having regular and very reliable refuse collection services. We also have several litter bins placed around the village (we may need more). It would be very worthwhile if the odd items of litter to be seen in the streets and on verges could be placed in the bins provided. This has two great benefits for the community, one is the visual improvement, but equally important is the proven link that 'litter droppers' often add to existing uncleared corners and verges. Clearing litter is an activity that we can all be engaged in with benefits for everyone. PLEASE HELP.

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MEMBERSHIP.

Membership is open to all who are interested in furthering the objectives of the Trust. Those wishing to join please contact the membership secretary: John Whitbread, The Bungalow, Wittey's Lane, Thorncombe, Chard, Somerset. TA20 4PG. or phone Winsham 525.