

Thorncombe Village Trust **NEWS**

THE ROCKS AND FOSSILS OF CHARMOUTH.

DECEMBER 1989.

The warden of the Heritage Coast Centre at Charmouth - Richard Edmonds - gave the talk at the Trust's meeting on the 8 November. Members may have recalled an earlier lecture when the outstanding quality and variety of the geology of the Dorset Coast were stressed and Mr Edmonds showed a remarkable series of slides which concentrated on features in the constantly changing area between Bridport and Lyme Regis. The successive layers of greensand, marl and blue lias which predominate in this section of the coast are the key to the instability of the ground which is inexorably slipping into the sea. As it does so, the lower strata yield a remarkable store of fossils which have remained hidden for 150-200,000,000 years. While ammonites are the most numerous, other much rarer kinds are found from time to time, including in 1985 a dinosaur. The cliff slopes, being uncultivated and of a wide range of soil-types, including limestone, sustain a large variety of wild flowers, insects and butterflies. Guided walks are available from Spring to Autumn and cover not only this section but other parts of the Dorset Heritage Coast. Mr Edmonds' enthusiasm for his subject and his work at the Centre were infectious and will doubtless encourage members to improve their acquaintance with this part of Dorset.

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PLANNING.

Members will know that, following much local pressure, the Chief Planning Officer has undertaken a further review of planning policy for Thorncombe. As a result, on the 26 October, the Development and Planning Committee in Dorchester adopted recommendations:- (i) limiting development to individual or small groups of houses within or adjacent to the built-up area of the village; (ii) allowing the construction of affordable "local need" housing (e.g. Housing Association) in the village proximity subject to certain strict criteria; (iii) prohibiting the occupation of any new houses until a new sewage treatment works has been completed (possibly in 1990-91).

The Trust Committee considers the policy to represent a major advance, particularly compared with the large scale development authorised in the Structure Plan and with its emphasis on the provision of a new sewage works. There is no doubt that the combined efforts of Parish Council, Village Trust and our District Councillor have played their part, as have the many letters to the Chief Planning Officer received from local residents both before and during his review.

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DID YOU SEE.....?

The winter thrushes, fieldfares and redwings arrived in the parish early in the month; joined by resident blackbirds, thrushes and mistle thrushes, they are already making inroads into this year's crop of berries, including those of the holly tree. If you want berried holly for the Christmas decorations, you could try cutting suitable pieces now; push the ends of the branches into a shaded sandy bed out of doors and cover them with protective netting.



THE VILLAGE WALK.

It was unfortunate that the morning of Sunday 22 October started very wet and windy, the chance of holding the walk looked remote, as a result of this the cream tea was cancelled. However the weather improved and by 2.30pm it had turned out a fine sunny day. Over 20 members and friends turned up for the start of the walk to Hewood through the woods and back via Wood Cottage and Horseshoe Clump to the village, a route enjoyed by all. It is envisaged that the Spring walk will be a guided walk by Mr R Edmonds of the Heritage Coast Centre, to study the cliffs and fossils of the Charmouth coast.

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COFFEE MORNING.

The Thorncombe Village Trust held a most successful Coffee Morning at The Royal Oak on Saturday 28 October. A total of £113 was raised and our grateful thanks go to all those who baked cakes, tarts, biscuits, brought things for the Bring and Buy stalls, helped so cheerfully on the morning, and to Roger and Peggy for the use of their home. It was a dreadfully windy day and we were glad that so many braved the elements to make it such an enjoyable (and profitable) morning.

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TREES.

The West Dorset District Council is prepared to help the Trust with a further £200 worth of trees during the current planting season. It is increasingly recognised that the annual flail-cuttung of hedges has in many cases led to widespread destruction of the young trees which, in the past, have provided the vital succession of hedgerow trees. Thus the Trust Committee wishes to take full advantage of the District Council's offer and would be most grateful to hear from any landowners in the Parish who would be prepared to offer space for tree planting this winter. The cost of supports and ties will be born by the Trust.

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PLEASE NOTE - JANUARY MEETING - PLEASE NOTE - JANUARY MEETING - PLEASE NOTE.

The January meeting will be on the THIRD wednesday, the 17 January not the second as is usual. Our speaker will be Tony Smith and he will be talking about 'Thorncombe in 1841'. The meeting will be in the Village Hall at 8.00pm There will be a Raffle and Bring & Buy. Admission 25p. Members FREE.

The date of our March meeting has also had to be changed and that meeting will now be on Thursday 29 March 1990.

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BI-MONTHLY MEETINGS.

A number of members have been unable to attend the bi-monthly talks owing to other commitments. To assist the Committee to plan the programmes for 1990-91, it would be much appreciated if you will complete the slip below and hand it, by the 11 December, either to any committee member or to Brian Whalley in the Village Stores. The meetings are scheduled for January, March, May, July, September and November.

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Convenient days for Thorncombe Village Trust Evening Events.

Please tick all preferred boxes.

First week of month	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monday	<input type="checkbox"/>
Second week of month	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tuesday	<input type="checkbox"/>
Third week of month	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fourth week of month	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Friday	<input type="checkbox"/>

Members' Name