



THORNCOMBE VILLAGE TRUST NEWS

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THORNCOMBE VILLAGE TRUST

PRESIDENT	Peter Moreland
Chairman	John Dalziel
Secretary	Joan Lovegrove
Treasurer	Linda Timms
Membership	John & Rachael Whitbread
Tree Planting	Nigel Merrett
Committee	Mike Carr Tony Symonds
Editor	Rachael Whitbread

Trust Membership

There are now 158 households holding Trust membership, and the number is growing steadily. Most members live in the parish, but we have a number of faithful supporters living elsewhere.

Many thanks to those of you who sent their subs to me – one family has arranged to pay by direct debit. If anyone else would prefer to do this please contact Rachael on 01460 30525

The Village Trust and Local Planning

We are occasionally asked why the Trust becomes involved in local planning issues, '*...after all there is a democratically-elected Parish Council isn't there?*'

A glance at our constitution will make the answer clear – the Trust was formed to:

- (1) encourage and promote a greater interest in, and understanding of, the local environment and its history;
- (2) protect historic buildings in the Parish, and especially to conserve the character of the village of Thorncombe and of the other settlements in the Parish
- (3) oppose unsuitable development in the Parish
- (4) safeguard and enhance the countryside in the Parish
- (5) support nature conservation in the Parish

Any individual can express their view on a planning matter to the Parish and District Councils, and indeed these views may differ from those expressed by the PC.

The Trust discuss planning issues that may affect the environment and the character of the village, and formulate a response based on environmental beliefs and our constitution.

In cases where a planning application has been seen as threatening to the fabric of the village, our contribution presents another view, sometimes strengthening a case.

It must be made clear the Trust and the Parish Council are two entirely separate bodies, - and in fact we are not always in agreement!

NEW MEMBERS

Since the last magazine the following people/families have joined (or re-joined) the Trust:

In Chard St:

Rose Brayshaw
Jill Brown and John Currie
Mary and Dave Marsh

In Gribb View:

Mrs Bet Cox

In Tansee Hill:

Mr and Mrs Barrett
K. Longley & family
Richard & Chris Marshall
In Fore St:
Lorien and Chris Krasucki
Mrs Maggie Tucker

In Synderford:

Jake Doxat and family
Margot and Derek Wickett

At Schoolhouse:

Karen and Steve Jarvis

In High St:

Sue Fletcher and Trevor Burnham

In Wagg's Plot:

Neil Croton

In Wayford:

Robin & Wendy Goffe

Hooked on Eden

Last winter as part of our weaving and dyeing activities at Maudlin Cottage we were trying to find some Fuller's Teasel (*Dipsacus Sativus*) seed to sow along with some dye plants. These teasels are the type that were traditionally used to raise the nap on cloth, having tiny hooks at the end of the thistle barbs. Then by chance I saw them mentioned on the Eden Project Website. I emailed them and was delighted when, out of the blue, 20 seeds arrived from the nursery that supplies Eden. We sent some details of our Weaving shed explaining why we wanted the seed, and were thrilled to be invited to run a three-day drop in workshop in August as part of their Fashion Month, though somewhat apprehensive as to what would be expected of us.

We arrived early one very wet morning, the car laden to the roof with everything we could think of; loom, spinning wheels, fleeces, spindles, display cards, leaflets, dye plants and materials, and so on. At the works site entrance we were met by our attentive steward Marion, who drove us down towards the biomes, helped us set up, stayed with us for the three days, learnt to spin and helped us out with the hordes that filled the round tent-like building we worked in.

The Eden Project opens every morning like a clockwork city, the little land train starts to go up and down the hills, the hum of voices grows louder, and lines of visitors begin to move down the paths. All day a stream of people came through our workshop, they crowded round the dye table, children and adults explored the pots of dye and fished out the dyed wool, felt the dye stuffs, often sniffed them and were amazed at the colours. They moved on to look at the fleeces, spin and card the wool, read information, ask questions, and tell us about their own experiences. At times there were up to 50 people. We could have done with more helping hands, but various Eden staff came to join in when they had spare time.

For the whole three days we were well looked after and everyone we met was extremely positive and enthusiastic. We felt very pleased to be a small part of this wonderful project. There was hardly a minute to look at the rest of the Eden site but we hope to return soon with more time to explore. *RJS*

Jill and Tony Smith use plants and natural materials to dye the wool used in their weaving. Their workshop at Maudlin (next to Magdalen Farm) is open to the public..

Barn Owls

The recent talk on barn owls was extremely well-attended, demonstrating the interest and affection most of us have for these spectacular birds. David Ramsden from The Barn Owl Trust managed to depress us all by making clear how depleted the habitats are for barn owls, due to pressures of modern farming, old barns disappearing, and climate change, as well as deaths on major roads.

Some fascinating facts emerged from his talk – did you know that:

- barn owls do *not* hoot
- there are at least 35 species of barn owl worldwide
- their average life expectancy is one year – only about one in four survive to become breeding adults. The oldest one David has found was about 9 years old.
- they have very poor eyesight. The concave-shaped face funnels sounds into their ears, so they have keen hearing. They use memory for navigating around their area.

The Barn Owl Trust at Ashburton in Devon (tel: 01364 653026) will send details of their work and practical suggestions for encouraging these birds to our area, for example by building nest boxes

Don't forget the talk on The Jurassic Coastline on January 9th. Happy Christmas!