



THORNCOMBE VILLAGE TRUST NEWS

Autumn 2008

Number 39

THORNCOMBE VILLAGE TRUST

We are delighted that Sheila Moreland has agreed to become our president. Sheila has been deeply committed to the Trust since it started and continues to show a keen interest, attending committee meetings regularly.

President Sheila Moreland

Chairperson Linda Timms

Secretary John Whitbread

Treasurer Linda Timms (pro tem)

Committee John Dalziel, Ruth Jacobson, Lynn Kinsey

Vice Chair & Newsletter editor Rachael Whitbread,

Membership John & Rachael Whitbread

Contacts: Linda Timms 01297 678355; R & J Whitbread: 01460 30525 ; email: villagetrust@hotmail.co.uk

Membership

At the last count we have 215 members, most of whom live in Thorncombe, but many in the surrounding area. Often visitors to the village, relatives of inhabitants, or people who have moved away feel that they want to be members.

The annual subscription has remained at £4 per family for some years – we feel it is important to keep it affordable. We are able to use this income to provide interesting and varied speakers at our regular talks, as well as maintaining the trees that have been planted around the parish, amongst other projects.

During the year the following people have joined the Trust:

In Chard Street:

Mr & Mrs Sowerbutts and Sam Wakeham

In High Street :

Tony & Penny Maloney and Brian & Anne Maloney (no relation!)

At Stonelake: Paul & Barbara Roberts

At School House: Claire & Julian German

In Drimpton: Jill Strawbridge

We extend a warm welcome to all and look forward to seeing you at any or all of our meetings. They are listed on the membership card and widely advertised in the Parish magazine and around the village. All talks are free to members (£1 to visitors) and start at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. If you have a particular interest or request for a topic that we could cover, please contact John Dalziel on 30205.



Tree Planting Grants



We are in the position of being able to offer small grants for tree planting in the parish. Certain criteria need to be met. For further details and an application form contact John Whitbread 01460 30525

Don't forget our Christmas Sale and Coffee Morning!

on

Saturday November 22nd from 10 am to noon. Thorncombe Village Hall

We combine with Dorset Wildlife Trust for this event, so there will be cards and small gifts to buy as well as delicious cakes and bric-a-brac, plants and books .

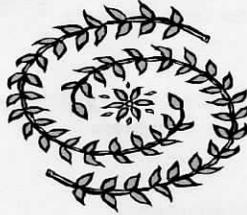
We welcome contributions for any of the above stalls – or just come along for a coffee.

Would you like to have this newsletter emailed directly to you? It would be prompt, and save on paper! We can also email reminders of forthcoming meetings and events

Contact Villagetrust@hotmail.co.uk if you would like to be included in our email list



New planning legislation comes into force this month. From now on homeowners must apply for planning permission if they wish to lay impermeable paving in their front gardens.....alternatives such as gravel and permeable pavers are suggested to cut down the risk of flooding. The RHS has produced a useful leaflet, *Front Gardens*, that can be downloaded at rhs.org.uk/learning/research/gardeningmatters



Roadside verges

Hopefully you all enjoyed our abundant verges this spring and summer – the bluebells, campion, orchids and cow parsley were able to flower and seed before being cut this year. The Trust were able to negotiate a later cutting time with Dorset County Council, following several disappointing years when the verges were cut very early. You may have noticed coloured posts in some verges – these are placed in response to research carried out by DWT's Roadside Verge Project. Red posts indicate a spring cut, yellow a June cut and blue indicate a cut at the end of the season. This timing is essential to ensure particular plants do not get crowded out by rank growth. Dorset Wildlife Trust will be carrying out a survey of such sites across Dorset in 2009 and will be asking for volunteers. If you would like to help, phone Joy Wallis at 01305 264620 or email jwallis@dorsetwildlife.co.uk. Alternatively, have a word with one of the TVT committee – you do not need to be a botanical expert!

Ancient Trees

The Ancient Tree Forum and The Woodland Trust are working together to preserve the ancient trees of Britain. Everyone's help is needed to map the ancient trees in their area. Ask the TVT committee for a recording form and, if you can, have a look at www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk where you can see local trees marked on a map.

The 'hug' method for measuring trees is a rough guide to when trees start being of interest to the Ancient Tree Hunt. A hug is based on finger tip to finger tip measurement of an adult – about 1.5 m.

The following trees might be ancient if they measured the following:



Oak – 3 adult hugs Beech and Cedar of Lebanon – 2 adult hugs Scots Pine and Rowan – 1 adult hug

Other methods include age and characteristics such as major trunk cavities or progressive hollowing. As far as age is concerned, tree species vary in their lifespan. "A 100-year-old willow or birch would be ancient, but a 200-year-old beech would just be starting to be interesting, an oak tree just maturing, and a yew tree only a young tree."

(The Woodland Trust: Recognising ancient trees)

Come along to the next TVT Talk to learn about this fascinating subject:

'Dorset's Ancient Trees: into the future'

given by Emma Braun, DWT's Greenwood Tree Officer, on Thursday November 13th at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Chard Junction Quarry – future nature reserve.

Talks are still proceeding about this exciting project, and local people are becoming involved. The TVT initiated a bird survey to find out which birds frequent the quarry from month to month. This will give valuable information in the future when the environment may have been improved for particular species, and we will be able to compare bird sightings from previous years. We are very grateful to Brian & Jean Ellis, a couple of keen bird-watchers from Tatworth, who carried out surveys in June & July. The full results can be seen on the notice board at meetings, but in brief:

27 different species of birds have been spotted including 2 Little Grebe, 4 Gadwall, more than 10 Sand Martins, 3 Tufted Duck, 15 Canada Geese, as well as Buzzards, Kestrels, Moorhens.....The finished reserve will have bird hides for everyone to use – a wonderful resource for us to have on our doorstep. We will keep you informed about progress.



Don't forget to feed the birds this autumn and to clean feeders and bird tables regularly to cut down on infections amongst green finches.

