

Thorncombe Village Trust

At our earlier unofficial meetings of the Thorncombe Village Trust I was asked to act as co-ordinator of the Trust activities. That phase has now passed and from this evening we go public. We have a very full agenda for this evening so as briefly as possible I will introduce to you the Thorncombe Village Trust.

Many of you will associate the birth of the Thorncombe Village Trust with the Higher Farm development campaign, this is not however correct. Unfortunately that development acted as a catalyst and caused the Trust to come to everyone's notice in what appears to be an antidevelopment role, which is far from its major reasons for existence. The Thorncombe Village Trust has numerous interests and so that these are fresh in all your minds I will enumerate them;

- 1) Study of local environment and topography.
- 2) Protection of historic buildings and conservation of the village character and guard against unsuitable development.
- 3) Protection from abuse our old bridges and country lanes.
- 4) The protection and study of our local flora and fauna, hedges and woodlands.
- 5) The conservation of our rivers, streams and ponds.
- 6) To secure the clearance of litter and rubbish.
- 7) To maintain and promote the use and establishment of our public footpaths and bridleways.
- 8) To research the local history of buildings, people and events.
- 9) To safeguard common land.
- 10) To promote the recycling of waste products.

There will undoubtedly be other areas of interest which will come to light as the Trust matures, each of the headings I have named lends itself to numerous study groups, suitable for both young and old members. We want you to indicate your areas of interest so that suitable research groups can be formed and work commence on Thorncombe's environment and history as soon as possible.

We have a wonderfully interesting parish here at Thorncombe, which really cries out to be studied and recorded, so let us band together and do a really good job and leave a record of our efforts to posterity, gather whilst we may the information that is still available. Each year something is destroyed, whether it be the written word, hedgerows, flora and fauna, the death of an old inhabitant, the collapse of an old building or the burning of a few old post cards and photographs. Let us grasp time by the forelock and shake some information out of it whilst we can.

So ladies and gentlemen we introduce to you the Thorncombe Village Trust and place it in your hands for its continuance and future growth.

Everyone is welcome to join whether resident in the Parish or in one of the surrounding Parishes or Towns, our researches will undoubtedly have an overspill into other areas.

We hope to have monthly meetings where eventually we will report the results of our own studies, but initially we may have to invite outside expertise to put us on the right track.