

Thorncombe Village Trust

NEWS

DECEMBER 1990

MR R D J HAWKES.

The Trust lost one of its guiding spirits and founder members when Ron Hawkes died on 22 September 1990, aged 77. He instigated and supported the Trust's activities with great wisdom and perseverance, both during and after his time as its first Chairman.

Ron Hawkes was born in London in 1913, but moved to Somerton when very young. He went to school in Somerton, then went to London for his higher education. In 1931 he began his career in aeronautical engineering as a draughtsman with Hawker Aviation in Kingston-on-Thames, and moved to Auto Gyro in London in 1933. In 1938 he moved to Faireys at Stockport as a project and test engineer, and in the same year he was married. Throughout the war he did valuable work at Faireys, doubling as an intelligence officer in the Home Guard. In 1950 he moved to de Havilland at Hatfield as Chief Installation Engineer and Project Design Engineer. In 1960 he bought the Old Crown in Thorncombe, and in 1961 he took up his last job, as research director with Experimental Packing and Research Co at Sittingbourne.

Members will already know of Ron's sterling work as Parish Clerk for nearly five years. Some of his devotion to the village and the Trust comes out in this paragraph of his inaugural address in May 1986:

"We have a wonderfully interesting parish here at Thorncombe, which 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 a building or the burning of a few old postcards and photographs. Let us grasp time by the forelock and shake some information out of it whilst we can,"

Our sympathy goes to his widow Addie, son Clive, daughter-in-law, and grandson in their loss. There will be trees planted to his memory.

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