



THORNCOMBE VILLAGE TRUST NEWS

Spring 2007

Number 36

Peter Moreland 1920 - 2007

The recent death of Peter is an enormous loss to everyone who knew him. He worked tirelessly as our President – having been instrumental in the formation of the Trust in 1986. His knowledge of natural history, especially of birds, was impressive – he had a great enthusiasm for wildlife and the natural world. He battled energetically to protect Thorncombe from inappropriate development – we owe him a huge debt and will remember him with affection. Our sympathies are with Sheila and the family at this sad time.

Exciting New History Group

More than half of those who returned recent questionnaires (see below) indicated that they would be interested in a Local History group. Other members of the local community had expressed a similar interest.

In response to this, an open meeting was held in the Community Room on March 28th. Twenty people attended the initial meeting and a number of others, unable to attend, had expressed an interest.

In response to the level of interest, a small steering group was formed, who will be putting forward some suggestions/areas of activity that the group might like to research. The focus for the first year might be *Life in Thorncombe in the Mid Nineteenth Century* with the possibility of an exhibition in the village sometime in 2008.

A second meeting will be held in the **Community Room on May 11th at 7.30**. Everyone is welcome – not only TVT members. The TVT has agreed to help with any initial set-up costs incurred. However, it was recognised at the initial meeting that this independent group will need to consider ways of financing itself in the longer term.

If you have an interest in the history of the parish do come along to the meeting. We would welcome ideas and the opportunity to share knowledge and enthusiasms. We all have a lot to learn and it is more fun to do it together.

Tony Smith

TVT Questionnaire

Last year every member was sent a questionnaire in an attempt to discover whether the Trust is meeting the needs of its members, and, if not, how we could improve. Several questionnaires were speedily returned and some interesting points were made and will be discussed – results will be reported in the next newsletter. If you forgot to return your questionnaire, and/or have a burning issue you would like to raise, please contact a committee member and don't forget that all members are more than welcome to attend our monthly committee meetings to see what goes on.

TVT Talks

Once again we have chosen a variety of topics for our talks, hoping that everyone will find something to interest them.

If there is a subject that you would like to hear more about, or you have heard a speaker elsewhere you can recommend, please get in touch – we only know what you want if you let us know!

To contact the committee telephone Terry Bennett 01460 30213

An amazing bat story

Experts in Bristol were amazed to discover that a 3 month old greater horseshoe bat flew from her colony in Gloucestershire, and arrived at a new roost in Dorset. 'The endangered greater horseshoe bat is a sedentary species and not prone to travelling far from its roost, making this one bat's journey all the more surprising. Although there are rare instances of greater horseshoe bats that have flown even further than this, they have generally been males, which have taken considerably longer to cover the distance - up to two years - to find new colonies to mate with.' Read more on www.bristol.ac.uk/news/2006/5225.html

Meanwhile, in Thorncombe, a bat walk is being planned in the near future – look out for notices.

Don't forget that members can borrow our hand-held bat detector – brilliant to use with children! - contact Rachael (30525) for information.

In memory of John Gordon

A beautiful teak bench in John's memory has been placed in Holditch on the footpath near Linda Timms' farm. It was the wish of his family that this should be done, and they were there, with several members of the Trust, at the moving 'bench opening' ceremony.

Please sit on the bench and enjoy the wonderful view when walking in the area, - and remember John.

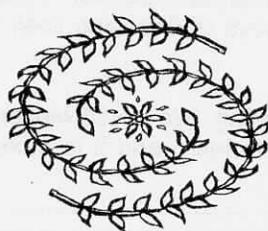


The Trust's Trees

Since its earliest days the Trust has been actively involved in tree planting. During the last autumn and winter we have carried out a progress check on the majority of our trees. Where needed stakes & ties have been removed, damaged & over hanging branches pruned and undergrowth cleared. In undertaking this work we are delighted to report that we found our trees generally thriving and are making a significant contribution to our parish landscape. Some new planting took place, including two oaks on land opposite the school to mark the Trust's twentieth anniversary.

We have also sought advice from the Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT), concerning the management of Johnson's Wood. This large planting comprising some 300 trees took place in the winter of 1997/98. The woodland occupies a sloping site close to the stile entry to 'The Dungeon' and borders the footpath running from Wittey's Lane to Sadborow Pound. The DWT confirmed that it is now a well-established planting that could benefit from some coppicing and other woodland management techniques to create a more diverse environment for wildlife.

If you would like to be practically involved in working towards this aim, please contact me, John Whitbread, Trust Tree Warden (01460 30525) to register your interest.



Sorry.....

In my enthusiasm for green issues I encouraged everyone in the Autumn newsletter to switch to paper-free billing from BT. I completely failed to realise how this could affect our Village Post Office, which needs bills to be paid over the counter.

Remember that if you pay your bills there you're saving on fuel, parking charges, postage, internet access, electricity..... and helping to retain our Post Office.

Editor

Did you know there is a junior branch of Dorset Wildlife Trust ?

It's called Wildlife Watch and arranges fun activities for children and families. As an example of the activities on offer, there is 'Kites on the Coast' on May 26th at Kimmeridge Bay - make your own marine-themed kite and then watch it fly! Tel: 01929 481044 (www.coastlink.org/kimmeridge)

Or for other family events contact DWT on 01305 264620

Would you like to have this newsletter emailed directly to you? It would be prompt, and save on paper!

Contact Villagetrust@hotmail.co.uk

DON'T FORGET THE TVT PLANT SALE ON MAY 19th AT 10 AM – DONATIONS OF PLANTS, PRODUCE and CAKES VERY WELCOME – telephone Rachael on 01460 30525 for collection or bring to the hall 18/5/07 between 6-7 pm. Thank you!