

Thornton Rust Institute



Chair: Sue Duffield | Secretary: Karen Raven

Issue 1 | August 2024

Welcome to your newsletter!

As Chair of the Thornton Rust Institute Management Committee, I would like to inform you of our role in the village. As we have no shop or public house I feel our only place to meet is the Village Institute. You may be interested to know that the Institute started off as a reading room with very strict rules, including “no spitting”, “no smoking” and sharing newspapers but only 10 minutes at a time! Nowadays we host and organise a wide variety of events throughout the year.

Our aim with this newsletter is to provide quarterly updates and news from the Institute. We welcome any comments so please take the opportunity to speak to any of the Committee members. A list of the present Committee’s names and numbers is always available on the noticeboard on the front wall of the Institute.

Sue Duffield (Chair) su.trust@gmail.com

Dates for your diary

Did you know about the regular activities that take place in the Institute? On Monday nights a small group gathers to play pickleball, Wednesday nights hosts badminton and alternative Friday nights see a thriving whist drive. Pickleball is taking a break in August but when it returns in the autumn we would love to have more players – no need to book, just turn up!

We also hire out the Institute for other uses, such as birthday parties, orchestra and dance groups to meet. If you’d like to hire the hall please contact Martyn Donno on mdonno@btinternet.com

The Institute Management Committee is busy planning a number of events for the coming months:

- **Macmillan coffee morning, Saturday 31 August.** Please join us for a coffee morning raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support at the Institute. We’d be grateful for donations on the door; there will also be homemade goods for sale and a raffle. Starts at 11 a.m.
- **Quiz night, Saturday 28 September.** This is one of the most popular evenings of the year at the Institute so come and put your general knowledge to the test! Finger food will be provided. £5 entry
- **Games night, Friday 4 October.** For lovers of board games and darts... we’re holding a free games night to see what interest there is in this kind of evening. We have a selection of board games but you are welcome to bring your own too!
- **Centenary celebrations:** The institute is one hundred years old this autumn. We’re marking this occasion by hosting a free celebratory dinner on **Saturday 26 October**. Booking your place and pre-ordering your meal will be essential for this event (more information on menu etc will follow). We’re looking to hold some other events too – see below for how you can contribute to these

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- **Remembrance coffee morning, Saturday 9 November.** More details to follow
 - **Skittles night, Saturday 16 November.** An opportunity to indulge your competitive spirit and try out our beautiful hand-made wooden skittle alley. £10 per team

Do look out for event reminders and updates in the monthly Thornton Rust Bulletin.

What we are working on

Some members of the Committee have been working extra hard to look after the area around the Institute. Paul Raven has been mowing the grass and provided the lovely pots of flowers outside the front door. Rob Cromey-Hawke and Paul will soon be starting work on clearing the ground behind the Institute, laying some new flags and sowing some wildflower seeds. Once this work is complete we'll buy a new storage shed and re-locate the old one. This means that the stock of sandbags – which are available for all villagers to use – can be stored accessibly and be better protected from weather, and that the barbeque equipment can be stored separately and securely.

We're excited to offer the centenary dinner on the evening of Saturday 26 October. We recognise that not everyone will wish to attend the meal, so we've also been thinking of other ways to celebrate the Institute's big birthday. One idea is to open up the hall to anyone interested in seeing photos, documents and other memorabilia from 1924. If you have anything like this you would be willing to lend us please get in touch. We're also keen to hear from you about any other ways you'd like to celebrate the Institute's centenary.

Feedback

This is **your** newsletter – please tell us what you want to see in it. In the future we'll also be asking for your ideas and feedback on what kinds of additional events and activities you'd like the Committee to arrange. Send your ideas to Rachel Newall at rs_newall@hotmail.com

And finally...

This newsletter will be quarterly, so we'll be using the village WhatsApp group and the monthly Thornton Rust Bulletin to share updates and reminders about events. If you are not signed up for these, please contact lyndadenny@me.com (for WhatsApp) or rob_and_rach@outlook.com (for the Bulletin).

Enclosed with this newsletter is a form to receive this communication electronically in the future. It's faster and more economical for us to use e-mail so please do sign up if you can, but paper will always be available if you prefer.

Thank you and we hope you have enjoyed reading this.

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