

Thornton Rust Institute



Chair: Sue Duffield | Secretary: Karen Raven

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Sixty years of mucking in

Marjorie Spence is the Institute Management Committee's longest serving member. She joined in 1965, not long after she got married, and has been continuously playing a part in village events ever since. Starting out as a caretaker back in the days before central heating, one of her jobs was to light both fires in the Institute, one at each end of the hall.

She has also been a vital part of the entertainment committee. Marjorie has raised many thousands of pounds for the Institute through car boot sales, carol singing, village shows, feast evenings and of course the regular Whist nights at the Institute, which she has been running for many years.

Marjorie has seen some big improvements to the Institute over the last 60 years, the most significant of which she feels has been installing a new kitchen. Originally sited at the front of the hall (where the loos are now) the kitchen is roomier and is now a really good space. Marjorie still attends committee meetings and instead of looking after the fires, these days she sources some of the food for big events and joins in the clearing up in the kitchen afterwards.

Rachel Newall and Marjorie Spence

Dates for your diary

Things to look forward to in the coming months:

- Come and help decorate the Institute for Christmas on **Friday 5 December**
- **Kennel Field Trust AGM**, 11 am on **Saturday 6 December**
- The annual village **New Year Party** will be held on **Saturday 3 January 2026**
- **HOT OFF THE PRESS! Quiz Night** has been postponed to **Saturday 24 January 2026**

Reminders and updates will be in the monthly Bulletin and the village WhatsApp group as usual.

What we are working on

Your committee is working on a calendar of events for 2026, kicking off with the New Year party on Saturday 3 January. Save the date while we work on the details. We're also planning on doing something special for Yorkshire Day (1 August)... all ideas – as bonkers as you like – are welcome! We will arrange some of our usual coffee mornings, and as this year's barbeque, Italian and Pie Night feast evenings have been so well attended we'll hold some more of those. The next most popular food themes you suggested were Mexican and Greek.

We've been delighted to welcome people from Bainbridge and Worton to many of our recent events. This has encouraged us to invest some time in more actively promoting the Institute to the wider local community. Thank you to those of you who have already given us some ideas. As a starting point we are creating a Facebook page for the Institute. We'll let you know when this is ready via the monthly Thornton Rust Bulletin.

Those of you who have been to the Institute recently will have no doubt noticed the slightly unglamorous pair of curtains in the internal doorway. The original doors have been taken away for some TLC and we hope to have them back in the next few weeks. In the meantime, we'll be cheering up the hall by decorating it for Christmas on Friday 5 December. If you'd like to come along and help 'deck the hall' please do, you'd be most welcome.

Come and join the team! The committee is looking for new members. You don't need to have had any experience – just enthusiasm, ideas and the willingness to wash up from time to time! If you're interested, or would just like to have an informal chat about it, please contact Sue Duffield on 01969 663504.

And finally...

We recently marked Remembrance Sunday with a gathering in the Institute. This November we purchased an 'Unknown Tommy' figure on behalf of the village, which we erected on the green opposite the Institute. These figures are made by veterans and support the work of the Royal British Legion. The exterior of the Institute, and the ground at Tommy's feet, were also decorated with poppies.

The red poppy is a poignant reminder of the sacrifice and loss experienced by people from all walks of life in times of war.

"A Red Poppy is a symbol,
To simply show we care
For all our fallen heroes
A loss we all equally share,

A Red Poppy is a symbol
For too many we have lost
In every conflict of war
Their valour was at a cost

A Red Poppy is a symbol
Wear it with pride for them
As each and every year goes by
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"

Taken from a poem by Larry Tickle

With thanks to Sue Duffield.



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