

Thornton Rust Institute



Chair: Sue Duffield | Secretary: Karen Raven

Newsletter | Issue 4 | May 2025

From our newest committee member

Gilly and I came to live in Thornton Rust in the summer of 2023, and immediately found ourselves warmly welcomed. When recently invited to join the Institute Management Committee, it felt like a good opportunity to get more involved. The Institute is such a great facility. My hope is that we can continue developing a range of events that will appeal to as many people in the village as possible. Food and cooking (as some of you know by now!) are things that I particularly enjoy. A good communal meal is a wonderful way to bring us all together. Next up the Mid Summer BBQ event on Saturday 28th June. Please come along!

Tim McQueen

Dates for your diary

Things to look forward to in the coming months:

- On **Saturday 7 June** from 10.30 am until 12 noon there will be a **Coffee Morning** for the **Kennel Field** in the Village Institute, entry donation £3. We're celebrating the anniversary of when a group of residents acquired the Kennel Field for the village for "the quiet enjoyment of wildlife and landscape". There will be stalls for plants, books and homemade cakes, for which contributions will be gratefully received
- **Village barbeque, Saturday 28 June.** £8 per person (children free of charge). A range of grilled meat and vegetarian options will be available, alongside salads and potato dishes. And desserts of course! Booking in advance is essential; contact Sue Duffield on 01969 663504 or email su.trust@gmail.com
- **Flower arranging demo, Saturday 16 August.** Cost to be advised nearer the time. If the demo is popular there will be a follow-up workshop
- **Italian food night, Saturday 23 August.** 7 pm, details to follow
- **Pie night, Saturday 25 October.** Save the date!

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

Highlights from the Thornton Rust Institute Annual General Meeting, 11 March

At the AGM in March we heard reports from the management committee on the past year's activities, lettings and accounts. Regular bookings continue to bring in a steady stream of income; the popular quiz nights, coffee mornings and skittles evenings have also contributed to the ongoing financial stability of the Institute. Nonetheless the committee continues to explore new ways of expanding the activities offered so that Thornton Rust institute remains a welcoming and inclusive environment and continues to balance the books.

Rob Cromey-Hawke stepped down as Treasurer at the AGM, and we now pleased to confirm that Paul Raven is taking up the role.

Full minutes of the AGM are available on the [Aysgarth and District Parish Council website](#) or just ask one of the committee if you'd like a printed copy.

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Hall for hire

Whether you are planning a birthday party, a community meeting, or a family reunion you will find everything you need to make your occasion a success. Much thought has been given to the comfort and convenience of our guests which is why we have furnished with contemporary fully upholstered chairs and tables that can be readily configured to meet your needs. This, along with a fully fitted kitchen with all the amenities needed to ensure your culinary requirements are met, whether a simple snack or a gourmet meal are all at your disposal.

High on our list of priorities is recreation and leisure, and its here that we have provided a purpose built skittle alley. This classic game has proved very popular and offers endless fun for guests of all ages, whether you are a seasoned pro or a complete novice, and did you know, you can hire the skittle alley for your private function if you wish.

To find out more about availability, pricing, or to book the hall for your event, please contact the letting secretary Martyn Donno on 01969 662649 or at martyn@donno.co.uk You can also contact any of our management team, all of whom will be pleased to assist you.

Pickleball

The first time I heard the term “Pickleball” was at a Bainbridge Women’s Institute meeting. One of the members had joined a new group playing pickleball in Askrigg Village Hall and we were all invited to join. I decided to go along and see what it was all about and was impressed by how much enjoyment was being had by those playing the sport. Pickleball is a racquet sport in which two or four players use a smooth faced paddle to hit a perforated, hollow, plastic ball, over a 34 inch high net.

I approached the Institute Committee about playing pickleball in the Institute. They very kindly agreed to buy a set of four paddles and some balls so that we could start a pickleball group in Thornton Rust. An experienced player from Askrigg came to help us with the rules and our first meeting was in April 2024. The Institute Committee recently bought a free standing Pickle Ball net for us to use which is great and very much appreciated.

I am of an age when I thought any kind of racquet sport would be beyond my capabilities however I can and do play pickleball in the Institute on Monday evenings and I ABSOLUTELY LOVE IT!

Susan Freer

Ideas for future events

Thank you to everyone who submitted your ideas for future events – we were inundated with responses and we presented the committee with some proposals in early May. We’re delighted that two of the events that received the most votes (Italian night and Pie night) already have dates in the diary. We’re now working with the committee on the next most popular ideas.

A huge thank you also to those of you who offered to help organise or run some events, it is much appreciated and we always welcome anyone who can offer an hour or two of their time.

Rob and Rachel Newall, on behalf of the management committee

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