Thornton Rust Institute

Acting Chair: Tim McQueen | Secretary: Rob Newall

Newsletter | Issue 10 | November 2026

A message from Tim McQueen, Acting Chair

First of all, I must say a big 'thank you' to Sue Duffield for everything she has done as Chair of the Management Committee. Quite an act to follow!

Over the last few years we've expanded the number and range of Institute events. In 2027, when our licence is in place, we intend to put on a number of Friday Night Pub Nights with draught Wensleydale beer and other beverages available. Also skittles, darts and dominoes. We hope you think this is a good idea. Please let us know if you have other suggestions or ideas. This is your Institute, and it keeps going because you keep coming!

Dates for your diary

There are lots of things to look forward to in the coming months:

- **Kennel Field Trust coffee morning**, 10.30 am – 12 pm on **Saturday 21 November**. There will be coffee, tea, hot chocolate, homemade cake, a raffle and a unique competition to tempt you. The trustees have also created a new display where you can learn more about the Kennel Field. £3 suggested donation on the door.
- **Ramsay's fish and chip van** will be back on the following **Tuesday** evenings, from 6 – 6.15 pm: 17 and 24 November, and 1, 8 and 15 December. The hall will be open for villagers to eat together and have a free hot cuppa if they wish on **Tuesday 1 December**. Donations gratefully received towards the running costs.
- The **Kennel Field Trust Annual General Meeting** is on Saturday 5 December at 11 am. All are welcome to attend.
- It's time to deck the halls! We'll be **putting up the Christmas decorations** in the Institute on **Monday 7 December** from about 2 pm, aided by some Christmas tunes, mulled wine and a mince pie. All helping hands welcome, just turn up if you can spare a little time. (Also to take down the decorations on Monday 4 January.)
- **Christmas Whist** evening **Friday 11 December** from 7.30 pm
- We welcome Tim McQueen as the new host of our **Christmas Quiz Night** on **Saturday 12 December** 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start. £4 per person, includes nibbles. Feel free to bring your own drinks.
- **SAVE THE DATES!** We are planning the following events, more details to follow soon:
  - **.....Village New Year Feast** Saturday 9 January 2027
  - **.....Pub games night** Friday 5 February 2027
  - **.....Breakfast baps** Saturday 6 March 2027
  - **.....Easter coffee morning** Easter Monday 29 March

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

What we are working on

Following the epic turn out on their pop-up visits, we are delighted that Ramsay's Fish & Chip Van has now added Thornton Rust to its winter round! The van will be outside the Institute every Tuesday evening from 6 – 6.15 pm. The hall will be open from about 5.45 pm on the first Tuesday of every month for villagers to eat together if they wish, starting **Tuesday 1 December**. There is no charge but we welcome any donations towards the running costs.

Keeping the Institute clean, tidy and safe

We're pleased to let you know that Becky Vallus has agreed to provide a monthly cleaning service at the hall, and that we now have a 12-weekly window cleaning schedule in place. In addition, the Council's Highways team have recently been working on the roadside to improve the drainage in front of the Institute. This follows the resurfacing of the road in the summer which unfortunately resulted in rainwater running towards the building. There is further work to be done and will liaise with the parish council. Our next housekeeping job is to have a good old sort out in the loft!

Food nights

The French feast evening was a great success so we plan to hold another two food nights in 2027. Our intention is to offer a curry night and a Spanish themed evening, but we are always happy to hear from you if you have any other suggestions.



We can usually adapt our dishes to accommodate dietary requirements, so if you fancy coming along to a feast night but aren't sure about the food please do get in touch with us ahead of time.



A huge thank you to all the people who contributed to French night, and to everyone who came along and stayed chatting afterwards until we had to kick you out. It was a wonderfully relaxed and fun evening.

Santé from your three chefs!

Feedback

If there is something you would like to know about, have some feedback for us or ideas on events and activities you'd like the Committee to arrange, please send your thoughts to Rachel Newall at *rs_newall@hotmail.com* or chat to Tim McQueen, our lovely new Acting Chair.

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