

TRMT Newsletter

February 2026 – Issue 2



Object of the Year

As mentioned in our first newsletter, the Hertfordshire Association of Museums annual awards take place next month, and voting for Object of the Year (OOTY) will close at midnight on Sunday 22nd February.

Our object this year is the Shackleton Hussey Shield, presented around 60 years ago for an Adventurous Training Competition between Scout groups by Dr Leonard Hussey of Chorleywood, who accompanied Shackleton to the Antarctic in 1912 and again in 1921. The shield is currently on display as part of our Scouting exhibition and is an important part of our local story.

Selection of the OOTY is by the public, with voting done online via the Hertfordshire Gov website: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/hertfordshire-archives-and-local-studies/museums/news-and-campaigns/object-of-the-year.aspx>

Thank you to everyone who has already voted. If you haven't yet done so, we would be very grateful for your support. Please do encourage your friends and family to vote also!

The winner will be announced on Wednesday 4th March.



Shackleton Hussey Shield

Scouting Exhibition

Our Scouting exhibition is entering into its final weeks, so don't miss the chance to see it!

We have been very fortunate to have been lent a wonderful collection of photographs and memorabilia for this display, tracing the story of Scouting in the area from its beginnings in the early 1900s to the present day. The display includes wartime memories, recollections of Shackleton Hussey competition hikes, and interactive challenges for visitors – with activities for you, your children and your grandchildren to try.

Whether or not you've been involved in Scouting, there is plenty here to discover. It is also a chance to view the 2026 Object of the Year contender, the Shackleton Hussey Shield, up close.

Do come and see how Scouting has changed in the area over the last 100 years!



The Bell Inn – Our New Exhibition

The Bell Inn was once one of three inns standing side by side along Rickmansworth High Street. Although we have displayed items relating to the Bell Inn for many years, we have now created a new exhibition telling more of its story.

Among our favourite items are the small objects discovered beneath the floorboards when the building was demolished. Most date from the 19th century, though some may be earlier. These everyday objects offer a fascinating glimpse into life at the inn – what was it like to live and work there?

The inn closed in 1912, though the building remained a familiar sight on the High Street until 1964. Today, the Bell Inn survives only through photographs, artefacts, records and the objects now on display in our museum.

Come and discover the history of one of Rickmansworth's lost inns.



The Bell Inn in 1904



Artefact of the Month

Our Artefact of the Month feature highlights interesting artefacts from both the museum's displays and what we hold in our archives.

February's featured artefact is a painting by Reginald Heckford depicting Rickmansworth High Street. Painted in the 1980s, it shows the High Street as it appeared in 1878, with the road still unmade and the Queen's Arms Public House visible on the right.

The painting offers a fascinating glimpse into the town's past and invites us to imagine daily life in Rickmansworth nearly 150 years ago.



Reginald Heckford – Rickmansworth High Street as it was in 1878, c. 1980s

Woodoaks Farm Orchard Planting

We were delighted to be on hand for the second day of planting at Woodoaks Farm's new Community Orchard.

As Woodoaks Farm shared on their Facebook page: *"We are inviting our community to not just watch it grow, but to really discover how nature, food and farming link... It will be an accessible place of learning, connection and wellbeing for people, whilst also creating a rich habitat for nature and much-needed pollinators."*

We are very pleased to have played a small part in supporting a project that will benefit both the community and the local environment for years to come.



TRMT Chairman Fabian Hiscock at Woodoaks Farm Orchard Planting – Photo cred: Sue Lacey.

Dates for the Diary

Talks by Three Rivers Museum Trust

- Monday 30th March: 'Industrial Transport Before the Railway'. Location: Manor House Sports & Social Centre, Gallows Hill Lane, Abbots Langley WD5 0DD.

Talks by Rickmansworth Historical Society

- Thursday 12th March: 'Deceiving the Enemy During WW2'. Location: St Mary's Church Centre, Church Street, Rickmansworth, WD3 1JB.

Talks by Hertfordshire Association for Local History

- Monday March 2nd: 'Wendy Morrison: Digging for Gold(ingtons): Two Seasons of Community Excavation at Sarratt, Herts'. Location: Online.

Talks by Abbots Langley Local Historical Society

- Monday 23rd February: 'Free Beer Tomorrow – the Story of Salters Brewery'. Location: Manor House Sports & Social Centre, Gallows Hill Lane, Abbots Langley WD5 0DD.

Talks by Watford & District Industrial Historical Society

- Tuesday 17th March: 'Allo, Allo, The Story of Communication'. Location: The Stanborough Centre, 609 St Albans Road, Watford, WD25 9JL.

Chiltern Open Air Museum

- Saturday 7th March: Re-opens for its new season.

If you are interested in attending these talks, please check details and timings with the individual societies. An admission fee may apply.

Become a Member

You can become a member of the museum through our website:

<https://trmt.org.uk/about-us/membership/>

Three Rivers Museum – a company limited by guarantee, no 2907154.

Registered charity no 1164893.

Registered office: 20 High Street, Rickmansworth WD3 1ER

