

TRMT Newsletter

March 2026 – Issue 3



Open Day – Save the Date!

We are very excited to announce that we are holding an Open Day at the museum on Saturday 25th April, from 10am-2pm. It will be a great opportunity for visitors to get a glimpse of the work that goes on behind the scenes, explore locally discovered fossils and artefacts, and learn more about the history that has shaped the Three Rivers area. There will also be a range of family-friendly activities throughout the day.

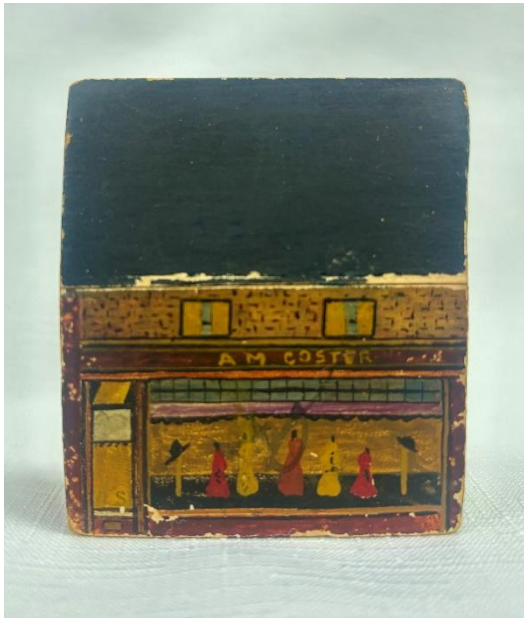
Our friendly and knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to answer any questions about the museum, our collections, and the history of the area. Visitors will also be able to find out more about how to get involved, whether by becoming a member or volunteering with us.

Whether you're curious about the area, a lover of local history, or interested in getting involved, everyone is welcome. More details will follow, so for now, please save the date – we look forward to seeing you there!



Three Rivers Museum is located on Rickmansworth High Street, between the Library and Watersmeet Theatre.

Artefact of the Month



Our Artefact of the Month for March is an image of the ladies' wear shop *Costers*, painted onto the base of a matchbox with cardboard attached to form the roof.

Costers, located at 70 High Street, was a familiar feature of Rickmansworth High Street until the 1950s. In 1919, sisters Ethel (a skilled seamstress) and Amy Coster (a trained bookkeeper) opened and successfully ran the store, with Ethel working on dressmaking upstairs while Amy managed the shop and served customers downstairs. After Ethel married in 1921, Amy continued the business alone until she was later joined by her daughter, Angela. The business closed with Amy's retirement in 1959 and is now home to a tattoo parlour.



A postcard of Rickmansworth High Street sent by Amy to a friend. She wrote, "Have put an 'X' where our shop is". We have digitally edited the image to highlight the 'X' in red for clarity.

We currently have a display dedicated to the Coster family in the museum, including the desk used in the shop. As well as being successful businesswomen, Ethel and Amy were aunts to Barbara Owen, the former Chairman of the Three Rivers Museum. We are very grateful to her family for donating the desk, along with family photographs and paperwork relating to a key part of Rickmansworth High Street's history.

Opportunity: We currently have a box of business records and transcripts relating to *Costers* in our archives which have yet to be analysed. If you would be interested in helping with this, or know someone who might be, please email chairman@trmt.org.uk.

Object of the Year

The Hertfordshire Association of Museums' annual awards took place earlier this month on Wednesday 4th March, with the winner of the Object of the Year announced as "Teddy the Teddy", submitted by Knebworth House.

"Teddy" was originally owned by Cameron Cobbold (1904–1987), 1st Baron Cobbold, who later became Governor of the Bank of England and Lord Chamberlain to Queen Elizabeth II. He is also the grandfather of Knebworth House's current custodian, Henry Lytton Cobbold.

More information and photos of "Teddy" can be found online via 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>

We would like to thank everyone again who took the time to vote for our submission, the Shackleton Hussey Shield, and to extend our warmest congratulations to Knebworth House on their Object of the Year win.



The Shackleton Hussey Shield

Reminder: The Shackleton Hussey Shield is currently on display as part of our Scouting exhibition, which is in its final weeks. Don't miss the chance to see it and learn more about how Scouting has changed in Three Rivers over the last 100 years!

Accreditation Award

Following the announcement in our first newsletter that we had been awarded Accredited Museum status, we were delighted to celebrate this milestone at a special event at the end of January.

It was a wonderful opportunity to recognise the dedication and hard work of everyone involved in achieving accreditation, as well as to reflect on what this recognition means for the museum and its future. A video of the event was put together by our museum's Vice-Chairman, Les Mead, and can be viewed on the Three Rivers Museum YouTube channel or via this [link](#).

Dates for the Diary

Talks and Events 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.
- Saturday 25th April: Museum Open Day, 10am-2pm.

Talks by Rickmansworth Historical Society

- Thursday 9th April: 'London Oddities'. Location: St Mary's Church Centre, Church Street, Rickmansworth, WD3 1JB.

Talks by Abbots Langley Local Historical Society

- Monday 27th April: 'Room at the Inn: Travelling through Georgian Hertfordshire'. Location: Manor House Sports & Social Centre, Gallows Hill Lane, Abbots Langley WD5 0DD.

Talks by Watford & District Industrial Historical Society

- Tuesday 21st April: Members' Evening – Talks by WDIHS Members. Location: The Stanborough Centre, 609 St Albans Road, Watford, WD25 9JL.

Chiltern Open Air Museum

- Tuesday 31st March & 7th April: Terrific Tuesdays – Easter & Spring themed family activities.
- Friday 3rd – Monday 6th April: Tudors: Life, Falconry & Folk.
- Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th April: Clash of Steel – Mounted medieval knights and the legend of St George.

Watersmeet

- Wednesday 8th April – Tuesday 30th June: 'Mosaics by Stephanie'. Opening event to meet the Artist will be held on Thursday 9th April from 5:30-7pm. Admission is free.

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

Connect with us on Social Media



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[@ThreeRiversMuseum](#)

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.

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Registered office: 20 High Street, Rickmansworth WD3 1ER

