

TRMT Newsletter

January 2026 – Issue 1



Welcome to the first issue of our new newsletter.

This monthly newsletter, with additional issues for timely events and announcements, will keep you up to date with what's happening at the museum. We'll be sharing information about upcoming activities, recent developments and achievements, both within the museum and across our local community.

The editor is our new volunteer, Shawnee Reid, who can be reached at our new e-mail address, news@trmt.org.uk. She welcomes news and suggestions, though please note that not all submissions can be included. We hope you enjoy this first issue and we encourage you to share ideas for future issues.

Future issues will come from Shawnee's address. If you prefer to not receive the newsletter, please let us know and we will remove your name and address from our mailing list.

Accreditation

We made it! We're delighted to share that after the end of a long-term effort, the museum had an assessment visit from the Arts Council in late October, and received confirmation on 5th December that we had been awarded accredited status. This accreditation confirms that the museum meets national standards for governance, collections care, and public engagement.

The work we did and the changes we've made have been built on the strong foundations laid since 1987. Certainly, we've adjusted and improved what we do, and now we're able to present ourselves in a slightly different way, and you'll see more of that in the coming months.

If you would like to support us in the next phase of our development, please contact us at chairman@trmt.org.uk. If you'd like to join the ranks of our volunteers, our current opportunities can be found on the website [here](#).

Object of the Year

It's time for the Hertfordshire Association of Museums annual awards – and the first is the Object of the Year (OOTY). Our object this year is the Shackleton Hussey Shield, presented about 60 years ago for an Adventurous Training Competition between Scout groups by Dr Leonard Hussey of Chorleywood, who went to the Antarctic with Shackleton in 1912 and again in 1921. The Shield is part of our Scouting display in the museum right now, and 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>

Voting closes at midnight on Sunday 22nd February, with the winner being announced on Wednesday 4th March.

Vote for us! Vote for the Shackleton Hussey Shield.



Shackleton Hussey Shield

Photo Competition

The Photo Competition for young people was held during the summer, and the results are now on our website <https://trmt.org.uk/education/our-young-peoples-photo-competition-2025>. We received a wonderful range of entries from many talented and sharp-eyed young people, and the judges had to keep a careful eye on the criteria. All 56 entries were of a high standard, and we congratulate all those who entered.

The winner of the Under-14 group was Tommy Reid, with 'Lest we Forget' and the winner of the 15-18 group was Mabel Hamilton, with a study of Hunton Bridge top lock. We congratulate them both very warmly. All the entries will be on display in the museum until January as well as on the website.

The next Photo Competition will be in 2027.



"Lest we Forget" – Tommy Reid

Oral History

We have long had an ambition to capture more of the area's story from the memories of those who have lived and worked here, and this has become the basis of our partnership with Woodoaks Farm. Until now, progress has been gradual, as we have relied on a small number of interviewers who have also had other commitments.

We are now pleased to share that, together with Chiltern Open Air Museum, we have been granted a Skills Builder grant from the Museum Development South East. This funding will allow us to train more interviewers and expand the project. Our first session, led by Andrew Green, was a resounding success. We would like to thank COAM for looking after us and to everyone that took part. Our next session is planned for Saturday, 18th April 2026, involving around a dozen volunteers from COAM, Woodoaks Farm and our museum. If you would like to join the Oral History team as an interviewer, an editor, a transcriber or even to manage the group, contact us at chairman@trmt.org.uk.



Woodoaks Farm Oral History training session – Photo cred: Sue Lacey/Woodoaks Farm.

Dates for the Diary

Talks by Three Rivers Museum Trust

- Monday 19th January: 'The Diaries of Farmer John White'. Location: The Stanborough Centre, 609 St Albans Road, Watford WD25 9JL.
- 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 February: 'The Metropolitan Railway in the First World War'. Location: St Mary's Church Centre, Church Street, Rickmansworth, WD3 1JB.
- Thursday 12th March: 'Deceiving the Enemy During WW2'. Location: St Mary's Church Centre, Church Street, Rickmansworth, WD3 1JB.

Talks by Abbots Langley Local Historical Society

- Monday 26th January: 'Christmas Remembered – A Look Back at Christmases Past'. Location: Manor House Sports & Social Centre, Gallows Hill Lane, Abbots Langley WD5 0DD.
- Monday 23rd February: 'Free Beer Tomorrow – the Story of Salters Brewery'. Location: Manor House Sports & Social Centre, Gallows Hill Lane, Abbots Langley WD5 0DD.

Chiltern Open Air Museum

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

Future Issues

Future issues of this newsletter will feature our collections (including our increasingly important archives); walks, talks and tours led by us and by others which we think you'll enjoy; updates from our fellow historical societies in Abbots Langley, Sarratt and Rickmansworth. We'll also be sharing news from our friends at our local libraries, COAM, Woodoaks Farm and the Museum of Watford; along with anything you'd like to tell us about.

We hope you've had a great start to the new year, and we look forward to keeping in touch.

Fabian Hiscock, Museum Chairman

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

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

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