

TRMT Newsletter

April 2026 – Issue 4



Open Day – A Success!

Our Open Day, held on Saturday 25th April, was a great success. Thank you to everyone who came along and took an interest in the work that we do, and especially to those who have joined as members or expressed an interest in volunteering with us.

It was wonderful to see such a wide range of people come along, from children and teenagers to adults of all ages, wanting to learn more about the history of the area in which they live or grew up in, and to share their own memories and experiences. Hearing these stories – how the area has changed, what people value about it, and what it has been like to live and work here – is central to what we do, helping us to truly capture and reflect the history of the Three Rivers area.

We would also like to thank our volunteers, whose hard work in preparing for and supporting the day made the event possible.

We will be sharing more about the day in our May newsletter.

Visit from the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire

We were delighted to welcome the High Sheriff, Nicholas Buxton, and his wife to the museum on Friday 27th March, in one of his final engagements before relinquishing the role. During his visit, he met with representatives from Three Rivers District Council to explore topics relating to the area's history and environment, and stopped by the museum to see how we present and reflect the story of the area through our displays.

We particularly highlighted our *Stitches in Time* project, presenting him with a copy of the accompanying booklet. Completed in 2024 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of Three Rivers District, the project brought together 44 skilled needleworkers from across the Three Rivers area to create 50 hand-stitched bunting flags, each depicting an event, story or person from over 2,000 years of local history.

Spanning from the Jurassic period through to 2024, the project has become a much-loved and valued addition to the museum and is now on display. The accompanying booklet is also available to purchase, featuring images and further information about each individual flag.

In a post via the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire's official Instagram account, he described the museum as a "fascinating repository of archaeology, local history and artefacts, entirely staffed by volunteers", and congratulated us on achieving accredited museum status.

We were very pleased to welcome them both and we hope to do the same for the new High Sheriff, Anna Rankin, who lives locally in Sarratt.



Rickmansworth as recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086.

Photo cred: Jim Forder, Croxley Camera Club



The High Sheriff, Nicholas Buxton, during his visit to the museum with members of the museum team.

Rickmansworth Through Time

As with projects such as *Stitches in Time*, understanding and sharing the history of our local area is central to what we do. Rickmansworth and its surrounding areas, for example, have been inhabited since the Stone Age, with various flints found in local gravel pits. The three rivers (Colne, Gade and Chess) may have attracted early settlers to this area, with communities developing through the Neolithic period and into the Bronze Age.

By around 1800 BC, people had begun to use bronze tools and weapons, evidence of which has been found in the Chess Valley. Traces of Iron Age occupation, dating from 700 BC, have also been discovered in the Chess Valley and nearby in Harefield.

By the first century BC, the local tribe, the Catuvellauni, had settled here, and the surrounding valleys later became home to Roman villas. Archaeological finds from this period include coins and a bronze ring discovered at Moor Park.

The area continued to be inhabited through the Saxon period, when there is known to have been a settlement in Rickmansworth. It was then known as 'Rykmeresworth', derived from the Saxon personal name 'Rykmer' and the word 'worth', meaning a farm. In the Domesday Book of 1086, it was recorded under the name of the Manor of Prichemereworde.

To read more about Rickmansworth's history, a chronological timeline is available on our website, spanning from the Neolithic period through the early medieval period up to the present day. Explore thousands of years of Rickmansworth's history [here](#), or see it on display in our museum.

Artefact of the Month

Our Artefact of the Month for April is an Express Dairy milkman's jacket. This particular jacket belonged to William Henry Pemberton of Whitfield Way, Mill End, who worked as a milkman for Express Dairy in the 1960s and 70s, covering the Chorleywood round. Express Dairy, once one of the country's largest dairy delivery companies, was based at Shepherds Farm in Mill End, just off Middleton Road, with some of the milk supplied by Woodoaks Farm.

This jacket offers a glimpse into everyday working life in the area and is a reminder of a time when doorstep milk deliveries were a regular part of daily life in the Three Rivers area. It reflects a way of life that, while still continuing in some places, is far less common today.



Express Dairy Milkman's Jacket, c. 1960s – 70s.

Volunteering Opportunities

Following our Open Day, we have included details of our current volunteering opportunities below. Clicking on each role will take you to the GoVolHerts website, where you can find out more information.

Please note that this list changes, and there may be additional opportunities not listed here. If you are interested in volunteering, you can also contact us directly by filling out the [contact form](#) on our website and we will respond as soon as we can.

Volunteering is a great way to get involved with the local community, so if you or someone you know might be interested, please do get in touch!

Current volunteering opportunities:

[Front of House and Steward](#)

[Local History Researcher and Author](#)

[Digital Display and Website Team Member](#)

[Admin Team Member](#)

[Oral History Programme Coordinator](#)

[Education Team Member](#)

[Transcribing Oral History Interviews](#)

Dates for the Diary

Talks by Rickmansworth Historical Society

- Thursday 14th May: 'Joseph Arden of Rickmansworth Park: Collector, Traveller and Antiquary'. Location: St Mary's Church Centre, Church Street, Rickmansworth, WD3 1JB.
- Thursday 11th June: 'John Newton – Slave Trader and Priest – and 250 Years of Amazing Grace'. Location: St Mary's Church Centre, Church Street, Rickmansworth, WD3 1JB.

Talks by Abbots Langley Local Historical Society

- Monday 18th May: 'The History of Church Architecture in England'. Location: Manor House Sports & Social Centre, Gallows Hill Lane, Abbots Langley WD5 0DD.

Chiltern Open Air Museum

- Sunday 3rd May & Monday 4th May: Roman Gladiators – Watch gladiators battle.
- Sunday 10th & 17th May: Music on the Bandstand – Live Music.
- Sunday 24th May & Monday 25th May: Cavalry & Cannons – Spectacular Napoleonic living history display with muskets, cavalry, artillery and an epic battle.
- Tuesday 26th May: Terrific Tuesday – Nature themed family activities.

Watersmeet

- Wednesday 8th April – Tuesday 30th June: 'Mosaics by Stephanie'. 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



[@3riversmusmrick](#)



[Three Rivers Museum Trust](#)



[@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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