

# TRMT NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026 - ISSUE 7

## A New Project

A note from Pat Hamilton:  
(Trustee & Collections Manager)

Inspired by the exhibition *The Longest Yarn*, a knitted depiction of scenes from the Second World War, it came to me that what the museum really needed was a knitted version of Rickmansworth High Street in the 1890s!

As well as well-known buildings, such as The Swan, there will be people, animals, a fire engine and who knows what else. Alongside the display, there will also be descriptions and histories of the buildings, together with biographies of the people featured.

Plans are already underway and a team of knitters is being assembled. If you might be interested in joining us, please get in touch via [enquiries@trmt.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@trmt.org.uk). There are no knitting patterns to follow, but I'm confident we can do this, and it will be fantastic!

## Our Chairman

Fabian Hiscock, our chairman, will retire from the role and as a trustee at the next AGM in October. There is a plan for handing over, which will be announced as the AGM approaches, but for now he remains in the role, and he'll stay involved with the work of the museum, researching and as a steward.

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Open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 2pm to 4pm and Saturday 10am to 2pm.

## Remembering Barbara Owen

A plaque dedicated to Barbara Owen, MBE, was unveiled earlier this month in Rickmansworth's Rose Garden, opposite the Three Rivers District Council. The unveiling was attended by family, friends and colleagues, who gathered to celebrate her life and contribution to the community.

Barbara was a founding member of Three Rivers Museum in 1987 and served as chairman from 1997 to 2019. In 2012, she was awarded an MBE for her services to the Rickmansworth community.

The unveiling was organised by the Rickmansworth Society, of which Barbara was secretary for many years, and which her parents had founded in the 1950s. Members spoke warmly of her many talents and reminisced about other aspects of her life, including her teaching career at St Joan of Arc School and, of course, her unforgettable catering skills at museum events.

Many of you will remember Barbara with great affection, and it is wonderful to see that her involvement in so many aspects of Rickmansworth life has now been commemorated in this way. In addition to the plaque, there is also a commemorative bench in the Community Garden behind the Rose Garden. Do go and have a look if you are in the area.

A video of the day, created by our vice-chairman, Les Mead, can be viewed [here](#), and more about Barbara's life can be read [here](#).



Barbara Owen's Plaque in Rickmansworth's Rose Garden

## Artefact of the Month

Our Artefact of the Month for July is an AA (Automobile Association) cast-iron reflective pole-head marker, believed to date from the late 1920s or the 1930s.

Manufactured by Franco Signs from 1927, the marker features the distinctive winged AA emblem and is fitted with red glass reflectors.

As arterial roads came into wider use during the 1920s, the AA installed reflective marker posts to indicate the edges of the road and improve visibility for drivers at night. Red reflectors were used on the nearside of the road and clear reflectors on the offside. Mounted on roadside posts, they would reflect the headlights of approaching vehicles, making the edges of the road easier for motorists to identify.

The inscription on the sign reads: "Franco Signs W1 Pat. 270571", followed underneath by "The Property of the Automobile Association".

This marker provides a glimpse into the early development of road-safety measures. Surviving markers of this type are relatively rare and highly sought after by collectors of motoring memorabilia, so we are very fortunate to have one in our collection.



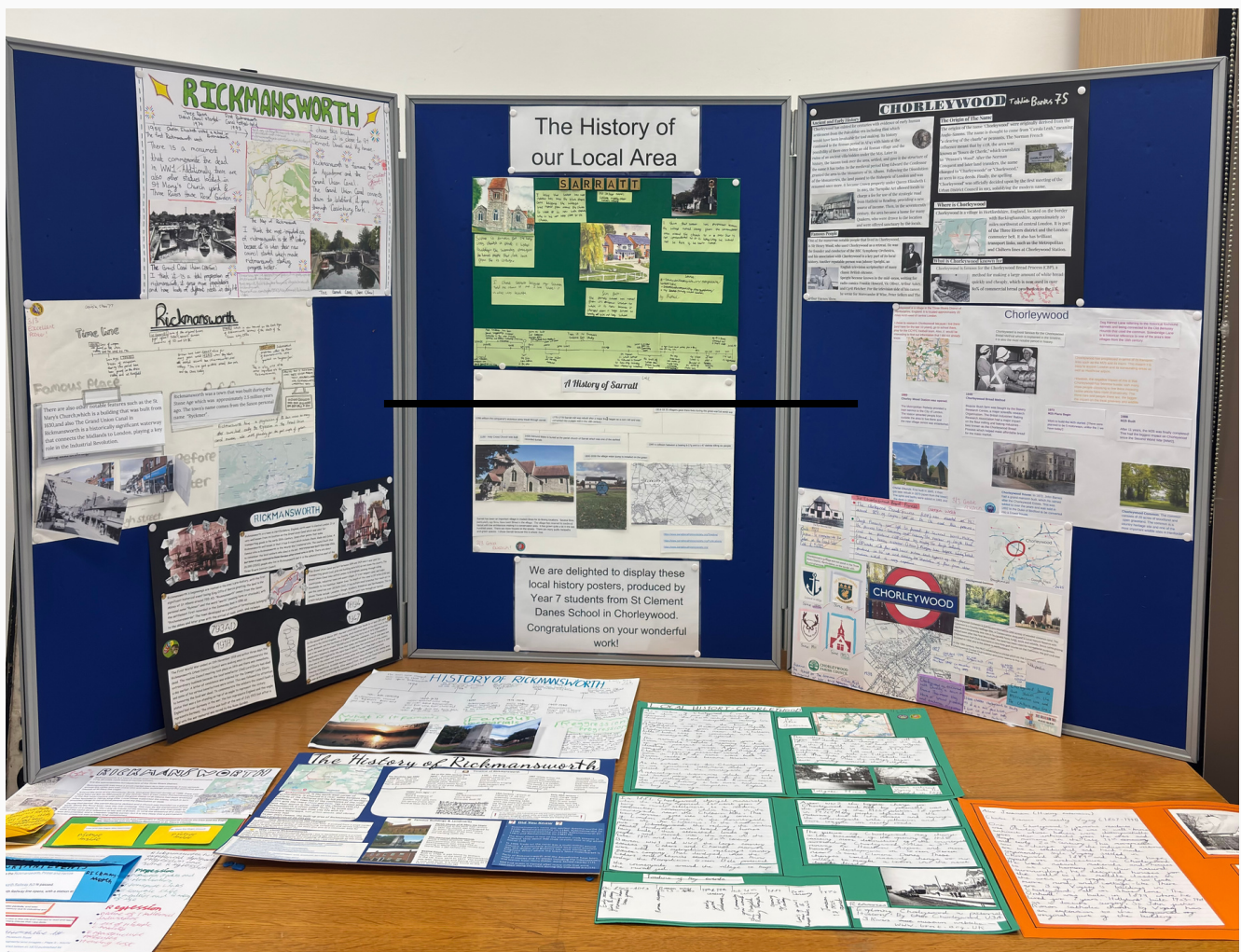
Franco Signs AA Reflective Road Marker

# St Clement Danes School Display

We currently have a selection of posters on display in the museum, created by Year 7 students from St Clement Danes School exploring the history of the local area, particularly Rickmansworth, Chorleywood and Sarratt.

It is clear that a great deal of time, thought and attention to detail went into making them. While history lessons often focus on national and global events, it is wonderful to see young people also learning about the history of their local area and presenting what they have discovered in such a creative way.

Come along to the museum and take a look at the posters - you may discover something about your area that you didn't know before!



Local History Display by St Clement Danes Students

You can become a member of the museum through our website:  
<https://trmt.org.uk/about-us/membership/>

# The Second Half of June and the First Half of July Everything Comes Together in Abbots Langley

*A contribution written by Joy Mann:*

*(Abbots Langley Local History Society Committee Member & Abbots Langley representative for Three Rivers Museum)*

So much of everything, something for everyone and excellent weather throughout, this was Abbots Langley Carnival 2026 with the following Festival, June and July.

## The Carnival

Interested in being amazed and the fun of the fair? The Festival's opening day started with a massive parade through the village and a crowded fairground in the Park. A delicious variety of food and fun, representation from activities, clubs, charities and societies, all involved in village life, all represented. Candyfloss galore, there was something for everyone, everyone was grinning. It brought the village together with laughter and meeting old friends.

## The Arts Festival

The warm sunny Carnival got it going. Over the next month the village was abuzz with one event after another all staged by village organisations. You could join in the Quiet Lego or help hedgehogs. You could hum along with the Pirates of Penzance or take part in a Chit and Chatter. There were garden visits and Hertfordshire in World War I, a guided tour of St Lawrence's Church with a wedding dress exhibition, craft fair and a church fete. The 1839 Tithe Map was resurrected and Shakespeare was represented by an intriguing rendition of Macbeth in the round in a highly imaginative and evocative setting. There was Country and Western, classical music and an accordion orchestra with saxophone. Venues throughout the Parish were called upon and The Archive Day gave you the opportunity to thumb through newspapers of yester-year and the art exhibition portrayed talent of today.

This was a month-long spectacle bringing the village together and immensely successful. It was a reminder that each of these organisations is active throughout the year for the community to take part and that there is something out there for everyone in the village.

## Sip at 9

Whilst we don't have a café of our own, visitors can enjoy a 10% discount at Sip at 9 on Church Street, just off Rickmansworth High Street – the perfect place to relax after exploring some local history. Discount vouchers are available from the museum reception desk.

## Empty Jars Wanted

A note from Susan North:  
(Trustee)

We have a small group of volunteers who make homemade jams and chutneys for sale at museum events to help raise funds for the museum.

We would be grateful for donations of clean jam jars with lids, as well as clean Coleman's condiment jars and lids, such as apple sauce, tartare sauce and horseradish sauce jars.

Donations can be dropped off at the museum, where I will collect them.

## Research - Can You Help?

We are trying to learn more about Laurence Bell (1896-1916), an artist who served in the Royal Engineers and lived in Bushey for a short time.

If you have any information or photographs relating to Laurence Bell, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please send any information to [enquiries@trmt.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@trmt.org.uk), for the attention of TRMT Curator Claire Roffe.

## Dates for the Diary

### Abbots Langley Local History Society

- Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug: Parish History Walk (Derek Seyall Memorial Walk). Location: Meet in the Millennium Garden (next to the Methodist Church), High Street, Abbots Langley, WD5 0AD. Adjourn afterwards to the Royal Oak, Kitters Green, WD5 0ET. 2pm - 4pm.

### Chiltern Open Air Museum

- Sat 1<sup>st</sup> & Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug: Rogues and Highwaymen - Travel back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century!
- Sat 8<sup>th</sup> & Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Aug: Britain at War - British wartime through the ages.
- Sat 15<sup>th</sup> & Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Aug: Tudor Merriment - Dancing, music, firepower and Tudor life.
- Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> & Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug: Victorian Weekend - Meet the Ragged Victorians, see military drills, attend Victorian school and play Victorian games.
- Sat 30<sup>th</sup> & Sun 31<sup>st</sup> Aug: Viking Raid - Watch Vikings and Saxons come to blows.
- Tues 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Aug: Terrific Tuesdays - Themed family activities for the summer holidays.

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

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