

TRMT NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026 - ISSUE 6

Croxley Revels

Three Rivers Museum was pleased to take part in this year's Croxley Revels. First held in 1920, over a hundred years later the Revels remains one of the area's most anticipated community events and a beloved tradition.

Throughout the afternoon, our volunteers enjoyed meeting visitors and sharing information about the museum, its activities and the work that we do. Thank you to everyone who visited our stall and helped support the day.



Our stall at Croxley Revels

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Registered charity: no 1164893.

Registered office: 20 High Street,
Rickmansworth WD3 1ER



46 High Street, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, WD3 1HP.
Open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 2pm to 4pm and Saturday 10am to 2pm.

Volunteer Fair Success

On Saturday 6th June, Three Rivers Museum was delighted to take part in the Volunteer Fair held at the Harlequin Shopping Centre in Watford. The event gave us a wonderful opportunity to introduce the museum and its activities to members of the local community.

Throughout the day, we spoke with many visitors and were encouraged by the level of interest shown in the museum and our work. We were surprised to discover that several local residents were unaware that Three Rivers Museum even exists, highlighting the importance of events such as the Volunteer Fair in raising awareness of our collections and our aim to preserve and share the history of the Three Rivers area.



We were also pleased to recruit several new volunteers and to make connections with local charities and community organisations. We look forward to building on these relationships in the future and working together to strengthen community engagement.

Thank you to everyone who visited our stand, and especially to our volunteers who helped make the day such a success.



Marketing Lead Wilfred Wong and Trustee Susan North representing TRMT at the Volunteer Fair in Watford.

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

Artefact of the Month

Our Artefact of the Month for June is a rare £15 banknote issued by Rickmansworth Bank, dated 12th March 1820.

Before the establishment of a centralised banking system, private banks often issued their own banknotes to facilitate local trade and commerce. In some ways, these were similar to the trade tokens issued by businesses, examples of which can also be seen on display in the museum.

The banknote was issued for Simeon, Edward and Thomas Howard & Co., members of a prominent local family involved in farming and milling in Rickmansworth and West Hyde. It states that payment could be obtained not only in Rickmansworth, but also through the London banking house of Messrs Williams, Son, Drury, Moffat and Burgess (which would later become part of the NatWest Group after a succession of mergers and acquisitions).

Robert Williams Sr., the senior partner of the banking house, had resided at Moor Park. In his will, he instructed that surplus funds be invested in land, and his trustees subsequently purchased a number of properties in the Rickmansworth area.

One of the partners in Rickmansworth Bank was prominent local businessman William Plaistow. The bank later collapsed during the banking crisis of 1825-26, making surviving notes such as this one particularly rare. Fortunately, this example survived. In the 10th July 1926 issue of the *Watford Observer*, it was reported that the note was presented to the Public Library Committee at their Friday meeting by its chairman, Mr F. J. B. Hemming, and accepted into the collection, with the intention that it should be framed for exhibition.



Over 200 years after it was issued, this remarkable surviving banknote provides a fascinating glimpse into how banking, farming and commercial life in Rickmansworth were intertwined in the early nineteenth century.

Rickmansworth Banknote from 12th March 1820.

The banknote bears the Latin motto *Vis Unita Fortior* (United Strength is Stronger).

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Oxhey Chapel Visit

The museum hosts regular trips for members to different heritage and cultural sites, and last month our members embarked on a day trip to Oxhey Chapel, led by our member and local historian Neil Hamilton.

Built between 1608 and 1612 on an early monastic site, Oxhey Chapel is the oldest surviving building in South Oxhey. It was constructed by Sir James Altham, Baron of the Exchequer to both Elizabeth I and James I, as the private chapel to the mansion Oxhey Place.

Although the mansion itself was destroyed by a fire in the 1960s, the chapel survived and still stands today. During the Civil War it was reputedly used by Cromwell's troops as a store and barracks, and over the centuries it has undergone several restorations. Today, the Grade II* listed building is cared for by the Churches Conservation Trust. Described as a seventeenth-century time capsule, it remains an important part of the South Oxhey story.



Oxhey Chapel

For more information about the history of Oxhey Chapel and South Oxhey, why not pop into the museum? Our collections contain many photographs and other material relating to the area.

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

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, for the attention of TRMT Curator Claire Roffe.

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.

Dates for the Diary

Three Rivers Museum Trust

- Saturday 11th July: TRMT will be at ALLHS Archives Day and Exhibition. Location: Methodist Church Hall, Langley Road, Abbots Langley, WD5 0EJ. 10am – 3:30pm.
- Thursday 23rd July: Talk: 'A Victorian Farmer: The Diaries of John White of Rickmansworth'. Location: Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies, Register Office Block, County Hall, Hertford, SG13 8EJ.

Abbots Langley Local Historical Society

- Saturday 11th July: Archives Day and Exhibition. Location: Details as above.

Chiltern Open Air Museum

- Sunday 5th July: BMT Festival – Buckinghamshire Music Trust groups in concert.
- Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th July: Classic Vehicle Show – Classic cars, vehicles and live music.
- Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th July: Heritage Crafts Weekend.

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.