

TRMT Newsletter

May 2026 – Issue 5



Council Chair

We are delighted to learn that Cllr Keith Martin, who for several years served as our official liaison with TRDC, has been elected as Council Chair for a second term. He has been a great supporter of the museum over the years, and we are very grateful for his continued support. We very much hope to see more of him during his term as Chair.

In the meantime, his liaison role with the museum has been taken over by Cllr Steve Drury, whose experience and understanding we greatly value and warmly welcome.

The Chairman's Charity for 2026/2027 has also been announced. The [UK Sepsis Trust](#) supports those affected by sepsis and raises awareness of the life-threatening condition. We are very happy to support the Chairman and the work of the charity throughout the year.

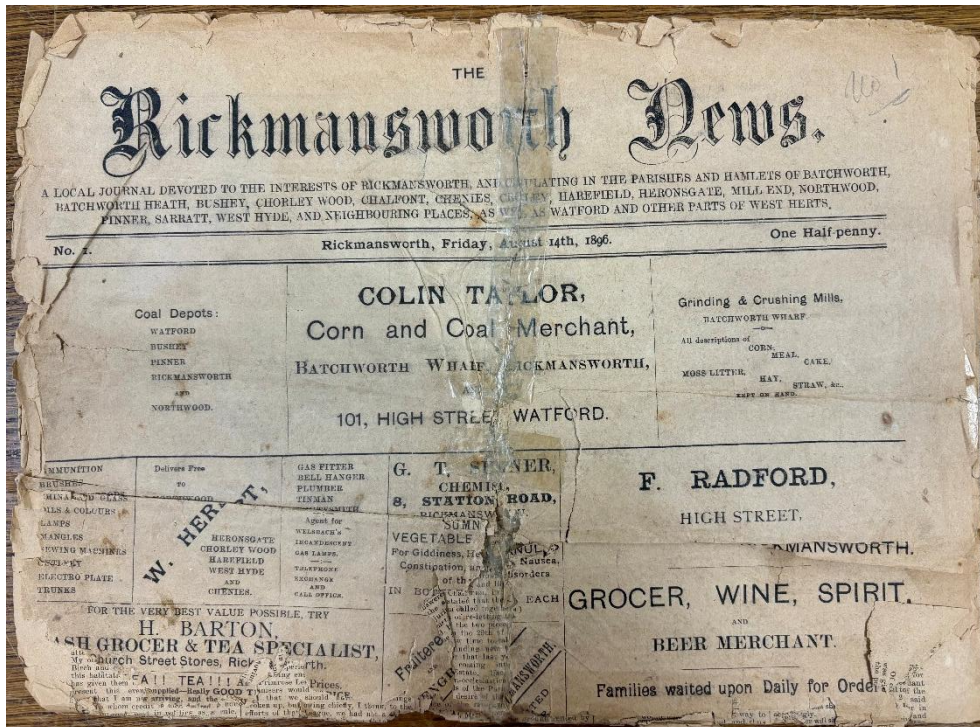
Museum + Heritage Show

Earlier this month, TRMT Chairman Fabian Hiscock and Trustee Susan North attended the Museum + Heritage Show 2026 – the UK's largest gathering of professionals working across museums, galleries and heritage visitor attractions.

As part of the event, Susan took part in an Arts Council England panel discussing the redesign of the Museum Accreditation Scheme. The new version of the scheme aims to modernise the accreditation process and better reflect the different ways museums operate today. Three Rivers Museum was 1 of 10 museums involved in testing the first phase of the redesigned process.

The event also provided an opportunity to explore the latest developments across the museum and heritage sector, including exhibitions, museum technology and visitor engagement ideas. It was a valuable and interesting day, with many opportunities to share experiences and ideas with museums from across the country.

Artefact of the Month



Our Artefact of the Month for May is the inaugural issue of *The Rickmansworth News*, published on Friday 14th August 1896 and sold for one half-penny. Although the newspaper was only in circulation for 11 months, it offers a fascinating glimpse into everyday life, local businesses and advertising in late Victorian Rickmansworth.

One particular advert featured in the newspaper is for Cadbury Cocoa. While many people today associate the drink with being a comforting treat, it was advertised in 1896 as a healthy, nourishing beverage.



The top and bottom section of the folded front page of *The Rickmansworth News*, 14th Aug 1896.

Cadbury Cocoa advert featured in *The Rickmansworth News*, 14th Aug 1896.

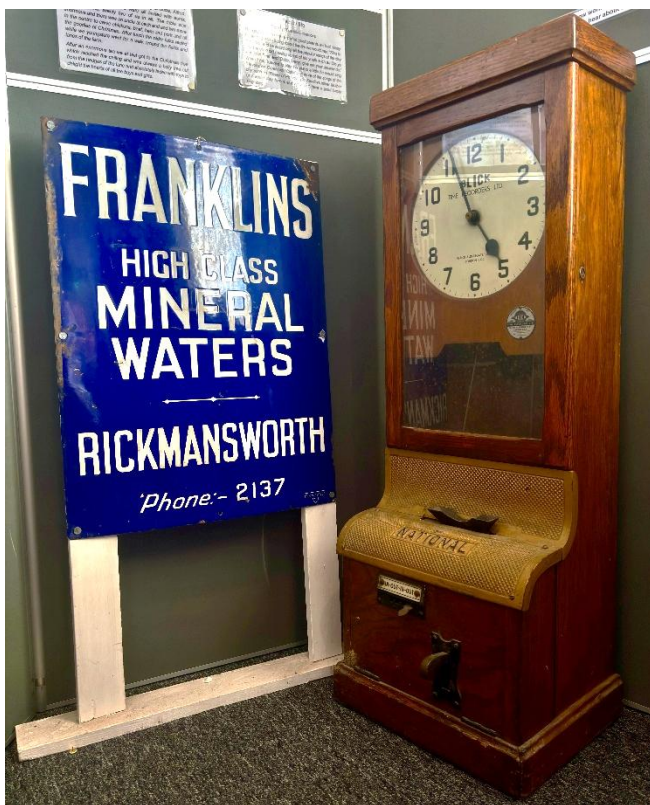


Franklins – Our New Exhibition

Our latest exhibition at the museum explores the history of the Franklins – a Rickmansworth family whose soft drinks business began producing mineral waters on Rickmansworth High Street in 1886.

Brothers Frederick, George and Albert Franklin began making and selling soft drinks from a small confectionery shop at 171 High Street under the name Franklin & Brothers. Whilst remaining a family

business, the company became known as Franklin & Sons in 1898 and went on to become well known for its ginger beer, mineral waters and a wide range of soft drinks. Over time, the company grew from a local family business into an internationally recognised brand.



One of our members even spotted Franklin & Sons bottles on a drinks trolley in a hotel in Cambodia!

The exhibition features original bottles, soda syphons, photographs, records, advertisements and a recently donated Blick Time Recorder. Believed to date from the 1930s, the clocking-on machine was used by employees at Franklins factory, formerly located where Marks & Spencer's on the High Street now stands, to log their working hours.

Visitors can explore memories of family life, local deliveries and the company's connection to the Rickmansworth community, while also discovering how the Temperance Movement influenced the company's early development and how the brand continues today.

Although the original company ceased trading in the 1980s, the Franklin & Sons brand was relaunched in 2015 as part of Global Brands. Today, Franklin & Sons continues to embrace its heritage through its traditionally inspired branding and nostalgic aesthetic.

Come and discover the history and legacy of one of Rickmansworth's famous exports!

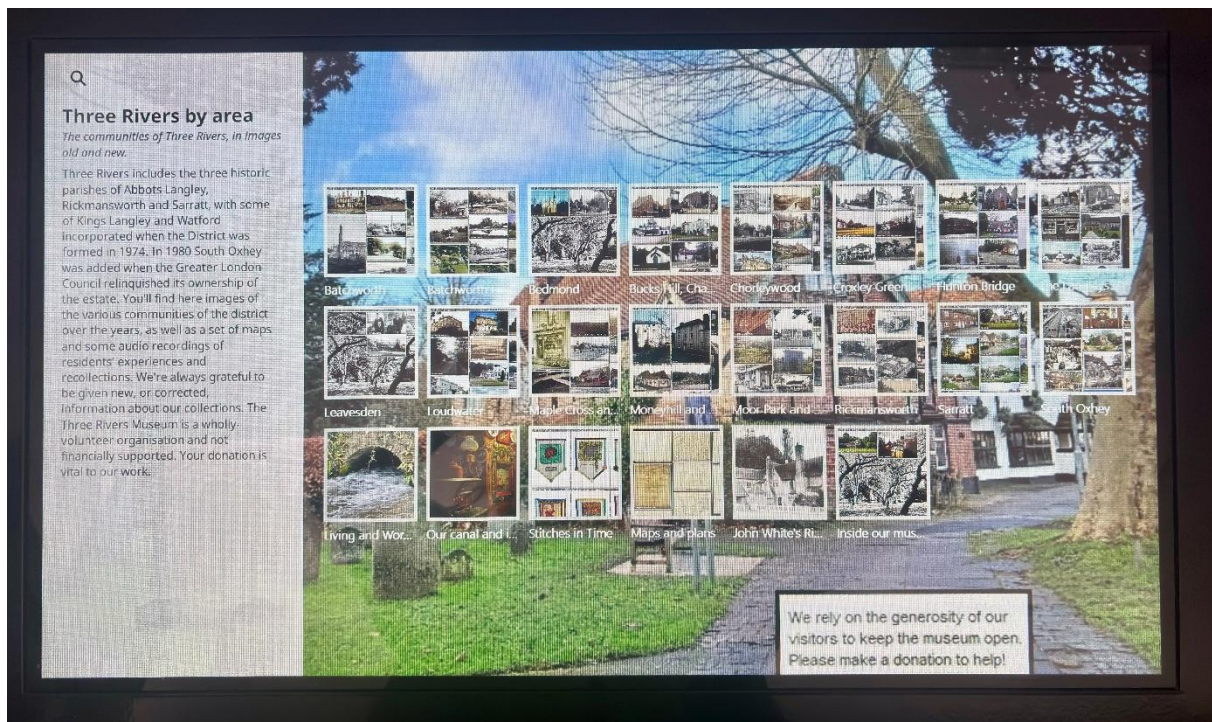
Open Day

Our Open Day last month was a wonderful opportunity to welcome visitors into the museum and share more about the work that we do behind the scenes.

One particularly popular feature of the day was our digital touchscreen display, which allows visitors to explore a large collection of historical photographs from across the Three Rivers area. Many visitors enjoyed browsing through the images, recognising familiar places and sharing memories of how the area has changed over the years.

We were also delighted to welcome new members to the museum and look forward to holding another Open Day in the future.

Thank you once again to all of our volunteers whose hard work and support helped make the day such a success.



The museum's digital touchscreen display.

Croxley Revels

Come and say hello to us at our stall at Croxley Revels on Saturday 20th June, 12:30pm – 5pm, located on The Green. We will have local historical maps to explore, books for sale and Sophie White's Bazaar jams and chutneys available to purchase – we hope to see you there!

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.

Volunteering Opportunities

Please find 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](#)

[Admin Team Member](#)

[Oral History Programme Coordinator](#)

[Education Team Member](#)

[Local History Researcher and Author](#)

Dates for the Diary

Three Rivers Museum Trust

- 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.
- 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.

Rickmansworth Historical Society

- Thursday 11th June: *Talk*: 'John Newton – Slave Trader and Priest – and 250 Years of Amazing Grace'. Location: St Mary's Church Centre, Church Street, Rickmansworth, WD3 1JB.

Abbots Langley Local Historical Society

- Saturday 13th June: Abbots Langley Carnival – Visit ALLHS Stall. Location: Manor House Recreation Grounds, Gallows Hill Lane, Abbots Langley WD5 0DD.
- Saturday 11th July: Archives Day and Exhibition. Location: Methodist Church Hall, Langley Road, Abbots Langley, WD5 0EJ. 10am – 3:30pm.

Chiltern Open Air Museum

- Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th June: English Civil War – Watch re-enactment displays.
- Sunday 21st June: Father's Day – Hemley Hillbillies playing live music & Jaguar car show.

Watersmeet

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

If you are interested in attending these talks and events, 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.

Registered charity no 1164893.

Registered office: 20 High Street, Rickmansworth WD3 1ER

