



# RAP Communication Newsletter

## Introduction:

This is the second communication newsletter about the current status of the Riley Archive Project (RAP). The first was published in November 2014. A series of newsletters will follow in the future that will update members of Riley based car clubs in the UK and around the world on the progress of the project.

## Riley Cars Heritage Trust (RCHT):

In 2013 the Association of Riley Clubs (ARC) transferred the assets of the original Haviland and Morris Museum Trust that was established in 1973 into the newly formed Riley Cars Heritage Trust (RCHT) with the idea to promote the Riley name and heritage.

The RCHT focussed its efforts on a specific project to recreate Percy Riley's original 1898 car. This has been very successful and it is now a static display with on-going work to build and install a running engine and transmission.

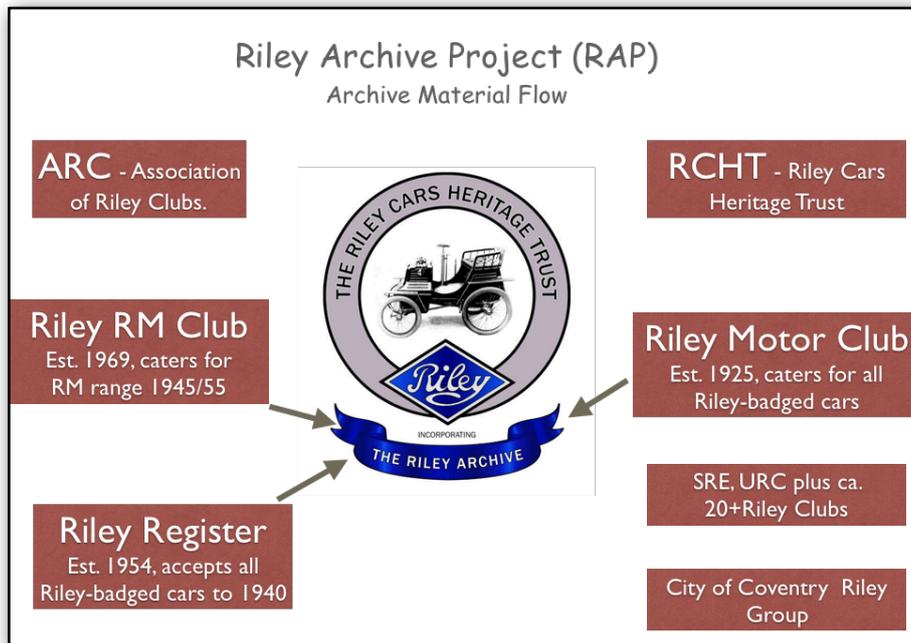


## The Riley Archive Project (RAP):

The RAP was set up in 2014 with a Steering Group of enthusiasts from across the Riley world to preserve artefacts and ephemera of all Riley cars from Tri-Cars to Elves.

The patron is Victor Riley who has been a driving force behind the project. A web site has been created and is still under development - <http://www.rileyarchives.com>

The relationship between the RCHT and RAP can best be illustrated by the chart shown below. The arrows signify the archive material flow from the three main Riley clubs in the UK but of course, involvement and archive material from any other club would be most welcome.



## **Vision of the Project:**

The project vision statement has been agreed by the original Steering Group of the RAP as follows:

*A permanent establishment for the preservation and projection of the Riley heritage in Coventry from weaving to motor cars and for all successor Riley products in the wider world, and to be a centre for education and research for all who have an interest in the place of Riley within the history of UK manufacturing.*

## **Where we are so far:**

There was an initial project launch lunch held in March 2018 in the Lord Mayor's Hospitality Suite in Coventry.

In 2018 the project was presented at Riley Coventry Rally, the NEC (on the Riley Motor Club stand), VSCC Prescott (on Riley Register stand) and at the Riley Register AGM in September.

Several items of print have been designed to highlight the project's progress together with two "pop-up" RAP displays, which were displayed at NEC in March 2019 for the first time along with the 1903 Riley bike.

On 28th June 2019 a second inaugural lunch was held at the medieval Guildhall in Coventry to highlight the progress so far and provide some much needed funds for the project.

A draft Business Plan has been developed and this will provide a model for moving forward with the project.

On 19th June 2019 the Riley Archive Project formally took over the keys to Unit 8, Coventry Canal Basin, CV1 4BY on a 5-year lease basis with RCHT as the leaseholders; thus providing a permanent base to move the project forward. The unit is now in the process of being painted and equipped with tables and chairs, etc.

## **Our immediate next steps:**

With the lease secured until 2024 the decision was made to formally constitute a Management Group formed of members from all three clubs - Riley Motor Club, Riley Register and Riley RM Club; thus ensuring there is good representation from all Riley enthusiasts irrespective of the club/s they belong to. This is an "across the board" project, not run by any specific club.

The inaugural meeting of the Riley Archive Management Group (RAPMG) was held on 16th July 2019 with representation from RAPMG members, RCHT Trustees, Riley Register Coventry & Warks members and City of Coventry Culture.

The meeting focussed on achieving an improved level of understanding amongst the attendees, allocated people to key roles and agreed some action points. The next meeting of the RAPMG is being held on 15th August where we will be focussing on identifying key action points for the short to medium term as well as determining the type and extent of the archival storage and database requirements.

In addition to the "in-house" work, a visit is being planned to the Bristol Cars Heritage Trust archives to see how this organisation went about their own archival and storage arrangements.

## **City of Coventry 2021:**

Coventry is the City of Culture for 2021 and there is a lot of activity and excitement within Coventry City Council regarding this prestigious year of events.