

# **Torpoint Archives & Heritage Centre,**

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**President Tremayne Carew Pole**

**Torpoint Organisation of the Year 2013-2014**

**Registered Charity No. 1043650**

**Founder members Pat & Freda Manning**

## **TAHC REPORT May 2025**

Dear Members and Volunteers,

Sadly Torpoint has lost two people who have contributed a lot to the Town and TAHC. Philip Roy Ackland was born in the house alongside the Gas works in 1936 because his father was the Manager there. On June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1944, Roy aged 8 and one of his sisters were excited to sit on the wall ( shown middle left) The American GIs, wearing soft bottomed boots were marching past and joining small boats moored nearby.



The Commander of the American Forces demanded that Mr Ackland take his two children indoors. These troop movements were top secret in preparation for D Day.



Roy enjoyed photography and in the 1960s he and his family were very involved in fund raising for the construction of the Rowing Club . Roy photographed well known Torpointers and their portraits featured in Torpoint Topics 1965-1974. This monthly publication sold well raising funds for the Rowing Club.

When he retired in 2006, Roy visited each commercial premise in Fore Street and persuaded the proprietors to pose for him. This was replicating the work of another photographer 70 years before.



King's Butchers, No 46 Fore Street photographed in 1930s and below Roy's shot of the Harvey Family Butchers in 2006.



Roger, Wendy & Barbara Harvey

John (known as Lou) Dearden was a talented sportsman and played soccer for Torpoint Athletic and the Cornwall County team.



A youthful Lou proudly holds the South Western League Cup won by the Torpoint Athletic Team he had captained.  
Lou was an encyclopaedia of local football statistics.

Roy and Lou generously shared all their work with TAHC. Their contributions will enhance our records and be a lasting tribute to both men. TAHC has sent condolences to both of their families.

The 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day was celebrated on May 8<sup>th</sup>. TAHC were represented at the Flag raising in Sparrow Park at 9am. Our cabinets have displays commemorating WW2 and as always the Memorial Book is on show. In May 1945 many were still fighting in the Far East and the families of the 100



Torpointers who had lost their lives were in mourning.

The Archives opened from 6pm until 8.45 pm and nearly 50 visitors were greeted, including a Scout pack. Visitors enjoyed listening to the music of Glen Miller and Vera Lynn played on Tom's 1940s equipment. Tom also gave half hour repeat showings of a Gaumont Newsreel taken in Trafalgar Square on May 8<sup>th</sup> 1945.



Bunty jiggled to the music and remembered actually being in Trafalgar Square on May 8<sup>th</sup> 1945. Bunty was 15 then and lived in Sussex.



A young visitor and his mother were intrigued by the old gramophone, projector and the display.



At 9.15 pm the volunteers moved down to Rendel Park where Torpoint Sea Cadet band were playing. The celebrations concluded with the lighting of the beacon.

Visitor numbers nearly doubled this month and included 2 groups from the schools who were conducting a survey in the Library. Paula and Julie have interviewed 2 more septuagenarians adding to the memory bank about growing up in Torpoint in the 1940s and 1950s.

The digitisation programme, book and artefact cataloguing, scanning and cataloguing digital and hard copies of photographs is ongoing.

A Torpoint resident has recently donated 86 items including some books and diaries dating back to the Wavish family living in The Elms in the late 1800s ( latterly known as St James Guest House)

On Thursday June 5<sup>th</sup> we are experimenting holding the Volunteers' Monthly Get Together an hour later at 12noon, but in the Library as usual.

The AGM will be held at 6pm in the Library on Thursday July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025

Mike Pearn, Chairman

Torpoint Town Council  
Copy to The Hub Manager (for info).