

# 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 November 2025

Dear Members and Volunteers,

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, two Torpoint groups gave us generous donations.

At the Torpoint and District Conservative Club, Frank Holden of the 17.30 Club gave a cash donation to Rose Southworth, TAHC Treasurer.

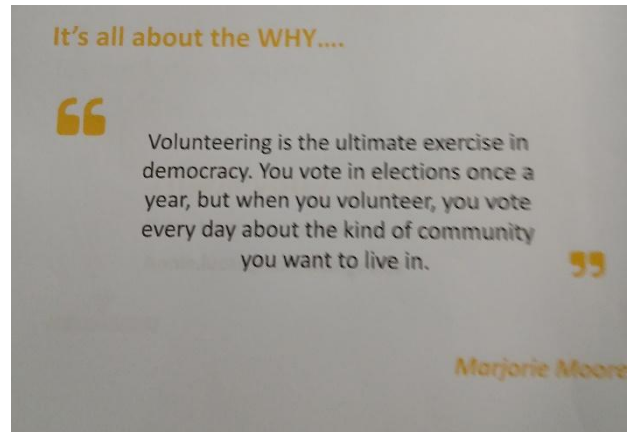
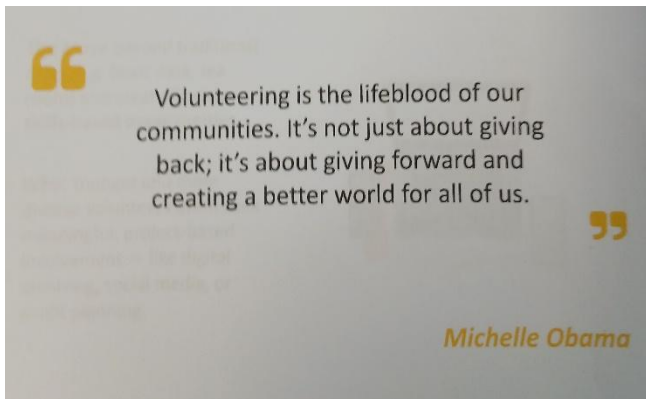


Later that same evening, at the Torpoint and District Comrades and United Services Club, TAHC Vice Chairman, Bill Visick received a cheque from Bob Brotherston and Nick Carter, Chairman and Secretary of the Torpoint and Rame Branch of the Royal Naval Association. Both donations will be put towards new portable display boards. Our current boards are 30 years old and literally falling to pieces! These boards are used when volunteers visit schools or attend any outside events, such as the forthcoming Family History Day event in Liskeard on September 5<sup>th</sup> 2026.



Did you know that the Torpoint Archives are members of the Cornwall Archives Network (CAN) and the South East Cornwall Museum Forum (SECMF)? TAHC monthly reports are sent to both organisations, and in turn we benefit from hearing about organisations, similar to ourselves. Ann, Fiona and Tom recently represented TAHC at a SECMF meeting held in Elliott's Shop, Saltash on Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. There they met Annie Lucas, the newly appointed Museums Development Officer, South West.

Annie shared a document with all the groups present. It gave simple ideas to recruit, encourage and support volunteers. The document included quotes from two famous American ladies



We have all heard of Michelle Obama. Marjorie Moore is an American artist. A hard copy of this document may be read at the Archives. It will be inserted in our Volunteer Policy File. More Americans below!



We have had copies of the above photographs since we spotted them in the Supplement of the Sunday Express in 1994. Joe Plant also used copies of them in Torpoint's War Diary 1939 – 1946. Our captions say June 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> 1944. This date is probably wrong!

Phil Hadley gave Torpoint and District Old Cornwall Society a talk entitled the "Americans in Cornwall in WW2". His website and monthly Blogs are well worth reading. For over 50 years, Phil has been collecting photographs, films, plans, maps and first-hand accounts from people on both sides of the Atlantic. He did contact the Archives before he gave his talk. We felt quite smug showing him what we held. Pride comes before a fall! Phil was very polite to us. These photographs are well known and were also in his collection BUT they are almost certainly of troops preparing for an exercise. His explanation was that many were carrying bedrolls. These were not carried by troops heading to France. The GI's, heading to France would have had many rounds of ammunition strapped to their bodies. This was supposed to be enough to use in combat for the first 48 hours. Maybe these troops were off to Slapton Sands?

On November 19<sup>th</sup> Torpoint Town Councillor and Mayor, Julie Martin, hosted a meeting with Cornwall Councillor, Sarah Preece, Cabinet Member for Tourism, Localism and Planning.



Torpoint was only one of 3 towns in Cornwall to be visited by C C Preece as part of a Nationwide



project," Pride of Place" Only 339 towns in the whole of England were chosen, and over half of these may benefit from the scheme. Torpoint Library and Community Hub featured in the schedule of the day. Several minutes of her visit were spent in the Archives. She was very impressed to hear about Tyhee, the search engine programme built by Ken. George assists Ken and manages the TAHC website.



If you enjoy browsing on line, the Kresen Kernow site is worth a visit. The catalogue of holdings can be read. There are 1,987 entries for Antony (including some of the contents of Antony House, Muniment Room)

Torpoint, has 1,450 entries, including Margery's research on Wacker and Carbeile Mill. If you wish to examine anything listed in the catalogue however, you need to contact or visit Kresen Kernow at Redruth.

TAHC volunteers visited and photographed or copied many of these local records at the Cornwall Records Office, prior to its renaming and the move to Redruth.

Among the records copied in 2016 were St James Church and Torpoint Urban Council Minutes, relating to the erection at St James of the clock (1895) and the World War 1 bronze plaque (1921)

On Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup> we had a visitor from China. She wrote her message in the visitors' book in Chinese! Her husband was English....so we do have the translation of her compliments.

The Archives will close on Friday Dec 19<sup>th</sup> and reopen on Monday January 5<sup>th</sup> 2026.

The Archives team of volunteers and I would like to wish you  
A Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Mike Pearn, Chairman

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