

Torpoint Archives & Heritage Centre,

The Hub, Fore Street, Torpoint, Cornwall. PL11 2AG.

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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 January 2026

Dear Members and Volunteers,

The atrocious weather throughout January reduced the number of visitors to the centre, but it gave the volunteers time to undergo more tasks.

Angela, June and Tom spent many hours in our storeroom, Room 5 in the Council Chambers. More shelves were assembled to accommodate 81 boxes of artefacts, the map drawers, numerous files, the pole holding assorted costumes and several free standing artefacts are all catalogued and tidily stored.



Any item required in our Community Hub location can be identified on the database and easily retrieved and there is still some capacity for additional donations.

On January 11th an e mail request was received from Holland.

We were touched to hear that Otto van Heesewijk and Marina Nouwen had adopted the war grave of Private Lawrence Noel Clark .

Private Clark, Service no 14497899 had served with the 2nd Battalion, Gordon Highlanders. He was only 18 years old when he died on November 1st 1944. His grave is in Mierlo War Cemetery, North Brabant, Netherlands.

Marina and Otto thought that his birth had been registered at St Germans and hoped that the Archives could put them in touch with any of his surviving family members.

Fruitless searches on TAHC database and by outreach volunteers drew a blank.

No one with that full name could be found locally.

Next the request was put to our 5,400 Facebook members. In a short space of time, 2 FB members found his birth registered in Essex and his Commonwealth War Graves Certificate showing that his parents were living in Essex when he died.

The last piece of the mystery was solved, when another FB member realised that there was a church called St Germanus in Essex. Otto and Marina must have found that Noel Lawrence Clark had been baptised there. St Germans /St Germanus, an easy error to make when you are researching from another country! Although he wasn't a local boy, it is heart-warming to know that someone has chosen to care for his grave.



From the Archives Book about Fore Street, we know that in the 1851 census there were 26 people living in No 61. You may have noticed a gradual transformation of that address over the last few months. On Friday Jan 30th there was a gathering of more than that number just on the ground floor. Ann and Rosemary were pleased to attend the official opening of Torpoint Artists Collective Centre. The photo (taken by Katie – Marie Martin) is of her mother, Torpoint Mayor, Town Councillor, Julie Martin. Julie is receiving a copy of Torpoint Arts and Culture Strategy 2025 – 2030 booklet from Sarah Brittain Edwards and Matthew Pontin. Their mission is laid out in 4 themes within the booklet.



Members of the team have again been invited to Carbeile School to talk about WW2 in Torpoint. One of the highlights for the children is operating a stirrup pump.

From the school logbook we know that the 2 pumps in our collection were issued to Albion Road School on October 26th 1939. The 15 buckets also issued at the time must have found other uses after the war!

Has anyone got a large galvanised bucket that they no longer need please?

The stirrup pump activity would be more authentic if we could paint 2 buckets red.



Bill, Cornish speaker, poet and author has shared his poem.

OUR ARCHIVES

*As this Archive year is still new
I thought I give our last one a review
People in our office diligently and
quietly doing their stuff
Never ever saying, God! I've had
enough*

*Others greeting people at the door
Always hoping, that there would be
more*

*Customers look at the cabinets and
walls and say*

*My, what a truly wonderful display
We all work in complete accord
Also, being nominated for the King's
Award*

*Repairing the things that we could fix
So please keep it going in 2026.*

Bill (WELLA) Visick ©

On a very light note.....if you need cheering up, a visit to Beryl Cook's Exhibition showing in St Luke's Church, part of The Box, is a real Winter tonic!



Mount Edgcumbe (Courtesy of The Box and Beryl Cook's family)

Mike Pearn MBE
Chairman

Get Together

11am Thursday Feb 12th in CHAT Meeting Room, Macey Street

Committee Meeting

4pm Thursday Feb 26th Gravesend Cottage