

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 February 2026

Dear Members and Volunteers,

Sadly there are two deaths to report, Ann Moore and Lt (SCC) Jacquelyn de Bruyne RNR (Jacky)



Ann and Terry Moore were Mayor and Mayoress of Torpoint 2012-2013.

They were very supportive of TAHC.

Ann donated a book to the Archives that had been passed on to her, by a friend of her mother.

(Photograph by Paul Roper)

The book Ann donated was "The Plan for Plymouth" which had been printed by Underhills of Plymouth in 1943. It detailed the vision to rebuild Plymouth after the devastation caused by the Blitz in 1941.

The authors of the book were J Paton-Watson, Plymouth City Engineer and Surveyor and Consultant Architect and Town Planner, Sir Patrick Abercrombie.

Paper was in short supply during the war, so presumably this was quite a limited print.

The Imperial War Museum has a copy, and thanks to Ann, so does TAHC!

TS Ramehead Sea Cadets is now one of the largest, most successful groups in the West Country thanks to the time put in by the cadets and adult volunteers, particularly Lt (SCC) J de Bruyne RNR.

Over her 40 years service, Jacky filled many roles, including Executive Officer of the Sea Cadet Training Centre at HMS Raleigh in the 2000s. Thousands of cadets and adult volunteers from all over the country, benefited from her expertise. In 2018 she became Commander of TS Ramehead.



In the first photograph Jacky, is leading the cadets in Antony Road. The ensign is being saluted in the second photo in the presence of Terry Moore, Christine and Chris Goodman, Maddie Creek and Ann Moore. Maddie's late husband, Frank Creek was one of the main volunteers who started TS Rame Head in 2016. In 10 years it has grown from the smallest unit in the South West to one of the biggest.



On Feb 23rd, Paul was interviewed for BBC Southwest by Johanna Carr, a Cawsand girl. In recent years there has been renewed interest in trying to find the identity of a decomposed body, which was found in 1982 by a farmer on his Cliffside land at Tregantle. In his role with the Devon and Cornwall Police Force, Paul was the first officer called to the scene. He automatically then became the Coroner's Officer, liaising with that Office. Correct procedure had to be followed and CID attended the scene. One of Paul's colleagues spent a chilly night guarding the scene until the pathologist arrived the next day. Paul and his colleague painstakingly searched the area gathering clues.

(Photo taken by Chris Roper)

A scrap of a Sun Newspaper, a Merchant Seaman's Discharge papers, and a passport were found but were barely decipherable

Feb 12th and the year of issue could be made out. Bearing in mind that this event took place in 1982, before the widespread use of computers, the next stage involved Paul and his CID colleagues visiting the Newport Passport Office. They physically trawled through the lists of ALL the passports issued to males near the possible date. Originally 12,000 possible names and dates of birth extracted. These details were then transcribed onto a Telex machine at Exeter Police HQ. The list was sent to a Government Dept in Newcastle, to ascertain the people on the list who were missing or dead. 1,200 possible identities for the deceased person were then circulated to Police Forces all over the country. After weeks of research it was not possible to reduce this to less than 23 possibilities. The sad story gripped the people of Torpoint and a local publican raised funds for a burial and headstone at Horson Cemetery, The inscription reads "Some Mother's Son"

Paul was the Cornish Times representative for many years and has shared the photographs he took of Torpoint people and events with the Archives. Needless to say, Paul was able to provide a photograph and an account of the opening of the Sports Hall 20 years ago. This hall was possible as a result of lobbying and fundraising by Torpoint Sports Action Group. The facility has been managed by YMCA Plymouth, who have now said they will not be renewing the lease on it. TTC and other groups are hoping the use of the hall will not be permanently lost to the town.



As usual the Archives "A" Team of volunteers have been working hard on the premises and at home. Ken is revamping Tyhee, our search engine. This is a huge task and giving him some headaches but we are so fortunate to have his expertise.

The volunteers are always willing and happy to take part in events at the Library and Community Hub



and at other venues. On Feb 27th, Year 2 from Torpoint Nursery and Infant School enjoyed being Pirates, as did TAHC volunteer, John. He read a story and produced a chest of golden nuggets that looked a little like chocolate coins! Data protection doesn't allow the group of spellbound children's faces to be shown.

This light entertainment gave John a break from intent research, to find the location of a chapel that gave the road alongside St John Lake the name of Chapeldown. The name appears as early as 1810. In that year, Thomas Broad and Thomas Rowe paid dues to Antony Estate for Chapeldown Ropewalk. John has a personal interest in finding the reasons for the name "Chapeldown", as some of his ancestors, with

the surnames of Mudge and Squance, lived in Chapeldown Cottages.

The Local Studies Day will be held in the Sherwell Centre. University of Plymouth , North Hill.
9am – 5pm on Sat May 9th.

The theme is "Spies, Lies and Secret Lives" The talks will be interesting but the Archives will not be officially present this year.

Mike Pearn, Chairman

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

Dates
Thursday March 5th St Piran's Day
Mon March 9th Commonwealth Day
Tues March 10th visit to Carbeile School
Thurs March 12th Get Together at CHAT meeting Room 11 am