

Torpoint Archives & Heritage Centre,

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

Email: admin@torpointarchives.org.uk

Website torpointarchives.org.uk

President Tremayne Carew Pole

Torpoint Organisation of the Year 2013-2014

Registered Charity No. 1043650

Founder members Pat & Freda Manning

TAHC REPORT March 2026

Dear Members and Volunteers,

The month started with better weather and 158 visitors have been greeted.



St Piran's Day, March 5th, was enjoyed by visitors and pupils from Carbeile School and Torpoint Nursery and Infants School.

Angela highlighted the important role that women, Bal Maidens, played in Cornish mining. Bill told the traditional story of St Piran with a smattering of the Cornish language. Both stayed in their costumes all day in the Library and then took their show to Landrake in the evening.

On 6th, Angela and Bill repeated their performance in the Library for another school group.

Fortunately all the children had left the Archives when there seemed to be an "explosion". The five Archives volunteers were not close, but on inspection realised that one door of the display cabinets had shattered. It is tempered glass but a few shards did fall after a few minutes. John safely removed the door.

The cabinets were bought when TAHC moved to the Library and Community Hub seven years ago. The company who supplied them could not give an explanation for the door shattering. They could supply a replacement, but someone would have to travel north to collect it! Paul wisely researched local glass companies and the door has now been replaced and fitted by Beacon Glass and Glazing, a Plymouth company



On March 10th, 3 Archives volunteers attended the Commonwealth Day, Flag raising ceremony in Sparrow Park. The Commonwealth Day theme this year is
“Unlocking opportunities together for a prosperous Commonwealth”
Students from all 3 Schools and Oaklands were present. Julie Martin, Torpoint Mayor read the declaration and children assisted her to raise the flag.

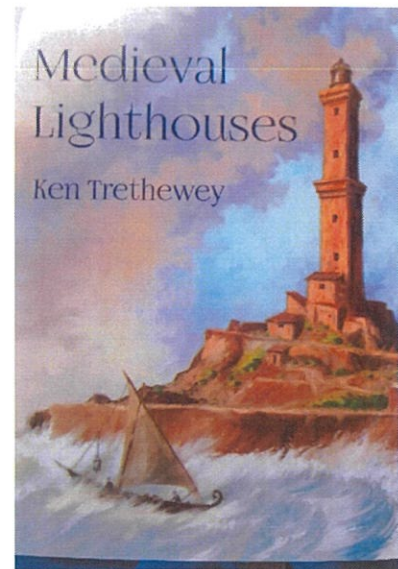


The following day, Angela, Janet, June and Rosemary took a powerpoint presentation and WW2 artefacts to Year 6 at Carbeile School. It was a hectic afternoon as the School hall was not available. The presentation was repeated 3 times to 3 classes in quick succession.

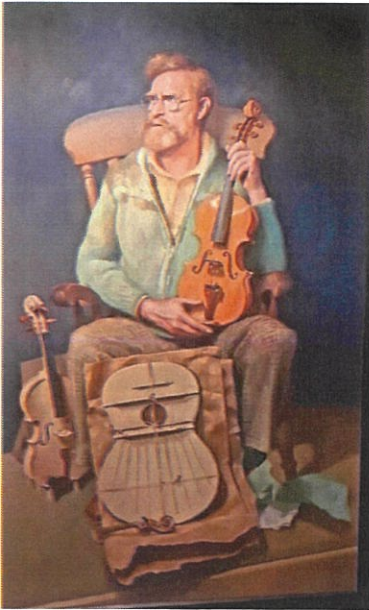


Planning such events also takes many hours. Physically artefacts have to be collected and returned to our storeroom in the Council Chambers. The photo on the left shows Dave and Janet collecting items from Room 5 to take to Carbeile School the next day. They made several trips up and down the stairs to load their car boot. It was easier to wear the helmets than carry them!

Ken has donated his 5th book on Lighthouses to the Archives. He is a well known philologist. This interest was sparked when he was 13 years old and his older brother discovered that their ancestors had been lighthouse keepers. Altogether Ken has published 19 books, latterly with his own publishing company, Jazz Fusion. The CV of Dr Ken Trethewey is very impressive and TAHC is so fortunate that he devotes so many hours and skill to developing Tyhee, our very own search engine. Ken will probably admit that a recent update of the Archives computer system has caused him more headaches than meeting a publisher's deadline! George is able to take some of the pressure from Ken and has updated the website.



The Archives holds over 1,000 photographs of the Torpoint ferries. These were stored in our Archival sleeves and 4 drawers in a random order as each photo had been donated. Maddie has spent the last 3 months getting each image in chronological order and re entered on the database catalogue. This will make studying a tray of ferry photographs much more pleasurable.



Some of you may remember John Dixon Woodfield, Head teacher at Carbeile School 1960 – 1984.

This painting is by Robert Lenkiewicz. In the 1970s, Robert painted a variety of interesting local people. John had appeared in the local press, as he had made the violin he is holding. Robert donated this painting to John but the family did not really like it. It was too large and valuable to display in their home. When the family had to clear their home in Chapeldown Road, they were pleased that Port Eliot agreed to add this portrait to their collection.

John's youngest daughter has recently sent the photograph on the right, of the Woodfield family, taken outside Carbeile School in the 1960s.

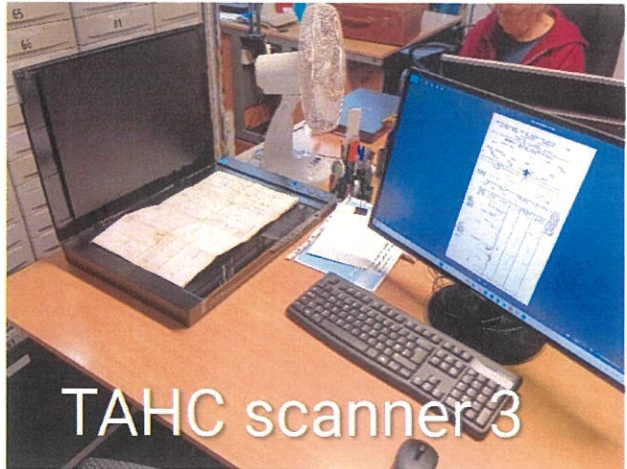


On 18th and 19th March, Angela spent many hours at the Mosquito Club. She had obtained permission to photograph and film the preparations for, and the launching of, the boats into the water, by crane.

This yacht, photographed in mid air, is just one of the interesting shots that may interest the Old Cornwall, Tales of the Tide project.

In November 2025, the Museum Development Officer, Annie Lucas alerted TAHC , through our membership of South East Cornwall Museums Forum, that small grants could be applied for from Cornwall Council. Paul researched the models and costs of an A3 scanner and replacements for the now tatty 30 year old display boards. The bid was successful. The scanner has arrived, the boards are on order. The photo on the right was taken by Paul to send to Annie Lucas. The scanner has been put to work immediately by Chris, Wendy and Paul to begin the mammoth task of scanning the contents of 7 assorted ledgers relating to the Torpoint ferries from the 1870s to the 1920s when they passed from private ownership to Cornwall County Council. Tremayne Carew Pole attended the Volunteers Get Together in March. He has lent us these ledgers that he bought at auction.

Scanning the ledgers will take time on Monday mornings for several months. The Archives will have a digital version of them and a digital copy will be given to Tremayne . The ledgers themselves will then be stored in the Muniment Room at Antony House.



TAHC has joined Tremayne, Torpoint Town Council and many Torpointers to protest to Cornwall Council Planning Portal. They had submitted plans to remove the top of the monument in Elliot Square and replace it with a modern top, fitted with LED lighting. The objection is not to the LED lighting replacement, but to suggest that this should be done more appropriately. The plans are now on hold but TAHC is still gathering names on a petition.

This may be needed in the future.

Feelings ran so high in Torpoint, that the Evening Herald interviewed Tremayne and printed an article on Weds March 30th



This poster is in TAHC collection. Sir Reginald Pole Carew was welcomed back to Torpoint after participating in the Afghan and Boer War.

So many Torpoint citizens relied on Antony Estate for their homes and living. Had Sir Reginald died, unmarried and childless, it would have been a great loss to the whole area. In thanksgiving for his survival, a commemorative lamp with 3 gas mantles was erected in Sparrow Park.

The Ellis memorial was already in that location. When Antony road was widened, the lamp, known as the Three Lighter, was moved to Elliot Square in 1912, and one electric light to the main stem, replaced gas.

Below on the left, the light is in its original location in Sparrow Park and on the right it is, as we know it in Elliot Square.



We were sad to learn that Beryl Manley has died. Beryl was a cheerful, well loved lady who will be missed by her friends in Torpoint.

Special condolences are sent to June, Maureen, John and their families.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Pearn'.

Mike Pearn MBE
Freeman of Torpoint
Chairman

Dates

**Easter closing Good Friday, Easter Monday and Tuesday April 3rd, 6th and 7th
Thurs April 9th Get Together at CHAT meeting Room 11 am**