

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 April 2026

Dear Members and Volunteers,

When you enter our premises, the mannequins, Henrietta and Henry seem to be on duty!



They are now attired in the summer outfits (complete with fan and parasol) as worn by Julie and Clive O'Shaunessy when they were on duty as Town Crier and escort. TAHC are very grateful that their daughters donated their parent's costumes to us.

Dressing rigid mannequins, whose limbs often drop off during the dressing process, can make this a difficult but amusing occasion.

A Volunteer from the Library Staff couldn't resist taking the photograph on the right, as Mary and Angela struggled to dress Henry!



TAHC volunteers and members, including Facebook members, are always on the lookout for photographs or articles that relate to Torpoint.



John saved these 2 photographs of Gilbert's the chemist taken in the late 1950s or early 1960s. Nissan huts were used for shops during, and for a few years after, the war. In the first photo we note that the Council garages had not yet been built at the end of St James Road. Below there is a view of the original vicarage building in the distance. Shortly after these photos were taken, Mr Gilbert moved his business to Fore Street.



When TAHC was preparing to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of D Day in 2024, the name of Ron McKinlay was mentioned. He had lived in the Carbeile Farmhouse, 88 Carbeile Road, for many years. He was awarded medals for bravery in WW2, which he sold to pay his Poll Tax in 1990s!

MCKINLAY, Ronald Harry George

[View](#) [What links here](#)

Rank: Petty Officer (later Chief Petty Officer)

Unit / Base: 'Royal Naval Beach Commandos'

Service: Royal Navy

Service Number: P/JX.245579

Honours & Awards: **Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (CGM)**
Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct

Operations: **Normandy - Operation Overlord**

Karen's and Geoff's recent researches found newspaper cuttings, accounts of his bravery which resulted in the medal awards and family information on Ancestry and FreeBMD. Unfortunately Ron's daughter, Pauline Rodda, left Torpoint following the tragic death in Hong Kong of her son, Sam . We are still hoping to trace another granddaughter, who may have Ron's Naval documents. We know that Ron was a diver and we are wondering if he was a member of the Combined Operations Pilotage Parties (COPPs). Members of COPPs explored the underwater foreshores of Normandy prior to D Day, to reconnoitre the most suitable landing beaches for Operation Overlord.

On April 29th BBC Spotlight aired details of a project to reopen police cold cases. The interview that Paul gave to Johanna Carr in Feb, about the skeleton found at Tregantle in 1982, was part of the programme. The investigator is still trying to find the skeleton's identity and to get information about other missing persons.



This headstone was purchased from money collected from the Torpoint Community



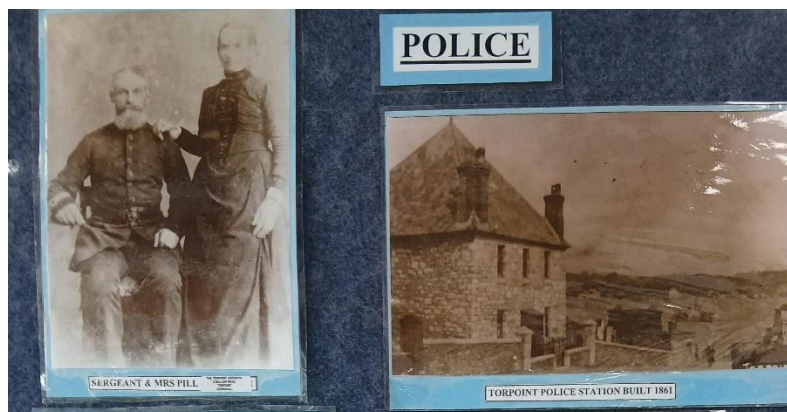
Among the many artifacts in our store are helmets and other memorabilia donated by Paul.

There is also a photograph on the right of the original police station built in 1861.

Sgt Pills and his wife were the first occupants. Mrs Pills would have been responsible for feeding any prisoners kept in the cells,

This building was severely damaged during WW2.

Torpoint's second Police Station, built about 100 years after the first one, has been demolished in recent years because of structural problems.



Have you looked at our website recently? George has redeveloped it. His ambition is to make the catalogue of TAHC holdings accessible online in the future. Like all the volunteers' projects, this will take a long time to be prepared.

Maddie is steadily putting hundreds of ferry photographs in chronological order and adapting their entries on the catalogue.

Until the road bridge at Saltash was completed in 1962, Torpoint was the main road route into Cornwall. Many photographers enjoyed their trip across the Tamar and took delight in collecting and publishing images of the Torpoint ferries.

Paula and Julie have a growing list of people who have already, or who will in the near future record their childhood memories.

The two volunteers will be particularly busy on May 26th, recording memories of life on the river at the Mosquito Sailing Club. As you will note from the posters, this is part of the "Tales of the Tide" project.

TAHC agreed to support the Torpoint and District Old Cornwall Society on this project.

Please come and join us at the Mosquito Club on Tuesday May 26th 12 until 2.30pm and also on Tuesday June 2nd when at 2pm, Tom Harvey will lead an historical walk from the 200 Club at the Mill to Rendel Park by the Ferries.

FREE EVENT
REFRESHMENTS
NO BOOKING REQUIRED

HWEDHLOW AN MORTIDYS
MARITIME
MEMORY DAY

12pm - 2.30pm Tuesday 26th May 2026
Torpoint Mosquito Sailing Club
Marine Drive, Torpoint, PL11 2EH

Please join us for a free social event sharing memories and knowledge of the River Tamar, Plymouth Sound, and life along its banks

TALES OF THE TIDES

VOICES OF THE SEA
A YEAR-LONG COMMUNITY HERITAGE PROJECT

Please bring photos and articles to share with the group

Hosted by Torpoint & District OCS

A collaboration with
Torpoint Archive & Heritage Centre

Further details: <https://kernowgoth.org/event/memory-torpoint>

Keffrysans a Gowethasow Kernow Goth
Park Morek Kenedhlek Morlynn Aberplymm

Callington, Saltash, & Torpoint Old Cornwall Societies

HWEDHLOW AN MORTIDYS
RIVER FRONT WALK
TORPOINT

2pm Tuesday 2nd June 2026
Start: The Mill, Torpoint
Distance: 1.5 miles
Finish: Karkadia for refreshments

Please join us for a free guided walk
Led by Tom Hardy

TALES OF THE TIDES

VOICES OF THE SEA
A YEAR-LONG COMMUNITY HERITAGE PROJECT

Hosted by Torpoint OCS

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Tickets: <https://buytickets.at/federationofoldcornwallsocieties/12175049>

Keffrysans a Gowethasow Kernow Goth
Park Morek Kenedhlek Morlynn Aberplymm

Callington, Saltash, & Torpoint Old Cornwall Societies

Mike Pearn, MBE
Chairman

Dates

Sat May 9th Archives open 10 til 12

Thurs May 14th Volunteers GET TOGETHER 11am at CHAT in Macey Street

Mon May 18th Farewell to Capt Jeremy Ussher, HMS Raleigh

Thurs May 21st Mayor Making

Sun May 31st Street Market and Archives open 10am til 2pm

Thurs July 9th TAHC AGM 6pm in the Library and Community Hub