

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 June 2026

Dear Members and Volunteers,

The month has ended with slightly cooler weather. Unfortunately, the Archives were unable to open for every session during the last 10 days of the month.

The premises themselves are very hot, but it was the effort of walking to and fro that would have put too much stress on the volunteer team.

Earlier in the month, on a damp chilly June 2nd, Tom and Angela lead a group of visitors along the shore.



The visitors were given an informative talk about the shoreline and some of its current and past features. This walk was oversubscribed so an additional walk will take place on July 23rd. This is part of the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies (FOCS)

“Tales of the Tide” project.

Anyone wishing to participate should apply via the FOC Website.

On June 9th Torpoint Mayor, Councillor Julie Martin invited the new Officer in Charge at HMS Raleigh, Colonel Chris Hall to meet her, Torpoint Town Councillors and others from local organisations.

Rosemary represented Torpoint Archives at this event.

Colonel Hall is the first Royal Marine to be appointed to this post.



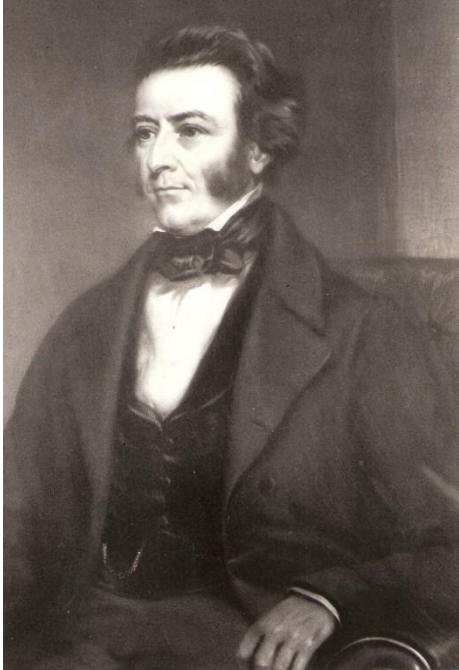
Photo by
Katie-Marie Martin

Maddie has completed sorting four trays of photographs of the Torpoint Ferry. The ferries were a favourite subject for photographers from the late 1800s to the present day.

Until the Saltash Road Bridge was completed in 1962 and the A30 upgraded about the same time, the A38 via the Torpoint ferry was the favoured road route into Cornwall. That route was then downgraded to the A374!

The journey across on the ferry was, and still is, a great novelty for visitors and photographers. Our collection of well over 500 photographs were placed in archival sleeves as they were donated.

Maddie has now renumbered them to appear in chronological order. There are only artist's impressions of the first steam ferry, *Jemima*. She did not have enough horsepower to cope with the wind and tides. Maddie's reorganisation of the photographs, enables all the later successful steam, diesel and modern ferries to be viewed in order of the era in which they were built.



A great debt is owed to James Meadows Rendel. His innovative plan to use chains to guide the ferry across the river, enabled a regular steam ferry service to operate successfully from 1834. Ferry designs and means of propulsion have changed many times since then, but chains still guide the ferries from landing stage to landing stage, even in high winds and tides.

A few months ago, Tremayne Carew Pole bought at auction, some ferry ledgers dated in the 1870. It was difficult to scan these without damaging the spines of the ledgers. Chris and Paul have now photographed every page. In due time the ledgers will be returned to Tremayne with a digital copy of the images. The Archives will retain a digital copy.

TAHC volunteers are always on the lookout for Torpoint references. John is member of Cornwall Family History Society. This month he noted an entry of the photograph below. The caption at the bottom of the photo is to acknowledge the source.

The contributor noted that Art's full name was Arthur George Rodd SOWDEN, born in Torpoint in 1882. He was the son of William and Ann Amelia Robert SOWDEN nee SELLEY

Needless to say, John will be making further family history investigations into this photo!



the Sowden Family - Art, Charlie, Beatrice, Edith, Maud, and Frances.

Cornwall Family History Society Journal 200, June 2026

For the third year running, TAHC volunteers agreed to support a student from Torpoint Community College for work experience. This was very successful again, and the student and his tutor were pleased with the project work that he researched using our records.

June attended another meeting at Falmouth Maritime Museum relating to TAHC participation in the "Smuggling" project being prepared for 2027.

Ann and Angela represented TAHC at the South East Cornwall Museums Forum meeting. They came back with information about an innovative development being used in many Museums and Archives.



QR codes are being attached to artefacts. When these codes are scanned, the full history of the object will be revealed.



For example, if the correct QR code (this is a random code!) was attached to our brass fireman's helmet, when scanned you might get the history of Torpoint Fire Brigade or the history of the helmet's owner, Bill Knott.

This technology is beyond most of us at the moment

but we are always looking to the future!

Our website is impressive. Today there was a hit on it from an Australian with roots in Torpoint.



Roland Levinsky was a Biomedicine researcher and Vice Chancellor of Plymouth University from 2002 until his death in 2007. One of Plymouth's University Buildings is named after him

Meier Williams, Joe Plant's daughter is a talented theatrical costume designer. Maybe she made the magnificent costume on the left for Joseph?

It was originally exhibited in America.

Last week it was exhibited in the Roland Levinsky building.

Bill was invited to the event and the poem on the right is his tribute to the garment.

THE COAT THAT CROSSED THE POND
Here is an item of which we are fond
It is the coat that crossed the pond
Making it had some glitches
Well there were so many stitches
We all know you could not leave
Even the smallest detail from a sleeve
Nothing to it could ever match
Remember it started with just a patch
This coat is a real crowd puller
Beautifully made and full of colour
It started with a needle and thread
Across the ocean to America it did spread.

BILL (WELLA) VISICK.



Adults and accompanied children are invited to take part in this exciting event along the Chapeldown shore between 11 am and 1.30pm on Sunday July 5th. All the findings will be examined and explained by the expert, Laura Miucci, a Cornish Archaeologist.

If you are free, Laura will meet the shore explorers again on Saturday July 11th 10am until 12.30 in Torpoint Library and Community Hub. The workshop will include making a fridge magnet, using a “treasure” found on the beach.

Laura will lead a Poetry Workshop in the Hub from 1.30pm -3.30pm on the same afternoon.

TAHC Annual General Meeting will be held in Torpoint Library and Community Hub at 6pm on Thursday July 9th.

Entry to the Library will probably be via the back door.

All the support given by the members is appreciated and I look forward to meeting you on 9th.

There will be no morning Get Together for volunteers on that day

Mike Pearn, MBE
Chairman