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 Newsletter October 2026

Dear Friends and Volunteers,

Dedicated members of the A team have been available in the Community Hub for 23 of the possible 24 morning sessions and 21 of the possible 23 afternoon sessions in October. These include the morning of the 2nd Saturday and both sessions on the last Sunday of the month. These sessions amounted to 148 hours which was almost identical to the hours worked at home.

The team prides itself on giving all visitors a warm welcome. On October 1st, Mary greeted a person from Cornwall Council, who visited Torpoint with colleagues.



Digitising, sorting and cataloguing photographs is almost a full time job for Janet, Maddie and Paul who, with Tracey, also administrates our Facebook page. There are now 6,300 FB members.

June has attended a 4th meeting at the Maritime Museum in Falmouth. TAHC will be contributing towards the 2027 project on Cornish Smugglers. June has researched smuggling in South East Cornwall and Cawsand in particular.

Julie has completed more transcriptions of interviews recorded for the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, Tales of the Tide Project.

A large number of scanned photos taken at the 1966/67 carnival have been donated recently.

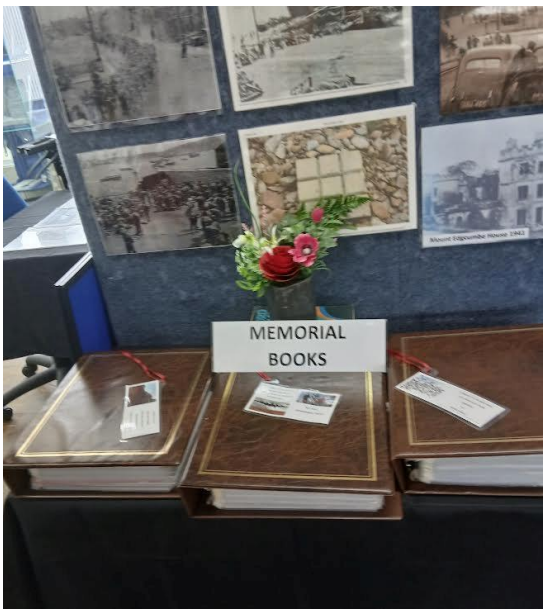
An ex Torpointer will be 80 next month. His daughter has sent for 6 of our publications as a present for his birthday.

Queries have also come in via the website.

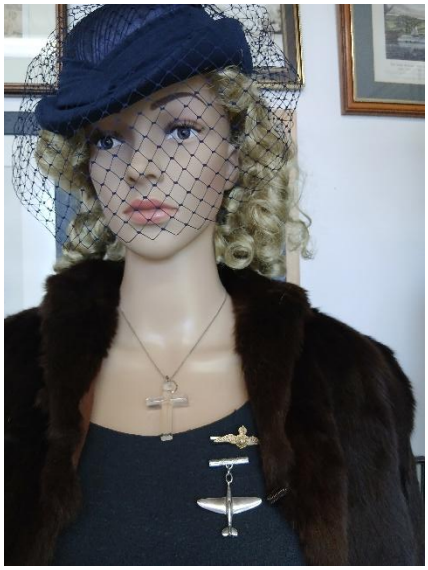
The glass cabinet on the right was donated recently. It is being used to showcase some of our achievements including 2 of Ken's books on lighthouses.



.Angela, Bill and Tom have dressed all the cabinets and walls with artefacts and photographs commemorating veterans from the Boer War, WW1 and WW2.



As always at this time of year, the 3 Memorial Books are on display
They contain Commonwealth War Graves Certificates, photographs and biographies of over 230 Torpoint servicemen and civilians who lost their lives.



The mannequin, Henrietta is wearing a vintage outfit from Fiona's personal collection.
It is typical of the 1940s and may well have been worn by Fiona's mother. No lady would be seen without a hat, which could be trimmed several times, for a new look. Her hair was styled by Dyan. Many ladies spent uncomfortable nights with their hair coiled in rag twists to have this glamorous style in the day.



Fiona's father, Flight Sergeant Claude William Bird (on the right) joined the RAF in 1939 and served as ground crew until 1970. After war service, he was also on Christmas Island for the "Grapple X" H bomb tests in 1957. Maybe he made the necklace on the mannequin from aircraft scraps and sent the RAF sweetheart brooch to Fiona's mother.



Leading Aircraft Woman, Dorothy Iris Harvey (on the left) volunteered for the RAF in 1941 and served until 1945.
At Colerne and Brize Norton, Dorothy worked on engine repairs and rebuilds. Unfortunately, the engine oil caused her skin to flair and she was given an admin role until the end of the war.



Captain SGK Harvey served as a Chaplain to the Forces 1942 to 1946. He landed at Caen beach in Normandy on June 8th, 1944, and was originally based at No 35 Clearing Station, organising burials for the huge number of casualties.
He was transferred to the 4th and 5th Dorset and 5th Hampshire Regiments during the failed Arnhem offensive.
Finally he was attached to the 79th Armoured Division. That Division operated the specialist tanks known as Hobart's Funnies. They advanced East rapidly and crossed the Rhine.

After V E Day, Capt Harvey worked with prisoners of war and resettlement.



Henry, the mannequin is actually dressed in the uniform worn into battle by Captain Harvey,
SGK and Dorothy Iris Harvey were cousins. They married after the war and were Tom's parents.

We are sorry to say farewell to Margery, who has travelled to the Archives from Plymouth every Friday for over 20 years

Margery grew up in Torpoint. Before her retirement in 2006, Margery had already spent many weekends crawling around Antony Churchyard, transcribing the monumental inscriptions and plotting the locations of all the legible headstones.

These records are also appreciated beyond TAHC at the Cornwall Family History Society.

Family connections lead Margery to research and produce booklets on Wacker and Carbeile Mill and also the History of the Postal Services in Torpoint. Her 3 great aunts moved from Wacker and were the postmistresses in Torpoint when the current premises opened in 1913.

Margery was also a major researcher for our publication in 2019, The History of Fore Street and in 2024, Torpoint's Lost Terraces.

We look forward to Margery visiting us for our Christmas Get Together lunch in January 2027

Mike Pearn, MBE
Chairman

DATES Thursday Nov 12th Get Together 11am CHAT Macey Street
Saturday Nov 14th Archives open 10 til 12
Sunday Nov 29th Archives open 10 til 2pm