

# Forgotten boy king Tutankhamun's tomb was discovered 100 years ago

**November 4 marks the 100th anniversary of the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb.**

The find was one of the greatest in the history of archaeology and elevated an almost forgotten boy king of Ancient Egypt to a household name.

The tomb was discovered by a team led by British archaeologist Howard Carter, financed by the Fifth Earl of Carnarvon and was the culmination of years of planning and searching.

They had little idea of the impact the tomb would have on their lives as they removed the first stone from the wall enclosing the entrance on November 25, 1922.

Within a few months Lord Carnarvon had died, his sudden death contributing to rumours of a curse.

Carter would work on the tomb for the rest of his career but after his retirement, he lived an isolated life in London. He died in 1939 with only nine people attending his funeral.

If there was a winner from the discovery of the tomb, it was the boy king himself, the only pharaoh whose mummy still resides in the Valley of the Kings.

Tutankhamun had died in relative obscurity, his tomb was small, possibly re-purposed for his premature death, he was a forgotten ruler whose name

**Barry Chandler,**  
engagement and  
collections manager at  
Torquay Museum

was barely mentioned before 1922.

The discovery created Tut-mania, an interest in Ancient Egypt that was a global phenomenon.

Fuelled by the media, it influenced fashion and design, literature, film and music, and a resurgence of Egypt as a popular tourist destination that has remained to this day.

Tut-mania has its own parallels with Torquay Museum's permanent Egyptology displays.

The star attraction of the museum's 'Explorers Gallery' is a very rare, high status, mummified boy and his incredible royal coffin.

This most likely originally belonged to the child of a pharaoh of the 18th dynasty, the same as Tutankhamun.

'Egyptomania' at Torquay Museum follows the themes of the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb.

You can explore the story behind the curse of the mummy and decide for



A copy of the lotus portrait of Tutankhamun, part of the Ancient Egypt teaching collection at Torquay Museum. Credit: TORQUAY MUSEUM

yourself if there was any truth behind this, or was it just created by the media to sell more newspapers?

The museum is incredibly lucky to have so many items from Ancient Egypt, a civilisation that had such huge impact on western culture.

Our mummy was given by Lady Leeds, Paris Singer's daughter, giving it a unique local connection.

September 2022 also marked the 200th anniversary of the decipherment of the written language of the Ancient Egyptians, hieroglyphics.

This event is being marked with an exhibition at the British Museum: 'Hieroglyphs Unlocking Ancient Egypt', that opened in October and is



The face of the museum's royal coffin has rock crystal and bronze inlaid eyes. It dates to the dynasty of Tutankhamun. Credit: TORQUAY MUSEUM

centered around the Rosetta Stone.

This extraordinary object in three ancient scripts gave Jean-Francois Champollion the key to unlock Egyptian history that had been lost for 2,000 years. In autumn 2023, Torquay Museum is also lucky enough to be one of only three museums across the UK

that will host a touring exhibition from the British Museum based on this discovery.

The 'Explorers Gallery and Egyptomania' are a permanent gallery at Torquay Museum; an admission ticket will give you unlimited access for a year.

TORQUAY GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# SIXTH FORM



## Considering A-Levels?

79% A Levels at A\*-B • 59% A Levels at A\*-A  
41% achieved THREE or more A Levels at A/A\*  
88% of applicants into their 1<sup>st</sup> CHOICE University

# Open Evening

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November

6:30pm to 8:30pm

Find out more: [tggsacademy.org/sixthform](https://tggsacademy.org/sixthform)

01803 653761 [sixthformadmin@tggsacademy.org](mailto:sixthformadmin@tggsacademy.org)