

TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY

President, David G Norman BSc

Torquay Museum Society was formed in 1844 as the Torquay Natural History Society. By 1875 it had raised enough money to build the Natural History Society Museum – the iconic building that houses the Museum’s internationally important collections, where the Society is still based and holds its varied and entertaining lectures.

There are two Public Lecture Seasons each year: the Autumn/Winter Season which runs from early October until December, and the Spring Season which runs from January until late March. Most lectures take place on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, from 10.45am - 12 noon. Admission is generally free to Torquay Museum Society members, but is also open to the public for a cost of £5 per lecture, payable on the door. There are also occasional Saturday afternoon lectures (1.30pm - 3pm) for which a small entry charge may apply.

Throughout the summer months the Society hosts weekly free and informal gatherings – *conversazione* – at which attendees enjoy shorts talks, discussion and light refreshments. The hallmark of the *conversazione* is informality and variety.

BECOME A MEMBER

Membership of the Society opens up a host of potential pursuits and opportunities to become active within the Society. As a Member, you are entitled to free admission to the museum and all of the weekday Public Lectures, except as noted for fund-raising events. The Torquay Museum Society membership year runs from October until the following September. Individual membership is £60 per annum and joint membership is £100 per annum. Pick up a Membership form from Torquay Museum or download it from the Museum’s website.

THE LECTURES TEAM



Literature & Arts
Ken Beevers



History
Christine Meredith



Natural History
Maggi Douglas Dunbar



Science
David Norman



Lecture Reception
Ann Shaw

To identify who has organised a lecture, match the colour codes above with the colour-coded lecture information inside. **Humanities (blue)** and **Saturday (green)** highlighted lectures are organised by the team, who welcome your comments and suggestions.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

HOW TO FIND US



Torquay Museum 529 Babbacombe Road, TQ1 1HG
Tel 01803 293975 www.torquaymuseum.org

WALKING: The Museum is a couple of hundred metres up Babbacombe Road from the Mallock Clock Tower.

BY BUS: No 22 bus stops directly outside the Museum.

PARKING: Pay-and-display opposite the Museum or at the Harbour Car Park (access via Museum Road). Two hours free parking on some nearby streets.

THE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

A number of our lectures conclude with book-signings in the Museum Gift Shop. The shop carries books and many other items relating to current exhibitions and local history. We also sell an array of Agatha Christie merchandise, including DVDs, rare and out-of-print editions of her novels, and high-quality photographs taken from the Museum’s ‘Mistress of Crime’ archive.

THE MUSEUM CAFÉ

Open from 10am to 2pm. The cafe serves hot and cold drinks, cakes and lunch. A great place to relax before and after lectures.

ACCESS

There are lifts, disabled facilities and step-free access throughout the Museum.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES

membership@torquaymuseum.org



Torquay Museum Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Registered Charity Number 1161126.

TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY PUBLIC LECTURES OCTOBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024



*The RNLI Kilimanjaro Challenge
See inside for further details of this lecture on
11th October*

**Every Tuesday and Wednesday
10.45am - 12 noon
and selected Saturdays
1.30pm - 3pm**

Torquay Museum Society Members Free of Charge
Non-members £5, payable on the door
Charges apply to some specified lectures

OCTOBER 2023

TUESDAY 3rd

TMS MEMBER MUSEUM TOURS

We commence the season with an introduction to the Torquay Museum Society and guided tours of the storeroom for limited numbers from 10am to 12 noon, allocated on arrival. Note that there is no lift to the storeroom. This is also an opportunity for new members to join and current members to renew. We meet on the ground floor in Local Studies this week.

WEDNESDAY 4th

TMS MEMBER MUSEUM TOURS

A second day of an introduction to TMS and guided storeroom tours, allocated on arrival.

TUESDAY 10th

THE RISE AND FALL OF DEVON'S CLOTH TRADE

Todd Gray

The discovery of the only surviving historic cloth sample book for Devon has opened up the history of clothmaking in Exeter and Devon. This lecture brings together research from a dozen specialists and reveals why Devon's cloth was sold throughout Europe in the 1700s.

WEDNESDAY 11th

RNLI KILIMANJARO

Ian Barnaby

The Torbay Lifeboat Crew Kilimanjaro Challenge took place in February and March of 2023. Ian Barnaby presents a dramatic account of the events and stunning images around his team's ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro.

SATURDAY 14th

ANIMATION IN FILM-MAKING

Mark Wilson (Exeter College)

In this event for all ages film animation expert Mark Wilson presents an introduction to the art, from hand drawn to the latest computer animation. Mark is a digital artist who has been lecturing in Film & Video and Animation at Exeter College for nearly 20 years. He was coordinator of Animated Exeter for two years and has been involved in various animation projects, music videos and experimental film work.

TUESDAY 17th

THE REAL RUGBY STORY BEHIND THE MYTHS AND LEGENDS

Angus Hamilton

On the 27th of August 1995, Vernon Pugh declared that rugby union would become "an open game". With those three words the game of rugby shed its amateur roots and became entirely professional. As we approach the thirtieth anniversary of professional rugby, this talk explores the myths about the game and examines what shape it is in today.

WEDNESDAY 18th

WHAT'S A PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER AND WHY HAVE THEY BECOME SO POPULAR?

Susan Wilkins

Susan has been an author of crime fiction (12 novels to date) and a former TV writer (25-year career with over 130 broadcast credits on top-rated shows). Crime fiction is the second most popular genre after romance. But what draws both writers and readers to the dark side?

TUESDAY 24th

WHO SANK KING HENRY 8th's MARY ROSE IN 1554

Peter Marsden

Who caused the Tudor warship "Mary Rose" to sink off Portsmouth, and why, is discussed by Dr Peter Marsden who was responsible for assessing this.

WEDNESDAY 25th

"SOUVENIRS DE TORQUAY" BY FRANCIS EDWARD BACHE

Elizabeth French

Elizabeth is a PhD student at Leeds University. The British composer-pianist F. Edward Bache (1833 - 1858) visited Torquay in the final year of his life, seeking alleviation of the symptoms of the tuberculosis that would kill him. Whilst in the town, he composed a set of piano pieces, which will be explored and performed in today's presentation.

TUESDAY 31st

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A BEEKEEPER

Alan Rowse

An explanation of some of the intriguing husbandry techniques useful in managing a small honeybee apiary located, in this case, on the Rowcroft Hospice estate, Torquay.

NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY 1st

THE LONG PADDLE

Brendon Prince

The 'Long Paddle' was a successful world record attempt to circumnavigate mainland Britain by Stand-up Paddleboard (SUP). After travelling 4000 kilometres over 141 days and 8 million paddle strokes, Brendon tells his story around the factual and often death-defying events of the journey.

TUESDAY 7th

BIOLOGICAL CLOCKS: HOW ANIMALS AND PLANTS TELL THE TIME

Roger Avery

An examination of the "clocks" which enable animals and plants to do things at the right season or time of day, how they are set... and how they can go wrong.

WEDNESDAY 8th

"BOUNCER"

Robert Garnham

A comedy poetry show about NOT becoming famous! Robert Garnham, Professor of Whimsy, takes the audience behind the scenes on a certain TV talent show.

TUESDAY 14th

KIWIS IN TORQUAY

David Hinchliffe

Between 1917 and 1919 between 20,000 and 40,000 New Zealand soldiers passed through Torquay. This is their story - why they were here, where they stayed and what they did during that time.

WEDNESDAY 15th

ORANGES AND LEMONS

Roger Hamilton

This tangy tale with a twist takes a look at the biology, history and politics of citrus fruit.

SATURDAY 18th

FRAZOO LIVE SHOW: REMARKABLE REPTILES AND COLOSSAL CREEPY-CRAWLIES

Frazie Hulbert

Meet some beautiful exotic creatures and learn some fascinating facts in this interactive live show, with opportunities to join in or ask questions.

TUESDAY 21st

SAT NAV AND HOW GPS WORKS

Roger D Cooper

GPS or GNSS is used in almost every industry from 'Sat Nav' in cars and navigation at sea to farming and the transmission of television & radio stations. Developed in the early 1980's, how exactly does the system work to such high accuracies? We hope to give a layman's understanding of this highly sophisticated space borne technology.

WEDNESDAY 22nd

MUSIC HALLS AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON SOCIETY AND WORLD WAR ONE

Marilyn Bishop

Join Marilyn in singing along to some of the WWI songs which glamorised fighting on the front line!

TUESDAY 28th

FROM SPUTNIK TO SPACEX

Peter Marshal

Satellites and space flight have become one of the biggest industries in the world, at nearly £400-billion annually, in the 66 years since those 'bleeps' from Sputnik. This 'non-technical' talk by a former journalist, then satellite industry executive, describes how it has developed to influence so many aspects of our lives.

WEDNESDAY 29th

DUCKING STOOLS, DISSENTERS, DEBTORS AND DRUNKS: CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN THE 17th CENTURY

Janet Few

How was crime dealt with in the seventeenth century? What were the punishments for various crimes and how could you avoid them? It would be unusual for the lives of our Stuart ancestors not to be touched by crime in some way; whether as victims, witnesses, lawbreakers or law enforcers. Learn how they would have been regarded and treated by their contemporaries, in whichever of these roles they found themselves.

DECEMBER

TUESDAY 5th

AGM AND OPEN FORUM

Torquay Museum Society's Annual General Meeting and Open Forum is your chance to review and approve the activities of the society over the past and coming year. The open forum gives you an opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions for future speakers, groups, etc.

WEDNESDAY 6th

WATCHING WILDLIFE FROM MY KAYAK

Rupert Kirkwood

A talk about all the amazing animals encountered whilst paddling his kayak around SW England. Seals, sunfish, sharks, dolphins, whales, Giant Tuna, puffins, porpoises, turtles... and swimming badger, deer and squirrel!

TUESDAY 12th

WILLIAM OF ORANGE'S TRAVELS THROUGH DEVON

Phil Badcott

Follow the historic journey of William of Orange from Holland to Brixham, Paignton, Newton Abbot and through the rest of Devon and find out whom he met and what he did. The talk includes live early music accompaniment, including Henry Purcell, from violinist Tim Trewin.

WEDNESDAY 13th

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Join us for a pre-festive social morning, including a quiz and a few Christmas nibbles and drinks.

JANUARY 2024

TUESDAY 9th

A PECULIAR PERCEPTION

Dave Norman

We launch the 2024 lecture programme with a light-hearted 'look' at the many ways our eyes, ears and minds can play perceptive tricks on the sights and sounds that seemingly surround us.

WEDNESDAY 10th

THE HISTORY AND USE OF DOWSING

Nigel Twinn

Dowsing is an age-old craft that has survived from at least the Neolithic into the era of complex technology and modern science. Today it is used across the globe, and in a wide range of situations, from locating fresh water, to archaeology, and even in the promotion of well-being.

TUESDAY 16th

GLOBAL WARMING AND THE ICE AGES

Peter Lewis

Peter explores the ever-more important issues around human-induced warming of our atmosphere and oceans, looking back to past Ice Ages to help portray their effects.

WEDNESDAY 17th

THE LOBB BROTHERS AND THEIR FAMOUS PLANTS

Caradoc Doy

Cornish brothers William and Thomas Lobb were two of the most important plant hunters in British gardening history in the 19th Century. Caradoc is a Devon based horticulturist and is an authority on the history of plants introduced during the Victorian period - particularly relating to the Veitch Nurseries of Exeter and Chelsea.

TUESDAY 23rd

COCKINGTON – A VICTORIAN VIGNETTE

John Risdon

Inspired by the Diaries of Arthur Mudge, brother-in-law to Richard Mallock, Squire of Cockington, during the period 1878 - 80, a broad swathe of the Victorian era is brought to life. With extracts from the diaries, you will hear and see a Cockington that is certain to surprise you!

WEDNESDAY 24th

THE HEALING GARDEN

Sue Minter

Sue covers the involvement of plants in the production of both pharmaceutical drugs and herbal preparations .. along with the associated conservation issues affecting human health, drawing on her previous experience as Curator of the Chelsea Physic Garden.

SATURDAY 27th

THE FOLKLORE OF DEVON

Jim Causley and Mark Norman

Folk songs, legends and customs with award winning singer/song writer Jim Causley and folklorist Mark Norman. This is a ticketed event to raise funds for Torquay Museum.

TUESDAY 30th

SPLENDOURS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM

Dr David Wilton (Plymouth Astronomical Society)

Recent space exploration has revealed worlds of extreme heat and intense cold, planets with storms the size of the Earth, moons with ice-covered oceans where life may exist, and much more! This talk tours our tiny, but fascinating, corner of the Universe.

WEDNESDAY 31st

THE GLENN MILLER STORY

Paul Scott

Paul tells us about the life of famed band leader Glenn Miller, with a saxophone accompaniment!