

TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY

President, Dave Norman

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 January, and the Spring Season which runs from January until mid-April. Lectures take place twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 10.45am – 12noon. Admission is free to Museum Society Members, but is also open to members of the public for an admission cost of £5 per lecture, payable on the door.

Throughout the summer months the Society hosts informal gatherings – conversazione – at which Members 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 activities and opportunities to become active within the Society. As a Member, you are entitled to free admission to all of the Public Lectures and Torquay Museum itself. You will also be entitled to join a wide variety of other Society groups, including Geology, Archaeology and Astronomy, Local History, Zoology and Ornithology, Botany, Literature and the Arts, and the Friday Rambles Group.

The 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



Humanities
David Wills



Literature & Arts
Ken Beevers



History
Christine Meredith



Natural History
Bill Hudson



Science
David Norman

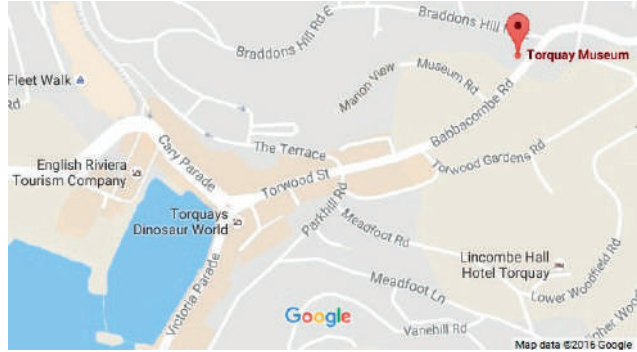


Lecture Reception
Ann Shaw

To identify who has organised a lecture, match the colour codes above with the colour-coded lecture information inside. The organisers 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 on lecture days, the café 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 JANUARY - APRIL 2023



Queen of Spain Butterfly
See inside: My Butterfly Memories - Spain
11th January

Every Tuesday and Wednesday
10.45am - 12 noon
Torquay Museum Society
Members Free of Charge
Non-members £5, payable on the door

JANUARY 2023

TUESDAY 10th

BEHIND THE SCENES AT DARTMOOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

Al Pewsey

Hill Party Leader, Alan Pewsey, presents an entertaining and informative talk on the work of the important service provided by the volunteers of Dartmoor Search and Rescue, including film footage behind the scenes, and details of callouts.

WEDNESDAY 11th

MY BUTTERFLY MEMORIES – SPAIN

Bill Hudson

Naturalist Bill Hudson shares his butterfly encounters and beautiful photographs from his journeys around Spain.

TUESDAY 17th

THE ENGLISH RIVIERA UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

Melanie Border

English Riviera Geopark Coordinator and author, Mel Border, gives a fascinating account of one of the world's most beautiful and significant Geoparks, designated in 2007 by UNESCO because of its unique and often spectacular geology and natural environment.

WEDNESDAY 18th

ADVENTURES IN FILMMAKING WITH AN AWARD-WINNING FILM DIRECTOR

Ashley Thorpe

A fascinating insight into the career of an award-winning Director, including his creative influences, working with Reece Shearsmith, creating an animated opening titles sequence for a horror anthology film for Neil Marshall and many other Directors, writing a radio play featured in the New York Times, and what's next.

TUESDAY 24th

AN ALTERNATIVE HISTORY OF MORRIS DANCING

Robin Springett

An eclectic take on how Morris dancing arrived on these shores and how it became embedded in the English Folk scene. The speaker will describe the various forms of Morris Dancing today, and discuss how it might evolve.

WEDNESDAY 25th

KENTS CAVERN

Nick Powe

Reflecting on two decades of running Kents Cavern, Nick will also explore his involvement with Torbay's UNESCO Global Geopark designation. A fascinating illustrated talk about Kents Cavern's unique and long association with humankind - maybe the longest human link to any one place on the planet.

TUESDAY 31st

WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

John Walters

Wildlife stories from the south-west and further afield, including 'jumping bean' sawflies, Lunar Hornet Moths and wild Hamsters.

FEBRUARY

WEDNESDAY 1st

A HISTORY OF AMATEUR ASTRONOMY

John Stapleton

Former Primary School teacher and Adult Education lecturer in Astronomy, John has been an amateur astronomer for over 50 years, and a member of Torbay Astronomical Society for 30 years. He has lectured widely and shared the stage with his good friend Sir Patrick Moore.

TUESDAY 7th

QUANTUM RE-COGNITION: WHERE ARE HUMANS BEING? WHERE ARE HUMANS GOING?

David Wills

Is our cognitive evolutionary destiny ultimately unlimited in the quantum realm? In the case for humans transforming from the 5th to 6th Ape, David argues that Homo sapiens can become 'Homo Transcendus'. The question for now is how?

WEDNESDAY 8th

ANGELS OF THE FLOODS. FLORENCE FLOODS AND ART RESTORATION

Marilyn Bishop

Floods devastated Florence in 1966, bringing restorers from all over the world to help restore books, paintings and sculptures. Was this the prelude to climate change now affecting so many parts of the world?

TUESDAY 14th

SABINE BARING-GOULD

Bob Mann

One of the most extraordinary men of the 19th century, and certainly one of the most remarkable Devonians who ever lived, Rev Baring-Gould was a prolific novelist, folklorist, antiquary, traveller, hymn writer, theologian, and father of 15 children.

WEDNESDAY 15th

THE STORY OF MY NEW GARDEN SO FAR

Jacquie Felix-Mitchell

Garden Designer Jacquie Felix-Mitchell, of Oasis Garden Design, discusses the design and development of her new garden nestled on the edge of Dartmoor. She is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture, and the Garden Media Guild, has featured on Gardeners' Question Time on BBC Radio 4, and has hosted on an award winning RHS Chelsea Garden.

TUESDAY 21st

THE ARTEMIS MISSION - RETURNING HUMANS TO THE MOON

Dave Norman

A look at the recent and future multinational Artemis moon missions that should return humans to the Moon later this decade... and to Mars beyond that.

WEDNESDAY 22nd

AN AUDIENCE WITH THE LADY KATHERINE AND A PEEP INSIDE HER WARDROBE

Rosemary Griggs

The speaker will take you back in time for a wide-ranging exploration of 16th century clothing, the social, economic and political influences on fashion, who wore what, and why.

TUESDAY 28th

EARLY VISIONS: WEST COUNTRY INSPIRATION FOR COLERIDGE'S CONVERSATION POEMS

Helen Boyles

A look at Coleridge's sojourn, as newly married man and father, in Nether Stowey in the Quantock Hills and the inspiration it supplied, through local friendships, conversations and excursions, for some of his most celebrated and engaging poems.

MARCH

WEDNESDAY 1st

BRASS BANDS AND BRASS INSTRUMENTS - AN INSIGHT

Philip King & Bob Baddeley

An introduction to modern brass instruments and the variety of sounds they produce, by Philip and Bob, who both play in local brass bands. They will offer an insight into the science of note production, and the range of music that British brass bands play today.

TUESDAY 7th

ANIMALS IN ACTION: FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHING DEVON'S INTRIGUING MARINE LIFE

Dr Paul Naylor

Devon's marine life is amazingly colourful, in all senses of the word, from crabs to cuttlefish, and barnacles to blennies. Through recent underwater photographs and video, marine biologist Paul Naylor will show you some of their surprising activities and the fascination of telling their stories.

WEDNESDAY 8th

PLACE NAMES: A TORBAY TOUR

Dr Kevin Dixon

Edwardian guides used to tell tourists that Vansittart Road came from 'fancy tart', the location of Torquay's most exclusive brothel. Let's find out if that was true. Join us on a tour through those Torbay names that you use every day, and we will look at their origins and how they have evolved over the centuries.

TUESDAY 14th

ART OF THE DEVON GARDEN

Todd Gray

A look at the history of gardens in Devon through art: concentrating on the functional, the formal, exotic plants and the role of the individual.

WEDNESDAY 15th

SQUIDBOX – A COMEDY POET'S EXPLORATION OF THE BRIXHAM FISHING INDUSTRY

Robert Garnham

In 2020, poet Robert Garnham created a sequence of poems about the Brixham fishing industry called 'Squidbox'. He will perform some of these poems and talk about the effect of the fishing industry on the town as well as on himself.

TUESDAY 21st

1,000 YEARS OF COCKINGTON

John Risdon

Exploring a 1,000-year thread of English history as experienced through the manorial estate of Cockington, and those who made up its community. It is all the more relevant in that the stage on which this story has been played out remains to inspire.

WEDNESDAY 22nd

THE IMMORTAL GARDENER

Alison Marshall

Torre Abbey's Head Gardener takes a dive into the much vaunted health benefits of gardening, from growing your own veg to the latest psychological insights into our relationship with the natural world. She is not, unfortunately, actually immortal!

TUESDAY 28th

TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY: LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE

Special Meeting

As Torquay Museum Society moves forward into the hopefully brighter days of this decade, join us at this informal forum to express your own views on where the Society should be going, and which new or past activities we should be supporting beyond the lecture programmes.

WEDNESDAY 29th

THE MYSTERIOUS WORLD OF ORCHIDS

Graham Sclater

The speaker and his family were nurserymen and market gardeners in Exeter as far back as the early 18th century. Graham will explain how the city was responsible for the introduction of orchids from around the world, and how they were hybridised to give us the beautiful flowers we can buy today.

APRIL

TUESDAY 4th

ONE WOMAN, A HAREM, AND 1000 COWS

Jane Brunt

The speaker travelled with two small children and her husband to Saudi Arabia in 1977, spent some time with a harem, and made friends with a Bedouin family.

WEDNESDAY 5th

THE BOATMEN OF BABBACOMBE BAY

Phil Badcott

The story of the fishermen and pleasure boat skippers of Babbacombe Bay in Torquay, from the 1850s to the 1950s, using previously unseen photos and stories from the archives of the speaker's family, about nine of whose ancestors were Babbacombe Boatmen.

TUESDAY 11th

GOING UNDERGROUND - THE CAVE ELEPHANTS OF MOUNT ELGON

Stephen Powles

Mt Elgon, an extinct volcano straddling the Kenya/Uganda border, is home to a unique population of elephants. Consuming a montane vegetation made low in minerals by the leaching effect of heavy rainfall, elephants travel up to 150m into the mountain to "mine" the mineral rich volcanic rock.

WEDNESDAY 12th

VRCHAEOLOGY

Dave Norman

A look at how Virtual Reality is being used in the capture and presentation of archaeological sites and objects.