

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 mid-April. Most lectures take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 10.45am – 12 noon. Admission is free to Torquay Museum Society members on weekdays, but is also open to the public for a cost of £5 per lecture, payable on the door. There are also occasional Saturday afternoon fund-raising lectures (1.30pm – 3pm) for which an entry charge may apply.

Throughout the summer months the Society hosts weekly free and informal gatherings – *conversazione* – at which attendees enjoy short 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 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 SHOP

The museum shop stocks an array of books and merchandise, some of which relate to the museum's exhibitions and local history. There is also a good stock of Agatha Christie memorabilia and books (both new and older editions).

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 2024 – JANUARY 2025



Devon Festivals

See inside for further details of this lecture
on 29th 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 everyone for the Saturday fund-raising events.

The first 12 lectures (Oct 8th to Nov 13th) are held in the Riviera Life Church hall next door to the museum due to the extended Summer Exhibition in the museum's Pengelly Hall.

OCTOBER 2024

TUESDAY 8th

MOLECULES OF LIFE

Dave Norman

As we uncover ever more about the mechanisms of Life at the molecular level, modern computer animations allow us to visualise the amazing inner workings of our bodies. Join us in launching the TMS 2024/2025 lecture season with a look at a few of these fascinating videos.

WEDNESDAY 9th

THE BATTLE OF BOIS DE BUTTES (THE LAST STAND OF THE SECOND DEVONS IN MAY 1918)

Nick Nicholson

Much has been written about the battle of Bois des Buttes. It was fought by the 2nd Battalion the Devonshire Regiment on the morning of 27 May 1918. It resulted in the almost total annihilation of the unit.

TUESDAY 15th

CONSERVATION OF SEAGRASS – A CRITICALLY IMPORTANT HABITAT IN TOR BAY

Dr Andrew Bowkett

The Save Our Seagrass Project was established by Wild Planet Trust, the charity that runs Paignton Zoo, in 2018. The Project helps seagrass meadows recover in Tor Bay through the installation of eco-friendly moorings, scientific monitoring and community engagement.

WEDNESDAY 16th

COOL BRITANNIA – ART IN THE 1990S

Dr Chris Davies

This talk complements the current exhibition *I Grew Up 90s* in the museum, outlining the developments in art during the decade referred to as *Cool Britannia* and analysing the 1997 *Sensation* exhibition at the Royal Academy in London before touring to Berlin and New York.

TUESDAY 22nd

200 YEARS OF RNLI

Andrew Medley

The Royal National Lifeboat Institute celebrates its 200th anniversary of marine and shore rescues.

WEDNESDAY 23rd

PROTECTIVE SECURITY AND BLAST ENGINEERING

Dr Jon Farley

Protective security is the design of mitigations to protect the built environment from potential security threats. These threats may be accidental or malicious and can pose a significant risk to life. Dr Jon Farley, a specialist in Protective Security at Arup, provides an overview of the challenges around designing spaces against these threats and an introduction to the methods and tools used by engineers to develop appropriate mitigations.

TUESDAY 29th

DEVON FESTIVALS

Robert Hesketh

Devon has a huge number of festivals and other events, ranging from ancient pagan survivals to modern literary and music festivals. This illustrated talk concentrates on those which are oldest and most traditional in character, such as Wassailing in Credition and Whimpe, the Green Man Day in Pilton and Ale Tasting.

WEDNESDAY 30th

TOGETHER FOR A CLEANER OCEAN

Kaylee Peers

Kaylee Peers, MCS Sea Champion, discusses the importance of collective efforts in reducing ocean pollution and highlights innovative solutions and community initiatives that contribute to healthier marine ecosystems.

NOVEMBER

TUESDAY 5th

THE GERSHWIN BROTHERS

Paul Scott

A talk, with music, on the Gershwin Brothers.

WEDNESDAY 6th

LEICESTER, SPACE CAPITAL OF BRITAIN

Roger Cooper

Why and how did Leicester become the Space Capital of Britain? It all began shortly after the Space Race began, with the USSR placing Sputnik 1 into orbit in 1957...

TUESDAY 12th

THE USA THROUGH THE EYES OF THE ARTIST NORMAN ROCKWELL

Janet Choules

Artist Norman Rockwell, *The Saturday Evening Post's* most famous illustrator, was a master storyteller. For more than 60 years his paintings and illustrations of everyday family life and small-town events, often treated with a touch of humour, chronicled life in twentieth-century America.

WEDNESDAY 13th

DESIGNING A GARDEN WITH POTS AND CONTAINERS

Jacquie Felix-Mitchell

Hints and tips about designing a garden with raised beds, containers and pots, whatever the size of your outdoor space.

TUESDAY 19th

PATRON'S LECTURE: OCCULT TORQUAY. AN UNREMEMBERED HERITAGE

Kevin Dixon

From its very beginnings, Torquay folk had an interest in exploring occult ideas outside of mainstream religion and philosophy. Join us for a light-hearted talk covering local pixies, druids, witchcraft, cunning folk, ghosts, pseudoscience, spiritualism, and much more.

WEDNESDAY 20th

TORQUAY'S TOPOGRAPHICAL ART

Todd Gray

Torquay has a legacy of topographical art which differs from other parts of Devon. This lecture will highlight paintings, drawings and engravings held within the museum, in the region and overseas.

SATURDAY 23rd

FRAZOO LIVE SHOW: REMARKABLE REPTILES AND COLOSSAL CREEPY-CRAWLIES

Frazie Hulbert

Frazie Hulbert once again brings us her amazing show, featuring a range of (mostly) small but fascinating creatures! This Saturday afternoon ticketed TMS fund-raiser is open to all guests at least 5 years old (under-16s must be accompanied by a paying, responsible adult).

TUESDAY 26th

WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024

John Walters

Wildlife highlights from 2024, including the world's largest slug, the Iberian Spoonwing, European Ground Squirrels and dancing Adders.

WEDNESDAY 27th

THE INTRIGUING FREDERICK STOCKDALE

Phil Badcott

The story of a forgotten 19th century artist and author who embarked on a huge project to paint dozens of scenes of Devon and write a 'History of Devon'. The talk includes time to study many of his drawings and paintings.

DECEMBER

TUESDAY 3rd

RAILWAYS IN THE 21ST CENTURY - A GLOBAL RENAISSANCE

Richard Brown

Changing climate and higher speeds have brought extraordinary opportunities for new railways, both passenger and freight. We look at what's happening across the world, and why.

WEDNESDAY 4th

AGM & 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

TUESDAY 10th

SOUTH DEVON IN SUPERNATURAL FICTION

Bob Mann

As we approach the festive season, Totnes author Bob Mann looks at classic ghost stories featuring Torbay and South Devon landscapes, houses, ruins and artefacts, including an object in the museum's own collection. He also explores the local roots of master horror writer H.P. Lovecraft.

WEDNESDAY 11th

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Join us for a pre-festive social morning, including a quiz.

JANUARY 2025

TUESDAY 14th

LIFE STORIES

Lionel Digby

After a long and interesting career promoting many famous groups in Torbay, Lionel shares some of his life stories and memories.

WEDNESDAY 15th

BERYL COOK, BEN HARTLEY AND FRED YATES

Dr Chris Davies

The talk explores the painting of three popular artists: Beryl Cook, Ben Hartley, and Fred Yates, who all resided in Devon at some stage during their careers. Appreciated and enjoyed by the public, their work has largely been ignored by the art establishment ...Why?

SATURDAY 18th

Details of this Saturday fund-raising event will be announced in the Spring programme leaflet

TUESDAY 21st

REINTRODUCING BEAVERS TO BRITAIN

Mark Elliot

Mark will give an introduction to Eurasian beavers and their remarkable behaviour, and discuss their return to Britain. He will talk about some of the beneficial effects on people and other wildlife, as well as some of the conflicts that they can also bring.

WEDNESDAY 22nd

THE LIFE AND WORK OF WILLIAM FROUDE

Bill Thomson

William Froude, a one-time resident of Chelston, was a naval architect who developed the first wave machine.

TUESDAY 28th

BOLTON REMEMBERS THE WAR

Ken Beevers

An audio visual presentation about Bolton in the Second World War, with images and real life testimonies.

WEDNESDAY 29th

PRESIDENT'S LECTURE: TORBAY NIGHT SKIES

Dave Norman

A video review of the night skies of Torbay over recent months, featuring the weather, aircraft, satellites, meteors, the Moon, stars, planets, aurorae .. and possibly even an exploding star!