

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

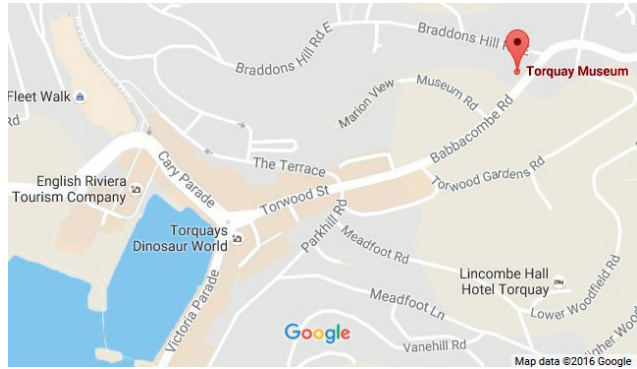


Lecture Reception
Ann Shaw

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 JANUARY – APRIL 2025



*“The Decline of Eels – Conservation through Art”
Julia Manning*

See inside for further details of this lecture on March 18th

**Tuesday and Wednesday mornings
from 10.45am - 12 noon
in the Pengelly Theatre**
Torquay Museum Society Members Free of Charge
Non-members £5 payable on the door.
PLEASE NOTE: For lectures from January 14th to March 26th 2025, entrance to the museum is via the shop/cafe doors to the left of the building due to the upgrade works

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 paintings of three popular artists: Beryl Cook, Ben Hartley, and Fred Yates, who were all resident 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?

TUESDAY 21st

REINTRODUCING BEAVERS TO BRITAIN

Mark Elliot

Mark gives an introduction to Eurasian beavers and their remarkable behaviour, discussing their return to Britain. He talks 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

Ken takes us through a video regarding the life of the people of Bolton during the Second World War. It features interviews with and the dramatic stories of several residents of the area at that time.

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!

FEBRUARY

TUESDAY 4th

COLETON FISHACRE. PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE James Grainger

A delve into the 100-year history of Coleton Fishacre, with a look at how we are now managing and developing the garden to ensure it continues to thrive long into the future.

WEDNESDAY 5th

TO SAIL NO MORE

Ron Howell

A small sailing ketch sinks in 1912. Rediscovered over 90 years later, the ketch tells a fascinating story of Victorian Maritime history leading to names on a war memorial in Topsham, Devon.

TUESDAY 11th

COUNTRYSIDE ARTIST SUPREME, THE LIFE & WORK OF C.F. TUNNICLIFFE R.A

Bill Hudson

Raised on a small Cheshire farm, Charles Tunnicliffe displayed an early talent and dedication to drawing which led to international acclaim as a wildlife artist and book illustrator.

WEDNESDAY 12th

THE HISTORY OF LOVE AND ROMANCE

Mary Georgina de Grey (Suzanne McConaghy)

An illustrated look at the history of love and romance through the ages, covering both prose and poetry.

TUESDAY 18th

THE ECLIPTIC IN 80 FRAMES

John Stapleton

Chairman of Torbay Astronomical Society, John Stapleton, takes us on an illustrated tour around the 'ecliptic'... the region of night sky within which the planets pursue their zodiacal path.

WEDNESDAY 19th

SEA EAGLES

Zoe Smith

The return of the White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) to Southern England

TUESDAY 25th

A HISTORY OF TORRE ABBEY

Michael Rhodes

Michael gives an insight into the history of one of Torquay's most historic buildings and its development over the years.

WEDNESDAY 26th

A WESTCOUNTRY GIRL OF COLOUR

Jacquie Felix-Mitchell

A talk about Jacquie's life and experiences as a black girl from the Westcountry.

MARCH

TUESDAY 4th

ACTION, ADVENTURE AND INTERNATIONAL INTRIGUE

Emma Seaman

Agatha Christie and the Man in the Brown Suit and other lesser known novels.

WEDNESDAY 5th

RISE OF THE ROBOTS

Dave Norman

TMS President Dave Norman takes a sometimes amusing, often thought-provoking look at the ever-wider range of walking and rolling robots becoming available around the world.

TUESDAY 11th

THE OUTER HEBRIDES: WILD AND ANCIENT

Peter Exley

Strung out in a rugged arc off the north-western seaboard of Scotland, the Outer Hebrides are Britain's final flourish as it splinters into the Atlantic. This tour will journey across the islands on an exploration of their breathtaking natural history and ancient heritage.

WEDNESDAY 12th

CURIOUS DARTMOOR

Paul Rendell

We look at strange or unusual buildings, follies, stones, etc that raise more questions than answers. The history of 'letterboxing' is explored, as well as other crazy and wild things.

TUESDAY 18th

THE DECLINE OF EELS – CONSERVATION THROUGH ART

Julia Manning

Julia is an artist and print maker from Somerset who developed an interest in eels and elver fishing whilst living next to the River Parrett in the 1980s. She illustrates her talk with videos, photos and her own prints.

WEDNESDAY 19th

OPEN FORUM

A second opportunity in this season to present your feedback and ideas to the TMS trustees

TUESDAY 25th

TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH

David Follett

David tells of his time in hospital after an accident, his rehabilitation and his determination to live life to the full. He tells of the problems disabled people face in everyday life and how he has overcome these. He is the English national wheelchair badminton champion, has carried the Olympic torch, demonstrated an exoskeleton suit and travelled the world.

WEDNESDAY 26th

AN INTRODUCTION TO DEVON'S GEOLOGY

Robert Hesketh

Following up on his earlier talk about its festivals, Robert introduces us to the fascinating geology of Devon, including that of Torbay itself.

APRIL

TUESDAY 1st

DRAGONFLIES

Dave Smallshire

This illustrated presentation covers the basic biology of the Odonata – dragonflies and damselflies. After briefly looking at some examples of species around the world, the main focus will be on British species, and the common species in Devon in particular.

WEDNESDAY 2nd

ADVENTURES ON A TANDEM

Philip King and Amanda Lindsay

Fitness, nutrition, the science of cycles and cycling .. with tales of recent journeys.

TUESDAY 8th

TEN WRITERS, ONE HOUSE

Jenny Ridd

Jenny Ridd, historian and writer, lived in an old house visited by Pre Raphaelite poets and painters Dante Gabriel Rossetti and Elizabeth Siddal, as well as other interesting characters.

WEDNESDAY 9th

THE HISTORY OF BREAD

Keith Choules

14,400 years of bread making, from the Black Desert in Jordan to where we are today, and how we got here.