

Keeping the museum's archive alive

During the last year of lockdowns, Torquay Museum has shifted much of its engagement to social media and here in the Torbay Weekly.

But as we open up again we want to encourage our local community to connect with us again, to visit and to view our archive as an incredible asset to Torbay.

Torquay Museum has the largest and most accessible archive of images and documents related to Torbay in the local area.

Until a few years ago the museum didn't charge for access to its stored archives, there was just enough available staff time to be able to supervise researchers and members of the public who wanted access and search for free.

Unfortunately, with a reduction to our council support several years ago, we had to look at how this access could be maintained with a reduction in staff hours, and a system of charging was introduced to help fund the staff necessary to supervise access.

The museum's archive of around 70,000 items is its most heavily used collection and the one that can be the largest drain on time.

We currently have around 45,000 items documented on a database but the work to create this resource has spanned over 25 years and has involved many dedicated volunteers.

As examples, Hester Pengelly's autograph and letter collection took two volunteers around 13 years to record, partly due to the complex nature of cataloguing and deciphering original manuscripts.

In 1996, Peter Tully, a well-known Paignton collector of local images, bequeathed more than 10,000 images to the museum which took another volunteer five years to document.

There is barely any provision in

BARRY CHANDLER
Torquay Museum

the museum's budget to maintain this work which requires staff to manage these valuable volunteers, but our collection and the work grows year on year.

As we reopen to the public and things return to some sort of normality we want to encourage you, our local community, to use this resource.

We currently provide images for TV companies, filmmakers, universities and local history researchers. We also have inquiries from local people researching family histories, building histories and their connections to local businesses.

We hold the memory of the local area but we really need support from our local community to look after these items and keep them accessible.

We are considering new ways of



A photo of The Salute the Soldier war savings drive outside the Palace Theatre, Paignton, from The Windows in Time trail (PR11257)

doing this, including how we could make our images free and accessible to everyone, but creating and maintaining this would still require considerable investment.

There has never been a better time to visit the museum. There is

currently a 50 per cent discount for local residents with a TQ postcode, you can revisit as many times as you like for a year on this single ticket.

The booking system means the museum has a managed visitor flow and it's the perfect time to be

ahead of the summer tourists.

You can browse the shop, buy a print from the Windows in Time trail or discover our world famous local author, Agatha Christie.

The museum needs your support because it is our local community that give our heritage meaning.



This document (1686) from Hester's Collection is asking for a payment of £500 to be made for the Secret Service (AR956)

Pictures:
TORQUAY
MUSEUM



A view of Paignton beach with bathing machines, bicycles and horse drawn vehicles from the Tully Collection (PR10126)

Now Open
Tuesday to Sunday from 4.30pm

Appetizers

£4.00 Gumbo Style Spicy Veg Soup
Served in a mug with crusty bread & butter.

£3.50 Nacho Nibbles
Crunchy nachos served with a pot of sour cream & spicy salsa.

Grilled To Perfection

£12.50 Whole BBQ Chicken Breast
£12.50 Full Rack of BBQ Ribs
£11.50 Mississippi Burger
A true American Classic. Topped with melted cheese & American relish.
£11.50 Veggie Burger
A Delicious mix of vegetables coated with crumbs & topped with cheese & American relish.

[DOUBLE UP FOR £6.50]

All Served with seasoned chips & BBQ glaze

Extras

£2.00 Peppercorn Sauce
£2.50 Homemade Coleslaw
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Our Famous STEAK

8oz aged prime rump steak coated in a BBQ glaze, served with seasoned fries.

ONLY £10.00

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Delivery available to: T01 & T02 Postcodes

Desserts

£5.00 Chocolate Brownie & Cream
£5.00 Key Lime Pie & Cream
£3.00 Luxury Ice Cream in a Waffle Cone

Kindly note we operate a walk in, first come first served system and only take bookings for 5 persons or more with a £2pp refundable deposit. In the event that we are full, please enjoy a drink in our lower Bar area whilst waiting for a table.

We work hard to keep our pricing competitive, please do not steal our Steak Cleavers. If you would like one please speak to your server, as we sell them at cost price of £7.50. Thank you for your cooperation.

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