

Travel sustainably and visit the museum for free

As part of building a sustainable future for Torquay Museum, we are, like many organisations, looking carefully at how we can deliver on the 'green' agenda, promote environmental issues and play our part in reducing carbon emissions.

We have already made big steps.

For example, we have looked closely at how we stage our temporary exhibitions programme and are careful to reuse the main hard staging materials – MDF panels and display cases – which in some cases have been used for over 20 exhibitions.

All aspects have been looked at to minimize waste and maximize re-use, alongside using recyclable materials.

For many museums, this is a difficult area to tackle and we have made great strides in improving our carbon footprint.

In our shop, we are doing our best to stock sustainable products. Moving away

Basil Greenwood, manager of Torquay Museum

from single use plastics and exploring, for example, wooden toys, which are both harder wearing and from sustainable sources.

In our café, we are doing our best to use local suppliers, cutting down on food miles.

Now through an initiative funded by Torbay Council we are doing our bit to promote sustainable travel to the museum.

From May 10, we will provide free access for all those who can prove they have used public transport to get to the museum.

Just provide your rail or bus ticket



Use public transport to get to Torquay Museum and get free entry for a year!

Credit: TORQUAY MUSEUM

bought on the day you are travelling to the museum and we will provide you with our standard annual pass to the museum for free!

We are able to provide only a limited number of free tickets, so the sooner you can make it to the museum, the better.

If you want to check before you travel, please telephone first – 01803 293975 – to ensure there are still free tickets available.

Please remember we can only provide free tickets for those with evidence they have travelled by bus or train (or can

show us the bicycle they have travelled on!).

Our brand new Pirates! Fact & Fiction exhibition has just opened, so, along with all our usual galleries, it is worth travelling sustainably to get to us. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Unveiling of plaque was opportunity to present Froude family with copy of original book

This plaque was requested by elected mayor Gordon Oliver, who, at the time, lived not far from where the stainless steel plaque to the famous William Froude had been located.

For some unknown reason in 2010, vandals had removed and then stolen the plaque, which was situated on a wall exactly opposite William's home on Seaway Lane.

His home was the Manor House atop Chelston Hill, which eventually developed into the Manor House Hotel until finally being converted into luxury apartments during the early part of 21st century.

The replacement plaque had to be made exactly as before, being in stainless steel and not stoved blue, but still making it a worthy story for me tell.

We had in fact already unveiled a blue plaque to William Froude in October 2001, when more than 60 Torbay Civic Society members had attended the Manor House.

Mr Froude was a quite amazing engineer, scientist and mathematician and today his story is related quite often to local groups, as being one of my more outstanding famous people ever to live in Torbay.

The stories behind Torbay's blue plaques by **Ian Handford**, chairman of Torbay Civic Society. This week: William Froude

Indeed, on his 200th anniversary, I was fortunate to be invited to an international 200th conference at Gosport held by Qinetiq, still the largest business around today that continues to carry out testing of every major ship launched, including all Royal Naval vessels, regarding propulsion capability and resistance to motion and vibration, plus anchor facilities, as laid down by Mr Froude 150 years ago.

In addressing the conference of scientists from the maritime sectors around the world, I found myself in some pretty distinguished company indeed.

One Japanese delegate approached wanting to shake my hand, being the only person in the room from Mr Froude's homeland, and one who could and did relate the history of Torquay's part in the life of this amazing engineer and scientist.

Accompanied on the visit by my

late and great friend Russell Buckingham, we were privileged to walk the various tank rooms, which were enormous, and laboratories before discovering there was still a large flask of water from Torquay being retained, so that it could be used to bless every British Navy vessel launched, being to them special water from the great man's home town.

The large stainless steel plaque stolen honouring William Froude 1810-1879 states: "In 1870, Froude set up the first admiralty experimental tank in Torquay before constructing a huge tank in 1872 at his Manor House home Chelston Cross. A naval architect, he was commissioned to identify the most efficient hull shape of a ship by the institute of naval architecture."

The plate had been situated in a wall recess on his estate in Seaway Lane and we knew that our new unveiling ceremony would not be



The blue plaque honouring William Froude, who set up Admiralty experimental work resulting in the construction of the world's first ship test tank in Torquay in 1872
Credit: SUPPLIED

possible without closing off the land to traffic.

We also knew the re-unveiling would be a popular public event and so, with the mayor's agreement, we decided to do a formal unveiling at a special ceremony held at the Grand Hotel, Torquay, on Monday, December 23, 2013, before the plaque was taken away to be fixed on its permanent site.

We were lucky on the day to be joined by a first cousin four times removed, Richard Froude, and that gave me the opportunity to formally

hand him a copy of William's original book 'Froude's Law of Comparison', which had been presented to me as chairman of the society the previous year.

This had come to me while undertaking a biography of the great man at a local Probus group, when a retired planning engineer of Devon County Council passed me the book to be retained by the society.

Now at a quite emotive moment, it was formally handed to a member of the Froude family for them to keep in perpetuity.