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THE MUSEUM SOCIETY
President, David J Wills MBA
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 the end of January and the Spring Season, which runs from the beginning of February 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.

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ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

How to find us

Torquay Museum 529 Babacombe Road. TQ1 1HG Tel 01803 293975 www.torquaymuseum.org

WALKING: The Museum is a couple of hundred metres up Babacombe 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. Two hours free parking on some nearby streets.

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January 2020

Tuesday 7th
ROMANS IN DEVON
Owen Fullarton
A closer look at the relationship between Rome and the province of Britannia through the actions of the pre-eminent emperors who had control of the empire.

Wednesday 8th
THE SOMERSET LEVELS
Julian Lovelock
A left-wing journalist and Bolshevik sympathiser, Ransome also worked for the Daily Worker with the author of rezoltically middle-class and even imperialist children’s tales?

Wednesday 15th
BOTANISING THE FOOTPATHS OF TORQUAY
Anne Swithinbank
Torquay is blessed with intriguing walkways and steps, offering a vision of hope.

February

Tuesday 4th
THE LETTERS OF SIR FRANCIS HENRY DRAKE, 1723-1794
Sir Francis Henry, the last Drake Baronet, was MP for Bere Alston and a Dartmoor Ranger. His letters give a fascinating picture of 18th-century life in London and on two great Devon estates, Buckland and Nutwell.

Wednesday 5th
MESSIAIN IN JAPAN:
TRANSCENDING BORDERS IN MUSIC & SPIRITUALITY
Simon Dumbavan
French composer Olivier Messiaen visited Japan between 1961-1963, exploring temples and landscapes. The programme follows in Messiaen’s footsteps and reveals how this fascination for Japan influenced the composer’s music and theology.

Tuesday 11th
THE LETTERS OF SIR FRANCIS HENRY DRAKE, 1723-1794
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Tuesday 9th
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY IN DEVON
Bill Haygarth
Archaeological aerial surveys have made a major contribution to the study of Devon’s past. Bill will consider its origins, and explore its application in Devon from the 1950s onwards.

Tuesday 16th
MAYFLOWER 2
John Slowther
In the 1950s Upham’s shipyard in Brixham built their most remarkable ship - a detailed and accurate reproduction of the Mayflower, which then voyaged under sail to America. The project was complicated by there being virtually no records of the original vessel.

April

Tuesday 7th
PRINCIPLES OF GARDEN DESIGN
Jacobs and Felix Mitchell
Garden Designer. Jacob explains the basic principles of gardening to help create beautiful and practical spaces.

Wednesday 8th
EARLY PHOTOGRAPHY AND PLYMOUTH PART TWO: PORTO, TOWARDS AND OTHERWISE
Nigel overturn
A look at the growth and output of the Victorian studio photographer, between c1860 and c1880. Nigel will explore the growing popularity and evolution of photography, with a particular focus on some of the leading regional and visiting photographers of Torquay and Devon who were active in the period.

Tuesday 14th
WINARETTA SINGER: FROM PAIGNTON TO PARIS
Chris Nichols
The extraordinary story of the prince, painter, musician, philanthropist, and close personal friend of many of the Twentieth Century’s greatest artists.

Tuesday 15th
VICTORIAN TORQUAY
John Howes
An insight into Torquay’s extraordinary development during the Victorian era and its appeal to the literary spectrum of Society.