

TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY

President, David J Wills MABP

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. 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.

Throughout the summer months the Society hosts informal gatherings – *conversazione* – at which Members enjoy shorts 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 activities and opportunities to become active within the Society. As a Member you are entitled to free admission to all of the Public Lectures and Torquay Museum itself. You will also be entitled to join a wide variety of other Society groups, including Geology, Archaeology and Astronomy, Local History, Zoology and Ornithology, Botany, Literature and the Arts, and the Friday Rambles Group.

The 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



Humanities
David Wills



Literature & Arts
Ken Beevers



Local History
Christine Meredith



Natural History
Bill Hudson



Science
David Wills



Lecture Reception
Ann Shaw

To identify who has organised a lecture match the colour codes above with the colour-coded lecture information inside. The organisers welcome your comments, criticisms 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. Two hours free parking on some nearby streets.

THE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

A number of our lectures conclude with book-signings in the Museum Gift Shop. The shop carries books and many other items relating to current exhibitions and local history. We also sell an array of Agatha Christie merchandise, including DVDs, rare and out-of-print editions of her novels, and high-quality photographs taken from the Museum's 'Mistress of Crime' archive.

THE MUSEUM CAFÉ

Tea, coffee and biscuits available before lectures.

ACCESS

There are lifts, disabled facilities and step-free access throughout the Museum.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES

membership@torquaymuseum.org



TORQUAY
MUSEUM



Torquay Museum Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Registered Charity Number 1161126.

TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY PUBLIC LECTURES JANUARY - APRIL 2022



"A Common Seahorse"

See inside: *Seahorses Breeding in Captivity*,
30th March

Every Tuesday and Wednesday
10.45am - 12 noon

Torquay Museum Society Members
Free of Charge
Non-members £5, payable on the door

JANUARY 2022

TUESDAY 11th

3,000 YEARS OF HISTORY FROM THE SEA

Ron Howell

The story of divers from the South West Maritime Archaeological Group who have spent the last 30 years searching the Erme Estuary and the waters around Salcombe, discovering wrecks from the Bronze Age through to the 20th century, rewriting the maritime history of the world.

WEDNESDAY 12th

URBAN PEREGRINES

Nick Dixon

An exploration of the fastest creature on the planet, the Peregrine Falcon, and its adaption to life in the urban environment, based on 25 years of studying these magnificent birds.

TUESDAY 18th

DARTMOOR PIXIES

Phil Badcott

In times past, Dartmoor was considered to be the haunt of the Pixies. Using stories and poems from the 19th century, the talk explores the ancient beliefs about Pixies, where they lived, their antics and the terror or joy caused to the people of Dartmoor in years gone by.

WEDNESDAY 19th

THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

Mark Bailey

The origin and work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in ensuring permanent commemoration of the Commonwealth war dead of the First and Second World Wars.

TUESDAY 25th

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE – ORAL HISTORY THROUGH TRADITIONAL FOLK SONG

Jim Causley

Musician and enthusiast of traditional English folk song, Jim will share this music and the fascinating oral history it holds as an alternative to conventional history.

WEDNESDAY 26th

DEVON HISTORICAL AND HYSTERICAL

Maggie Duffy

Devon in song (some traditional some self-penned), poetry, dialect and anecdotes.

FEBRUARY

TUESDAY 1st

CREATING A SECRET GARDEN

Jacquie Felix-Mitchell

Garden Designer Jacquie Felix – Mitchell of Oasis Garden

Design, discusses how to create a secret space in part of an existing garden, or make a small courtyard garden your own private oasis.

WEDNESDAY 2nd

GHOSTS AND THE DEVON LANDSCAPE

Keith Wallis

An exploration of a range of ghost stories from across the county, some of them famous and others more obscure. Delving into their ties with the local landscape and their significance within the community.

TUESDAY 8th

MARVELLOUS MARBLE DEVONSHIRE MARBLE

Colin Vosper

This lively and well-illustrated talk is a reminder of a once vibrant Devonshire marble industry. The talk includes the venues of some of the best examples, locally and nationwide, of the use of the marble and the superb skills of the local quarrymen and craftsmen.

WEDNESDAY 9th

DECADENCE AND DECEIT - DEVON'S LITERARY SCANDALS

Emma Seaman

This local writer explores some of the dark and more intriguing stories behind local literary legends.

TUESDAY 15th

THE DRINKING FOUNTAINS OF TORQUAY

David Hinchliffe

Scattered around Torquay are our remaining drinking fountains. Why are they there and what are their stories?

WEDNESDAY 16th

WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

John Walters

From dancing adders to leaping salmon, and flying admirals.

TUESDAY 22nd

BRINGING FILMS TO LIFE IN THE SOUTH WEST

John Tomkins

The Director of the English Riviera Film Festival talks about its seven year journey, and the growing independent film-making scene in Devon and beyond.

WEDNESDAY 23rd

SHALDON AND LABRADOR BAY

Colin Vosper

A delightfully illustrated stroll from the Old Toll House beside the Teign, through the village of Shaldon, focusing on some of the interesting, lesser known historical features and characters. Through the Smugglers' Tunnel and on further to reveal the much forgotten past.

MARCH

TUESDAY 1st

TEIGNMOUTH CEMETERY

Neil Howell

A brief history of Teignmouth Old Cemetery with the unexpected stories of some of the people buried there.

WEDNESDAY 2nd

SURNAMES IN DEVON AND BEYOND

Robert Hesketh

Like place names, surnames are an integral part of our county's and nation's heritage. Indeed, many are local place names too. There are also occupational names, family names, and many nicknames, some quite outrageous.

TUESDAY 8th

WILD AND ANCIENT ORKNEY

Peter Exley

Orkney is justifiably famous for an incredibly rich archaeology, boasting some of the oldest and best preserved ancient sites in Europe. But it is also incredibly rich in wildlife, from seabird cities and rare hen harriers, to the diminutive and beautiful endemic Scottish primrose.

WEDNESDAY 9th

TOM COBLEY AND WIDECOMBE FAIR

Todd Gray

A fascinating exploration of the origins of this much-loved traditional song.

TUESDAY 15th

LEICESTER'S SPACE ROCKETS

Roger Cooper

The speaker recalls a career in X-Ray Astronomy research with experiments carried into space by the British Skylark Rocket during the early days of Space Exploration. The design & build of the instruments and then launched into space from Woomera (Australia) and other rocket ranges.

WEDNESDAY 16th

TORQUAY POTTERY

Lewis Bond

How it all started – a history of the different potteries and descriptions of the pots that Lewis will bring to the talk.

TUESDAY 22nd

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JOHN HAWLEY OF DARTMOUTH

Gail Ham

Businessman and benefactor, naval commander and pirate – John Hawley of Dartmouth embodied the contradictions of his age.

WEDNESDAY 23rd

THE LOWER OTTER RESTORATION PROJECT

Sam Bridgewater

Our coastal communities are under threat from climate change. The Lower Otter Restoration Project seeks to show how adaptation to rising sea levels is possible, and what the benefits and risks of such action are for the landscape, wildlife and local communities.

TUESDAY 29th

SPACE FOR INSPIRATION

David Norman

A brief look backwards at some of the inspirational events in space over the last year. And forward to some yet to come in the near future.

WEDNESDAY 30th

SEAHORSES BREEDING IN CAPTIVITY

Tim Haywood

A gentle introduction to the conservation work of OS Aquatics (Aquatic Study and Breeding Centre), using the common seahorse as the example species.

APRIL

TUESDAY 5th

FOURACRE AND SON - STAINED GLASS MERCHANTS OF PLYMOUTH

Graham Naylor

A history of this renowned West Country stained glass studio.

WEDNESDAY 6th

INTRODUCTION TO DARTMOOR GEOLOGY

Josephine Collingwood

An exploration of the remarkable geology of one of Britain's most dramatic landscapes.

TUESDAY 12th

MY BUTTERFLY MEMORIES AT HOME AND ABROAD

Bill Hudson

Naturalist Bill Hudson shares his butterfly encounters and beautiful photographs.

WEDNESDAY 13th

THE MUSIC INDUSTRY - FROM LIVERPOOL TO HAMBURG

Graham Sclater

Exeter based Graham Sclater has been involved in the music industry for more than fifty years, as a professional musician, songwriter, music publisher, manager and record producer. He was one of the few south-west-based musicians to have travelled to Hamburg to live and work as a professional musician during the sixties.