

TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1161126

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2015-03-31

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Summerland Cottage
48 Trumlands Road
St Marychurch
Torquay
Devon
TQ1 4RE

Phone 01803326383

Email membership@torquaymuseum.org

Website <http://www.torquaymuseum.org/homepage>

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION, IN SUCH WAYS AS THE TRUSTEES SEE FIT, INCLUDING BY:(1) PROMOTING THE STUDY OF THE NATURAL SCIENCES AND HUMAN HISTORY, PARTICULARLY RELATING TO DEVON;(2)SUPPORTING TORQUAY MUSEUM PROVIDED THAT IT IS OPERATED FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT.

Activities: Museum education, local history, natural history, lecture programme, specialist interest groups ranging from Astronomy to Zoology, community based projects and social and fundraising events.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Torbay

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-09-30	£9,355	£8,753	-	-
2024-09-30	£12,342	£11,731	-	-
2023-09-30	£11,757	£10,638	-	-
2022-09-30	£12,913	£12,638	-	-
2021-09-30	£8,333	£9,392	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Christine Meredith		2018-05-08
David Geoffrey Norman		2021-04-27
David J Wills		2016-05-17
Maggi Douglas-Dunbar		2018-05-08
Simon Gerard Crabtree		2021-04-27
Suzanne Mary Thomas		2024-03-13

TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1161126

Accounts



TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY CIO

*~Established in 1844 as the Torquay Natural History
Society~*

529 Babbacombe Road
TORQUAY
TQ1 1HG

01803 293975

E-mail: membership@torquaymuseum.org

TRUSTEES' REPORT for 2024/2025 AGM on 10 DECEMBER 2025

SOCIETY STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT 2024/2025

David Norman (President)

David J Wills (Vice-President)

Simon Crabtree (Treasurer)

Maggi Douglas-Dunbar (Secretary)

Christine Meredith (Trustee)

Suzanne Thomas (Trustee)

Andrew Underhay (Trustee)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Torquay Museum Society (TMS, formerly *Torquay Natural History Society*) is one of the oldest learned societies in the United Kingdom and can claim continuous existence since 1844. We are a distinct entity from Torquay Museum (itself represented under the Torbay Museums Trust, TMT) but remain a partner organization with a separate constitution. Since registration in March 2015, Torquay Museum Society has been granted the status of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), as defined and conferred by the Charity Commission.

Our Reserves Policy is available to all members and is reviewed annually. It serves to strengthen our resilience against reductions in income and considers our contractual liabilities and potential financial threats. For the year ending 30 September 2025, the value of reserves the trustees have agreed to keep (which may encompass a number of months fixed costs) is £10,000.

Our Trustees currently represent around one hundred and seventy-five members. We continue to take this responsibility very seriously and staunchly represent our Membership and its interests to the best of our expertise.

As a charitable organisation we are fully dedicated and committed to promoting a broad understanding of history, natural environment and cultural heritage. Our primary geographic focus is upon Devon within the UK, but it also encompasses the ever-more highly interrelated world far beyond. To this end we organise an extensive Annual Lecture Programme and provide regular voluntary support and financial help towards the work of the Museum itself.

Preparation of the main lecture programme (from October to April) is achieved by a purely volunteer-based system, with considerable ongoing benefit to our operational costs. These lectures attract both high-profile external speakers and local personalities with in-depth and often unique regional knowledge. They are consistently well-attended, often approaching full capacity of the Pengelly Theatre.

Our programme plan has included Saturday afternoon activity alongside the more traditional Tuesday and Wednesday morning events. This is aimed at widening the lecture attendance demographic to include more families and working individuals not normally able to attend our weekday lectures. We are also giving opportunities for member feedback at open forum sessions and will be conducting occasional guided tours of the museum storeroom.

As ever, we have run Tuesday morning *Conversazione* (conversation) sessions during the April-September summer months, involving more informal and interactive talks and discussion around a wide variety of topics. *Conversazione* complements our lecture programme and continues a tradition dating back to our early days as a learned society. Held primarily in the upstairs Forbes-Julian committee room, they give members an informal opportunity to socialize and discuss topics of interest. These often turn into more formal talks given in Pengelly within a future lecture programme.

Alongside its learned lecture role, Torquay Museum Society is also dedicated to the financial and operational support of the Museum itself, in return for the use of its facilities. The primary asset to which we have extensive (free!) access outside the summer exhibition months is the excellent Pengelly lecture theatre. As a valuable asset of the museum for both exhibitions and events, maximum utilization of Pengelly for income-generation throughout each year is paramount.

Regarding our Annual Accounts, 2024/2025 was quite a challenging year for TMS. Our income fell by around 25% due in no small measure to the disappointing decision of a sizeable proportion of the Rambles Section to "go it alone" as a rambling group and to not renew their TMS memberships.

Lecture income also fell, partly because our first six weeks of Winter 2024 lectures could not be held in our splendid Pengelly Lecture Theatre due to an extended Summer 2024 exhibition, moving instead to the Home (formerly Riviera Life) Church hall next door. Although that venue worked reasonably well, the church hall's smaller capacity required ticketed entry to limit attendees. The audio and video projection facilities there performed adequately but cannot be expected to compete with those in Pengelly. We also incurred the extra cost of hall hire. Our thanks go to the Home Church for their excellent support during our off-site lectures and, of course, to all members for putting up with the inconvenience.

Happily, we were able to control our costs and even registered a small surplus at year end. A challenging year, but a manageable one. We do run the danger though of facing potentially existential problems if we are not able to maintain and build membership levels, and develop a more sustainable operating model for TMS.

Sadly, we also have to report that in recent (late 2025) months three of our long-standing members have passed away. Joan Nott, Joan Deeley and Mary Drummond are remembered with fondness and respect, all three having played differing but significant parts in the life of TMS. They will be very deeply missed.

The Society is custodian of an extensive and unique library and book collection for our members. This is also a key resource for specialist researchers from far afield, as well as for local people interested in exploring aspects of our local heritage. We had earlier commenced further work around the detailed cataloguing of the book collection, based upon initial work performed a few years ago, and other activities related to preserving and restoring the physical condition of some items.

However, that early work revealed a major issue around the presence of mould on the Local Studies library books and shelving. Having now obtained detailed professional advice as to the necessary remedial action (which will cost upward of £20k to fully treat!), applications regarding possible grant funding for this have been undertaken with the much appreciated assistance of Torquay Museum CEO, Alexandra Hemming. Although yet to be confirmed, we are currently hopeful that work on addressing the mould issues may commence within the first half of 2026.

The Torquay Museum Society continues to be widely recognized as a cultural hub, a learned society and an institution with a substantial pedigree in multiple disciplines. Some of these fields are reflected in the structure of the lecture programme, with trustees and other members covering arrangements for subjects best suited to their skills, knowledge and interests. The lecture programme is *the*

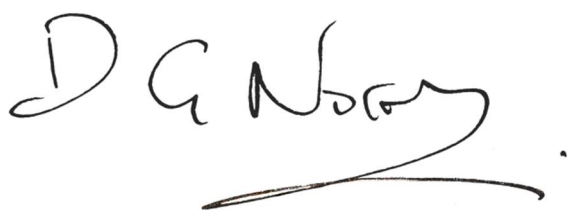
single most important activity of the Society, so we always welcome the assistance of members in this. We also invite the active participation of members in the creation and operation of groups dedicated to diverse areas of study.

The operational work of Torquay Museum Society is largely but far from exclusively driven by its board of Trustees. We invite any members who wish to actively support this very rewarding work to consider forwarding themselves for service as Trustees, for which a few additional places are currently possible. We thank Suzanne Thomas for completing her first full year on the trustee team, charged with the renewed preparation of a quarterly newsletter. Trustee Maggi Douglas-Dunbar has progressed the major task of preparing the %Transactions+reports suspended by Covid, with the 2021/2022 issue now published.

We build on the historic work of William Pengelly, our most famous past member and a co-founder, in 1844, of the original Torquay Natural History Society (TNHS) from which the TMS draws its foundation. Pengelly led pioneering excavations at Kents Cavern between 1865 and 1880. Torquay Museum now holds these scientifically and culturally invaluable finds as an outstanding Designated Status Collection. As its direct descendent, the Torquay Museum Society is privileged indeed to uphold the traditions and precepts of the TNHS.

Torquay Museum Society stands ready to support Torquay Museum itself as we strive together to face the challenges and take the opportunities open to us in the difficult conditions of recent years. Ongoing societal changes demand our vigilance in continuing to meet the requirements of our members, while staying true to the values imbued since our foundation. The Society looks forward to the future with determination to adapt to changing times where necessary and to continue the excellent work of more than 180 years past.

On behalf of TMS Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D G Norman', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

David Geoffrey Norman

President, Torquay Museum Society

Dated: 23 November 2025

Torquay Museum Society – 1161126**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT****YEAR TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2025****RECEIPTS**

	30/09/2025	30/09/2024
Membership Subscriptions	5,500	7,120
Lecture Fee Income	2,984	4,604
Fund Raising Income	0	118
Donations	114	500
Misc. Income	<u>757</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Income	<u>9,355</u>	<u>12,342</u>

PAYMENTS

Staff Costs	0	0
Speaker Costs	2,577	3,144
Lecture Promotion Costs	704	834
Payments to Support TMT	430	0
“Transactions” Costs	298	0
TMS Projects	582	1,380
Equipment	0	300
Membership Mailing Costs	69	77
Rental Payment to TMT (% of Subs)	1,430	1,765
Programme Printing Costs	404	1,433
Newsletter Costs	0	0
Photo-copying etc Costs	65	17
Phone/Internet Costs	0	0
Publications	0	70
Insurance	1,768	1,744
Accountant’s Fees	312	600
Donation	0	250
Miscellaneous	<u>114</u>	<u>118</u>
Total Payments	<u>8,753</u>	<u>11,731</u>

Surplus/Deficit of Receipts over Payments**602****611**

Bank and Cash Brought Forward

13,232**12,621**

Bank and Cash Carried Forward

13,834**13,232**

Torquay Museum Society-1161126
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER 2025

	30 September 2025	30 September 2024
	£	£
Cash Funds		
Cash at bank	13,809	13,207
Cash in hand	25	25
	13,834	13,232
Other Assets		
Heritage assets (books)	25,000	25,000
Notes:		
<i>Total membership numbers</i>		
Annual members	112	128
Life members	63	65
	175	193

The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at the year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on the assets of the CIO.

**Approved by the Trustees on 30 September 2025,
and signed on their behalf by Simon Crabtree, TMS Treasurer**

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Torquay Museum Society Charity (CIO) number 1161126

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Torquay Museum Society for the period ended 30th September 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) The accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Ian Barrett FCA FCIE
Barretts Chartered Accountants and Chartered Tax Advisers
22 Union Street
Newton Abbot TQ12 2JS

Dated: 4th December 2025

TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1161126

Accounts



TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY CIO

~Established in 1844 as the Torquay Natural History Society~

529 Babbacombe Road
TORQUAY
TQ1 1HG

01803 293975

E-mail: membership@torquaymuseum.org

TRUSTEES' REPORT for 2023/2024 AGM on 4th DECEMBER 2024

SOCIETY STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT 2023/2024

David Norman (President)

David J Wills (Vice-President)

Simon Crabtree (Treasurer)

Maggi Douglas-Dunbar (Secretary)

Christine Meredith (Trustee)

Ann Shaw (Trustee)

Suzanne Thomas (Trustee)

Andrew Underhay (Trustee)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Torquay Museum Society (formerly *Torquay Natural History Society*) is one of the oldest learned societies in the United Kingdom and can claim continuous existence since 1844. We are now approaching our ninth year as a distinct entity from Torquay Museum, but remain a partner organization with a separate constitution.

Since registration in March 2015 we have been granted the status of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), as defined and conferred by the Charity Commission.

Our Reserves Policy is available to all members and is reviewed annually. It serves to strengthen our resilience against reductions in income and considers our contractual liabilities and potential financial threats. Presently, the value of reserves the trustees have agreed to keep (which may encompass a number of months fixed costs) is £10,000.

Our Trustees currently represent around two hundred members. We continue to take this responsibility very seriously and staunchly represent our Membership and its interests to the best of our expertise.

As a charitable organisation we are fully dedicated and committed to promoting a broad understanding of history, natural environment and cultural heritage. Our primary geographic focus is upon Devon within the UK, but it also encompasses the ever-more highly interrelated world far beyond. To this end we organise an extensive Annual Lecture Programme and provide regular voluntary support and financial help towards the work of the Museum itself.

Preparation of the main lecture programme (nominally from October to April) had, in previous years, required paid-for support from employed museum staff. However, we have now fully transitioned to a purely volunteer-based system, with considerable ongoing benefit to our operational costs. These lectures attract both high-profile external speakers and local personalities with in-depth and often unique regional knowledge. They are generally well-attended and have often approached full capacity. Some have also been broadcast live on zoom, internationally on occasion.

Our future programme plan continues the recent change to include some Saturday afternoon lectures alongside the more 'traditional' Tuesday and Wednesday morning events. This is aimed at widening the lecture attendance demographic to include more families and working individuals not normally able to attend our weekday lectures. We are also giving opportunities for member feedback at 'open forum' sessions and will be conducting occasional guided tours of the museum storeroom.

As ever, we have run Tuesday morning 'Conversazione' sessions during the April-September 'summer' months, involving more informal and interactive talks and discussion around a wide variety of topics. Conversazioni ('conversations') complement our lecture programme and continue a tradition dating back to our early days as a learned society. Held primarily in the upstairs Forbes-Julian committee room, they give members an informal opportunity to socialize and discuss topics of interest. These often turn into more formal talks given in Pengelly within a future lecture programme.

Alongside its 'learned' lecture role, Torquay Museum Society is also dedicated to the financial and operational support of the Museum itself, in return for the use of its facilities. The primary asset to which we have extensive access outside the summer 'exhibition' months is the excellent Pengelly lecture theatre. As a valuable asset of the museum for both exhibitions and events, maximum utilization of Pengelly for income-generation throughout each year is paramount.

The society has again contributed directly to that efficient use of Pengelly for an extended Summer 2024 exhibition by switching the hosting of our first six weeks of *Winter 2024* lectures to the Home (formerly Riviera Life) Church's hall next door. That venue works reasonably well, although the church hall's smaller capacity requires ticketed entry to limit attendee numbers. The audio and video projection facilities also perform adequately, but cannot be expected to compete with those in Pengelly. We also incur the extra cost of hall hire. Our Thanks go to the Home Church for their excellent support during our 'off-site' lectures and, of course, to all members for putting up with the inconvenience of having to walk round.

To continue supporting the museum, we may have the occasional need for some 'flexibility' in our future planning .. but will always ensure that the membership continues to get its excellent value for money over the course of the lecture programme.

The Society is custodian of an extensive and unique library and book collection for our members. This is also a key resource for specialist researchers from far afield, as well as for local people interested in exploring aspects of our local heritage. We had earlier commenced further work around the detailed cataloguing of the book collection, based upon initial work performed a few years ago, and other activities related to preserving and restoring the physical condition of some items.

However, that early work revealed a major issue around the presence of mould on the Local Studies library books and shelving. We have subsequently obtained detailed professional advice as to the necessary remedial action (which may cost upward of £20k to fully treat!). Enquiries regarding possible grant funding for this are being undertaken.

The Torquay Museum Society is widely recognized as a cultural hub, a learned society and an institution with a substantial pedigree in multiple disciplines. Some of these fields are reflected in the structure of the annual lecture programme, with trustees each covering arrangements for subjects best suited to their skills, knowledge and interests. We warmly welcome the active participation of members in the creation and operation of groups dedicated to diverse areas of study.

The operational work of the Torquay Museum Society is largely driven by its board of Trustees. We invite any members who wish to actively support this very rewarding work to consider forwarding themselves for service as Trustees, for which a few additional places are currently possible. We have warmly welcomed Suzanne Thomas to the trustee team this year, entrusting her with the renewed preparation of a quarterly newsletter. Trustee Maggi Douglas-Dunbar has taken on the not inconsiderable role of preparing the missing annual "Transactions" reports stalled by Covid. Finally, our deepest thanks go to trustee Ann Shaw, who is stepping down at this AGM but will continue her vital work at the 'front of house' prior to our lecture meetings.

We build on the historic work of William Pengelly, our most famous past member and a co-founder, in 1844, of the original Torquay Natural History Society (TNHS) from which the TMS draws its foundation. Pengelly led pioneering excavations at Kents Cavern between 1865 and 1880. Torquay Museum now holds these scientifically and culturally invaluable finds as an outstanding Designated Status Collection. As its direct descendent, the TMS is privileged to uphold the traditions and precepts of the TNHS.

Torquay Museum Society stands ready to support the Torquay Museum itself as we strive together to face the challenges and take the opportunities open to us in the difficult conditions of the 'post-COVID' period. Recent and ongoing societal changes demand our vigilance in continuing to meet the requirements of our members while staying true to the values imbued since our foundation. The Society looks forward to the future with determination to adapt to changing times where necessary and to continue the excellent work of the past 180 years.

On behalf of TMS Trustees



**David Geoffrey Norman
President, Torquay Museum Society**

Dated: 12th November 2024

Torquay Museum Society – 1161126**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT****YEAR TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2024**

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	30/09/2024	30/09/2023
Membership Subscriptions	7,120	7,060
Lecture Fee Income	4,604	4,348
Fund Raising Income	118	90
Donations	500	90
Misc. Income	<u>0</u>	<u>169</u>
Total Income	<u>12,342</u>	<u>11,757</u>
<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
Staff Costs	0	0
Speaker Costs	3,144	2,868
Lecture Promotion Costs	834	2,900
Payments to Support TMT	0	0
“Transactions” Costs	0	0
TMS Projects	1,380	474
Equipment	300	108
Membership Mailing Costs	77	49
Rental Payment to TMT (% of Subs)	1,765	1,725
Programme Printing Costs	1,433	531
Newsletter Costs	0	0
Photo-copying etc Costs	17	18
Phone/Internet Costs	0	41
Publications	70	50
Insurance	1,744	1,695
Accountant’s Fees	600	0
Donation	250	0
Miscellaneous	<u>118</u>	<u>180</u>
Total Payments	<u>11,731</u>	<u>10,638</u>
Surplus/Deficit of Receipts over Payments	<u>611</u>	<u>1,119</u>
Bank and Cash Brought Forward	12,621	11,502
Bank and Cash Carried Forward	13,232	12,621

Torquay Museum Society-1161126
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER 2024

	30 September 2024	30 September 2023
	£	£
Cash Funds		
Cash at bank	13,207	12,596
Cash in hand	25	25
	13,232	12,621
Other Assets		
Heritage assets (books)	25,000	25,000

Notes:

Total membership numbers

Annual members	128	142
Life members	65	66
	193	208

The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at the year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on the assets of the CIO.

Approved by the Trustees on 8 October 2024 and signed on their behalf by
 Simon Crabtree, TMS Treasurer

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Torquay Museum Society
Charity (CIO) number 1161126**

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Responsibilities and basis of report

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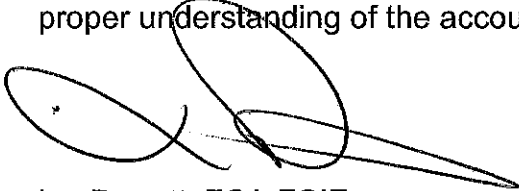
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Ian Barrett FCA FCIE
Barretts Chartered Accountants and Chartered Tax Advisers
22 Union Street
Newton Abbot TQ12 2JS

Dated: 19th November 2024

TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1161126

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TRUSTEES' REPORT for 2022/2023 AGM on 5 DECEMBER 2023

SOCIETY STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT 2022/2023

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David J Wills (Vice-President)

Simon Crabtree (Treasurer)

Maggi Douglas-Dunbar (Secretary)

Christine Meredith (Trustee)

Ann Shaw (Trustee)

Andrew Underhay (Trustee)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Past preparation of the main lecture programme (nominally from October to April) has required paid-for support from employed museum staff. However, we are now well into a transition to a purely volunteer-based system, with considerable ongoing benefit to our operational costs. These lectures attract both high-profile external speakers and local personalities with in-depth and often unique regional knowledge. They are generally well-attended and have often approached full capacity. Some have also been broadcast live on zoom, internationally on occasion.

Our future programme plan has been restructured slightly to include some Saturday afternoon lectures alongside the more 'traditional' Tuesday and Wednesday morning events. This is aimed at widening the lecture attendance demographic to include more families and working individuals not normally able to attend our weekday lectures. We are also giving opportunities for member feedback at 'open forum' sessions and will be conducting occasional guided tours of the museum storeroom.

For the first time, we are now able to take payments for both subscription and lecture-attendance fees at the front desk using credit or debit cards and phone apps. These methods are increasingly being preferred over cash.

As always, we have continued to offer Tuesday morning 'Conversazione' sessions during the April-September 'summer' months. These involve more informal and interactive talks and discussion around a wide variety of topics. Conversazioni (conversations) complement our lecture programme and continue a tradition dating back to our early days as a learned society. Held on the ground floor in Local Studies or the upstairs Forbes-Julian committee room, they give members an informal opportunity to socialize and discuss topics of interest. These often turn into more formal talks given in Pengelly within a future lecture programme.

Alongside its 'learned' lecture role, Torquay Museum Society is also dedicated to the financial and operational support of the Museum itself, in return for the use of its facilities. The primary asset to which we have extensive (and free!) access outside the summer 'exhibition' months is the excellent Pengelly lecture theatre. As a valuable asset of the museum for both exhibitions and events, maximum utilization of Pengelly for income-generation throughout each year is paramount.

The society contributed directly to that efficient use of Pengelly this year by switching the hosting of our final month of lectures to the Riviera Life Church's hall next door. That worked reasonably well, though the RLC hall's slightly smaller capacity did cause a problem for the first talk there, when several hopeful attendees had to be turned away! The audio and video projection facilities also worked well, but could not really be expected to compete with those in Pengelly. We also incurred some extra costs with hall hire, free coffees and teas. Our Thanks go to the Riviera Life Church for their great support during our 'off-site' lectures and, of course, to all members for putting up with the inconvenience of having to walk round.

That switch of venue was specifically arranged to enable the museum to host an additional 'Easter Exhibition' in Pengelly, bringing in considerable additional income. So, to continue supporting the museum, we may have the occasional need for some 'flexibility' in our future planning .. but will always ensure that the membership continues to get its excellent value for money over the course of the lecture programme.

The Society is custodian of an extensive and unique library and book collection for our members. This is also a key resource for specialist researchers from far afield, as well as for local people interested in exploring aspects of our local heritage. We have commenced further work around the detailed cataloguing of the book collection based upon initial work performed a few years ago, and other activities related to preserving and restoring the physical condition of some items.

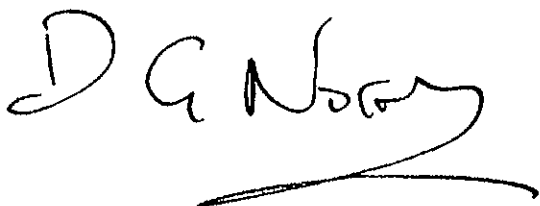
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The operational work of the Torquay Museum Society is largely driven by its board of Trustees. We invite any members who wish to actively support this very rewarding work to consider forwarding themselves for service as Trustees, for which a few additional places are currently possible.

We build on the historic work of William Pengelly, our most famous past member and a co-founder, in 1844, of the original Torquay Natural History Society (TNHS) from which the TMS draws its foundation. Pengelly led pioneering excavations at Kents Cavern between 1865 and 1880. Torquay Museum now holds these scientifically and culturally invaluable finds as an outstanding Designated Status Collection. As its direct descendent, the TMS is privileged to uphold the traditions and precepts of the TNHS.

Torquay Museum Society stands ready to support the Torquay Museum itself as we strive together to face the challenges and take the opportunities open to us in the difficult conditions of the 'post-COVID' period. Recent and ongoing societal changes demand our vigilance in continuing to meet the requirements of our members while staying true to the values imbued since our foundation. The Society looks forward to the future with determination to adapt to changing times where necessary and to continue the excellent work of more than 175 years past.

On behalf of TMS Trustees



David Geoffrey Norman

President, Torquay Museum Society

Dated: 19th November 2023

Torquay Museum Society – 1161126**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT****YEAR TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023**

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	30/09/2023	30/09/2022
Membership Subscriptions	7,060	9,230
Lecture Fee Income	4,348	2,506
Fund Raising Income	90	0
Donations	90	1,130
Misc. Income	<u>169</u>	<u>48</u>
Total Income	<u>11,757</u>	<u>12,913</u>
 <u>PAYMENTS</u>		
Staff Costs	0	1,545
Speaker Costs	2,868	2,317
Lecture Promotion Costs	2,900	1,200
Payments to Support TMT	0	694
“Transactions” Costs	0	0
TMS Projects	474	1,018
Equipment	108	629
Membership Mailing Costs	49	86
Rental Payment to TMT (% of Subs)	1,725	1,890
Programme Printing Costs	531	934
Newsletter Costs	0	0
Photo-copying etc Costs	18	30
Phone/Internet Costs	41	0
Publications	50	60
Insurance	1,695	1,542
Accountant’s Fees	0	660
Donation	0	17
Miscellaneous	<u>180</u>	<u>17</u>
Total Payments	<u>10,638</u>	<u>12,638</u>
Surplus/Deficit of Receipts over Payments	<u>1,119</u>	<u>276</u>
Bank and Cash Brought Forward	11,502	11,226
Bank and Cash Carried Forward	12,621	11,502

Torquay Museum Society-1161126
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER 2023

	30September2023	30September2022
	£	£
CashFunds		
Cash at bank	12,596	11,477
Cash in hand	25	25
	12,621	11,502
OtherAssets		
Heritage assets(books)	25,000	25,000
 Notes:		
<i>Total membership numbers</i>		
Annual members	142	145
Life members	66	66
	208	211

The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at the year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on the assets of the CIO.

Approved by the Trustees on 24 October 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Simon Crabtree, TMS Treasurer



**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Torquay Museum Society
Charity (CIO) number 1161126**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Torquay Museum Society for the period ended 30th September 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) The accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Ian Barrett FCA FCIE
Barretts Chartered Accountants and Chartered Tax Advisers
22 Union Street
Newton Abbot TQ12 2JS

Dated: 20th November 2023

TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1161126

Accounts



TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY CIO

~Established in 1844 as the Torquay Natural History Society~

529 Babbacombe Road
TORQUAY
TQ1 1HG

01803 293975

E-mail: membership@torquaymuseum.org

TRUSTEES' REPORT for 2022 AGM on 14 December 2022

SOCIETY STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT 2021/22

David Wills (President)

Christine Meredith (Vice-President)

Simon Crabtree (Treasurer)

Maggi Douglas-Dunbar (Secretary)

Ann Shaw (Trustee)

Andrew Underhay (Trustee)

David Norman (Trustee)

Torquay Museum Society (formerly *Torquay Natural History Society*) continues to remain one of the oldest learned societies in the United Kingdom and can claim continuous existence since 1844. We are a distinct entity from Torquay Museum but remain a partner organisation with a separate constitution.

Since registration on 31/03/15 we have been granted the status of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) as defined and conferred by the Charity Commission.

Our Reserves Policy is available to all members and reviewed on an annual basis. It serves to strengthen our resilience against drops in income and considering our contractual liabilities and potential financial threats. Presently the amount of reserves that the trustees have agreed to keep (which may encompass a number of months fixed costs) is £6,800.

At the moment our Trustees represent around two hundred members. We continue to take this responsibility very seriously and staunchly represent our Membership and its interests to the best of our expertise.

We are a charitable organisation dedicated and committed to promoting a wider understanding of the history, natural environment and cultural heritage of Devon. To this end we organise an Annual Lecture Programme and provide voluntary support and financial help towards the work of the Museum.

Additionally, we are custodians of a unique library and book collection for our members which is also a key resource for specialist researchers internationally as well as for local people interested in exploring aspects of our local heritage.

We continue to be widely recognised as a cultural hub, a learned society and an institution with a substantial pedigree in the fields of Archaeology, Geology and Astronomy, Literature and Arts, Humanities, Science, Local History, Natural History: Botany and Horticulture, Zoology and Ornithology.

We build on the work of William Pengelly, our most famous past member, synonymous with Torquay Museum, a co-founder of the institution in 1874 in its earlier incarnation as Torquay Natural History Society in 1844. He also led pioneering excavations at Kents Cavern between 1865 and 1880. Now Torquay Museum holds the finds as an outstanding Designated Status Collection. The Society was once a pioneer in the early days of field archaeology and research and has credentials of which many institutions would be justifiably jealous.

Torquay Museum Society consistently goes from strength to strength with new initiatives and new platforms. The President, and Trustees, have been instrumental in transforming the society by building on strong foundations to deliver an exceptional lecture programme, new films and social media. We also continue to provide a unique and valuable research archive and library.

We remain an innovative, expansive and explorative institution drawing on the past to shape our future. We have founded a pioneering Exploration, Education and Field Archaeology Research named the "Community Archaeology & Science Hub". Its mission is to inspire our local community through education, research and fieldwork to explore the archaeology, history and environment of Torbay and further afield. We are also revisiting our rich cultural roots by the establishment of our "West Country History, Mystery and Folklore Unit". Each season we hold a number of themed talks from local experts and it has become a solid fixture in the Society's lectures, potential new conferences, documentaries, museum events and social media.

Historically our Lectures attract both high profile speakers and local personalities and included a diverse range of outstanding orators as well. They are consistently well attended and reach maximum capacity on a number of occasions. We are attracting non-members and a significant number have become members of our society and we hope to continue with that momentum into the future.

Our summer weekly 'Conversazione' (or conversations) complement our lecture programme. Conversaciones are a tradition which goes back to the beginning of our organisation as a learned society. These lecturettes are an informal way to give members an opportunity to socialise and discuss topics of mutual interest or completely unique ones. In the past some go on to give talks in the Pengelly Lecture theatre in a more formal capacity. They give the opportunity to deliver short talks or readings in a more relaxed and convivial atmosphere.

The Trustees remain committed to fostering activities that are fundamentally for the public good, relating to promoting the study of Natural Sciences, Local History and Education. As a 'Cultural Hub' we wish to bring any benefits we can through engaging with our local community. As a 'Community Hub' we provide a focal point and facilities to foster greater local community activity and bring residents, the local business community, and smaller organisations together to improve the quality of life in our area.

The Torquay Natural History Society was founded almost 175 years ago and we are privileged to uphold its traditions and precepts and protect its intellectual capital. We are the proud custodians of a unique and historic book collection that began at our inception as the Torquay Natural History Society in 1844.

As well as for our members this collection remains an invaluable local and international resource for specialist researchers and academics pursuing and exploring our common heritage. We deliver an exceptional programme of lectures. We are both a 'learning' and 'learned' society that is striving to go from strength to strength, by shaping the local cultural landscape and promoting the intellectual value of our Museum collection and its exceptional heritage. *The Society has always faced challenges throughout its unique history. Next year we hope to return more resilient, wiser and able to survive into the next 175 years adapting to whatever we face as we always have. As pioneers, visionaries, curators and custodians of a unique organisation and a fraternity of friends.*

On behalf of the Trustees:



David J. Wills

President

Torquay Museum Society

Dated:

8th December, 2022

Torquay Museum Society – 1161126**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT****YEAR TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022**

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	30/09/2022	30/09/2021
Membership Subscriptions	9,230	7,060
Lecture Fee Income	2,506	0
Fund Raising Income	0	0
TMT refund of costs – prior year	0	243
Barclays Bank compensation	0	200
Donations	1,130	830
Misc. Income	<u>48</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Income	<u>12,913</u>	<u>8,333</u>

PAYMENTS

Staff Costs	1,545	6,182
Speaker Costs	2,317	1,067
Lecture Promotion Costs	1,200	0
Payments to Support TMT	694	0
“Transactions” Costs	0	0
TMS Projects	1,018	350
Equipment	629	0
Membership Mailing Costs	86	41
Rental Payment to TMT (% of Subs)	1,890	0
Programme Printing Costs	934	0
Newsletter Costs	0	168
Photo-copying etc Costs	30	39
Phone/Internet Costs	0	97
Publications	60	40
Insurance	1,542	1,408
Accountant’s Fees	660	0
Donation	17	0
Miscellaneous	<u>17</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Payments	<u>12,638</u>	<u>9,392</u>

Surplus/Deficit of Receipts over Payments	<u>276</u>	<u>-1,059</u>
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Bank and Cash Brought Forward	11,226	12,285
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Bank and Cash Carried Forward	11,502	11,226
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Torquay Museum Society-1161126
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER 2022

	30 September 2022	30 September 2021
	£	£
Cash Funds		
Cash at bank	11,477	11,222
Cash in hand	25	4
	11,502	11,226
Other Assets		
Heritage assets (books)	25,000	25,000

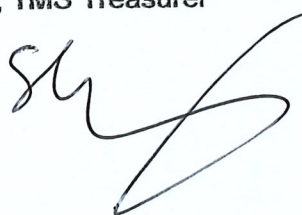
Notes:

Total membership numbers

Annual members	145	125
Life members	66	65
	209	190

The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at the year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on the assets of the CIO.

Approved by the Trustees on 26 October 2022 and signed on their behalf by
 Simon Crabtree, TMS Treasurer

 8/12/2022

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Torquay Museum Society
Charity (CIO) number 1161126**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Torquay Museum Society for the period ended 30th September 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) The accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Ian Barrett FCA FCIE
Barretts Chartered Accountants and Chartered Tax Advisers
22 Union Street
Newton Abbot TQ12 2JS

Dated: 08/12/2022

TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1161126

Accounts



TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY CIO

~Established in 1844 as the Torquay Natural History Society~

529 Babbacombe Road
TORQUAY
TQ1 1HG

☎ 01803 293975

E-mail: membership@torquaymuseum.org

TRUSTEES REPORT for 2021 AGM on 23rd November 2021

(NB/ Due to COVID-19 CRISIS the 2020 AGM was unavoidably postponed)

SOCIETY STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT 2020/21

David Wills (President)

Edgar Halton (Treasurer)

Christine Meredith (Vice-President)

Maggi Douglas-Dunbar (Secretary)

Ann Shaw (Trustee)

Andrew Underhay (Trustee)

David Norman

Simon Crabtree

Torquay Museum Society (formerly *Torquay Natural History Society*) continues to remain one of the oldest learned societies in the United Kingdom and can claim continuous existence since 1844. We are now approaching our sixth year as a distinct entity from Torquay Museum but remain a partner organisation with a separate constitution.

Since registration on 31/03/15 we have been granted the status of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) as defined and conferred by the Charity Commission.

Our Reserves Policy is available to all members and reviewed on an annual basis. It serves to strengthen our resilience against drops in income and considering our contractual liabilities and potential financial threats. Presently the amount of reserves that the trustees have agreed to keep (which may encompass a number of months fixed costs) is £7,100.

At the moment our Trustees represent around one hundred and fifty members. We continue to take this responsibility very seriously and staunchly represent our Membership and its interests to the best of our expertise. With exceptionally trying circumstances as a result of the Coronavirus Crisis we have kept the Society from facing closure and re-invented key aspects of our operations to future proof for the new normal, whatever that will entail.

We are a charitable organisation dedicated and committed to promoting a wider understanding of the history, natural environment and cultural heritage of Devon. To this end we organise an Annual Lecture Programme and provide voluntary support and financial help towards the work of the Museum.

Additionally, we are custodians of a unique library and book collection for our members which is also a key resource for specialist researchers internationally as well as for local people interested in exploring aspects of our local heritage.

We continue to be widely recognised as a cultural hub, a learned society and an institution with a substantial pedigree in the fields of Archaeology, Geology and Astronomy, Literature and Arts, Humanities, Science, Local History, Natural History: Botany and Horticulture, Zoology and Ornithology.

We build on the work of William Pengelly, our most famous past member, synonymous with Torquay Museum, a co-founder of the institution in 1874 in its earlier incarnation as Torquay Natural History Society in 1844. He also led pioneering excavations at Kents Cavern between 1865 and 1880. Now Torquay Museum holds the finds as an outstanding Designated Status Collection. The Society was once a pioneer in the early days of field archaeology and research and has credentials many institutions would be justifiably jealous of.

Despite a challenging year Torquay Museum Society continues to go from strength to strength and has met uncertainty with new initiatives and embraced new platforms. The President, and Trustees, have been instrumental in transforming the society by building on strong foundations to deliver an exceptional lecture programme, new films and social media. We also continue to provide a unique and valuable research archive and library.

Last year we sought to return to our roots as an innovative, expansive and explorative institution drawing on the past to shape our future. To that end we founded a pioneering Exploration, Education and Field Archaeology Research called the "Community Archaeology & Science Hub". Its mission is to inspire our local community through education, research and fieldwork to explore the archaeology, history and environment of Torbay and further afield. This year with the support of the membership, we are revisiting our rich cultural roots by establishing a new "West Country History, Mystery and Folklore Unit". Starting with a number of themed talks from local experts we hope it will gain momentum and become a solid fixture in the Society's future through lectures, conferences, documentaries, museum events and social media.

Historically our Lectures have attracted both high profile speakers and local personalities and included a diverse range of outstanding orators as well. They were consistently well attended and reached maximum capacity on a number of occasions. We were attracting non-members and a significant number have become members of our society and we hope to continue with that momentum into the future.

We had to cancel our summer weekly 'Conversazione' (or conversations) which usually complement our lecture programme. Conversaciones are a tradition which goes back to the beginning of our organisation as a learned society. It was a shame that this aspect of our social engagement was absent. Normally these lecturettes are an informal way to give members an opportunity to socialise and discuss topics of mutual interest or completely unique ones. In the past some go on to give talks in the Pengelly Lecture theatre in a more formal capacity. We missed the opportunity to deliver short talks or readings in a more relaxed and convivial atmosphere.

The Trustees remain committed to fostering activities that are fundamentally for the public good, relating to promoting the study of Natural Sciences, Local History and Education. As a 'Cultural Hub' we wish to bring any benefits we can through engaging with our local community. As a 'Community Hub' we usually provide a focal point and facilities to foster greater local community activity and bring residents, the local business community, and smaller organisations together to improve the quality of life in our area. This was an exceptionally hard year due to the Covid 19 outbreak and its impact on all our lives.

The Torquay Natural History Society was founded almost 175 years ago and we are privileged to uphold its traditions and precepts and protect its intellectual capital. We are the proud custodians of a unique and historic book collection that began at our inception as the Torquay Natural History Society in 1844.

As well as for our members this collection remains an invaluable local and international resource for specialist researchers and academics pursuing and exploring our common heritage. We deliver an exceptional programme of lectures. We are both a 'learning' and 'learned' society that is striving to go from strength to strength, by shaping the local cultural landscape and promoting the intellectual value of our Museum collection and its exceptional heritage. The Society has always faced challenges throughout its unique history. Next year we hope to return more resilient, wiser and able to survive into the next 175 years adapting to whatever we face as we always have. As pioneers, visionaries, curators and custodians of a unique organisation and a fraternity of friends.

On behalf of the Trustees:



David J. Wills

President

Torquay Museum Society

20th October 2021

Torquay Museum Society -1161126
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
YEAR to 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021

	30/09/2021	30/09/2020
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Membership subscriptions	7,060	14,025
Lecture Fee Income	0	5,420
Fund raising income	0	369
TMT refund of costs-prior year	243	0
Barclays Bank compensation	200	0
Donations	830	270
Total income	<u>8,333</u>	<u>20,084</u>
<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
Staff costs	6,182	6,515
Speaker costs	1,067	3,110
Payments to support TMT	0	597
"Transactions" cost	0	234
Membership mailing costs	41	47
Rental Payment to TMT (20% of subs)	0	2,781
Equipment purchases	0	1,050
TMS Projects	350	693
Programme printing costs	0	902
Lecture promotion cost	0	575
Publications	40	100
Newsletter costs	168	249
Photo-copying etc costs	39	327
Phone/Internet Costs	97	213
Insurance	1,408	1,264
Misc. Expenses	0	167
Total expenditure	<u>9,392</u>	<u>18,824</u>
Surplus of Payments over Receipts	-1,059	1,260
Bank and Cash brought forward	<u>12,285</u>	<u>11,025</u>
Bank and Cash carried forward	<u>11,226</u>	<u>12,285</u>

Torquay Museum Society-1161126

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER 2021

	30 September 2021		30 September 2020	
	£	£	£	£
Cash Funds				
Cash at bank		11,222		12,259
Cash in hand		4		26
		<u>11,226</u>		<u>12,285</u>
Other Assets				
Heritage assets (books)		<u>25,000</u>		<u>25,000</u>
 Notes:				
<i>Total membership numbers</i>				
Annual members		125		182
Life members		65		71
		<u>190</u>		<u>253</u>

The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at the year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on the assets of the CIO.

Approved by the Trustees on 23rd November 2021 and signed on their behalf by S G Crabtree

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Torquay Museum Society
Charity (CIO) number 1161126**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Torquay Museum Society for the period ended 30th September 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").


I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) The accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Ian Barrett FCA FCIE
Barretts Chartered Accountants and Chartered Tax Advisers
22 Union Street
Newton Abbot TQ12 2JS

Dated: 2nd June 2022