



# TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY CIO

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

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## **TRUSTEES REPORT for 2021 AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

20<sup>th</sup> October 2021

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

	30/09/2021	30/09/2020
<b><u>RECEIPTS</u></b>		
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
<b>Total income</b>	<u>8,333</u>	<u>20,084</u>
<b><u>PAYMENTS</u></b>		
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
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u>9,392</u>	<u>18,824</u>
<b>Surplus of Payments over Receipts</b>	<b>-1,059</b>	<b>1,260</b>
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	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash Funds</b>				
Cash at bank		11,222		12,259
Cash in hand		4		26
		<u>11,226</u>		<u>12,285</u>
<b>Other Assets</b>				
Heritage assets (books)		<u>25,000</u>		<u>25,000</u>

**Notes:**

*Total membership numbers*

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 30<sup>th</sup> 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022