



TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY CIO

~Established in 1844 as the Torquay Natural History Society~

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TORQUAY

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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

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

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

Dated: 12th November 2024

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

	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>

PAYMENTS

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
	<u>13,232</u>	<u>12,621</u>
Other Assets		
Heritage assets (books)	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
 Notes:		
<i>Total membership numbers</i>		
Annual members	128	142
Life members	<u>65</u>	<u>66</u>
	<u>193</u>	<u>208</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 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**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Torquay Museum Society for the period ended 30th September 2024.

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").

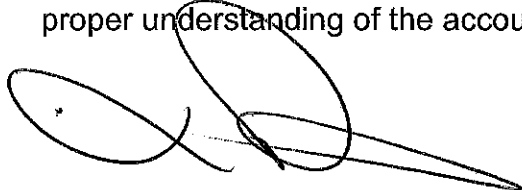
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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: 19th November 2024