

Torpoint Archives & Heritage Centre,

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President; Sir Richard Carew Pole OBE

Torpoint Organisation of the Year 2013-2014

Registered Charity No. 1043650

Founder members Pat & Freda Manning

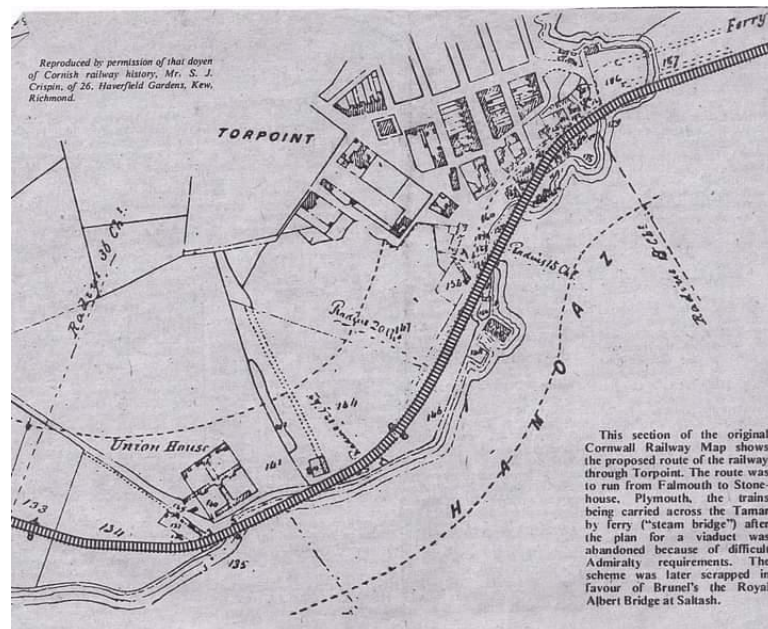
TAHC REPORT July 2024

Dear Members and Volunteers,

Room 5 in the Council Chambers, Buller Road, stores 54 crates of classified artefacts, details of which have been entered on our database. Changing the display cabinets takes Fiona and Tom 2 to 5 days. Artefacts have to be removed from the existing display and checked back in at Room 5 while suitable items are checked out to refill the cabinets. Dressing the cabinets and preparing explanatory labels is a work of Art. 33 wall displays prepared over the last 30 years by Rosemary have recently been checked and added to by Bill. These are stored in the cupboards below the display cabinets.

Two "finds" gave the idea of the new Ferry displays. A map copied from Brunel's Royal Albert Bridge by John Binding depicts an original idea to bring railway carriages across on the Torpoint Ferry. Rails on the ferry would need to line up with those on the the Devon and Cornish shores. It is not surprising that

Rendel and others realised that this would be impossible with tide and weather variations. Torpoint's loss was Saltash' gain!



These scales were used by the ferry cashier as a second check on the accuracy of the amounts in their money bags. Before 1962 foot passengers went through a turnstile paying originally 1 penny and in later years 2 pennies to use the ferry. 240 large pennies to each pound in those days would be tedious to count and weighed heavy. Banks provided different coloured strong paper bags to hold set amounts of specific coins e.g. £10 of shillings, £50 of half crowns. Younger members may need to consult Google for an explanation!

Among the Ferry memorabilia were the components of the brass scales. It was donated to the Archives when the Ferry Offices were renovated in 1998. It has probably been in its box for over 50 years! Fortunately restoration is another skill that Tom brings to the Archives.



There has been a steady flow of visitors throughout the month many remarking on seeing themselves or family members in the groups displayed on the large TV screen.

A few visitors have been disappointed that the first print of Torpoint's Lost Terraces has sold out. If at least 50 people express an interest there may be a reprint in October. Currently there are 7 names on the list.



Finally , Henry is now wearing his utility demob suit and Henrietta's homemade dress in rayon shows how ladies used ingenuity to great effect by reversing some of the material. The photograph does not show this very clearly, Clothing was still rationed until 1954 and even if you had the necessary coupons, there was little to purchase in the shops. It was amazing what could be made from sheets, curtains, tablecloths and even utility grey blankets.

During August we may struggle to open on all our published times as volunteers sometimes have other commitments. If you are making a special journey to Torpoint please e mail us in advance.

Mike Pearn, Chairman

Copy to The Hub Manager (for info).
Torpoint Town Council