

Torpoint Archives & Heritage Centre,

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President Tremayne Carew Pole

Torpoint Organisation of the Year 2013-2014

Registered Charity No. 1043650

Founder members Pat & Freda Manning

TAHC REPORT March 2025

Dear Members and Volunteers,

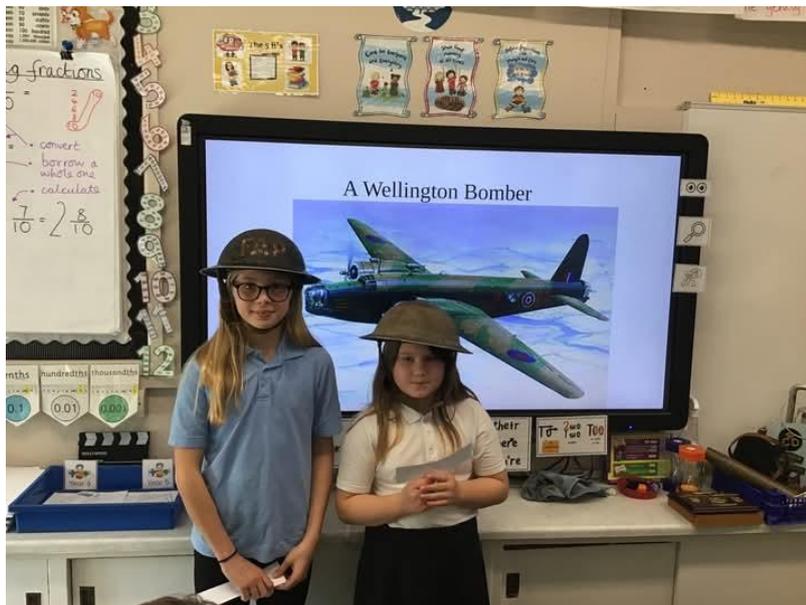
It was interesting to remember some of the people who have written in our four Visitors Books over the last thirty years. The County Archivist, Tamsin Mallett visited us in the Council Chambers in 2011 and remarked "An excellent example of a Community Archive". Tamsin had set up Cornish Archives Network (CAN) and was visiting all 75 associated groups. TAHC has certainly lived up to that reputation this month. On March 5th, Radio Cornwall broadcast from the Library from 6am -10am. Bill, aka St Piran, discussed with James Churchfield many aspects of being Cornish. It was also an opportunity to share the history of Dr John Langdon Down, born in 27 Fore Street Torpoint in Nov 1828.



On March 12th 90 children from Carbeile School filtered through in small groups and were met by Rosemary, Mike, Bill and Tom to have a World War 2 experience. They particularly enjoyed using the stirrup pumps that were issued to Albion Road School in 1939. They realised that if there had been a gas attack newborn babies would have been placed in the anti gas capsule shown centre left below.



The following week Paula, Barry and Rosemary took the WW2 memorabilia to Antony school



There the children acted through some of the memories of Horatio Joseph Lobb, a schoolboy in Antony 1939 – 1945. Horatio remembered that a Wellington bomber had crashed into the mud in the river below the village. The pilot was unhurt but the plane had to be dismantled. The RAF personnel permitted Horatio to sit in the cockpit and crawl back to the gun turret.

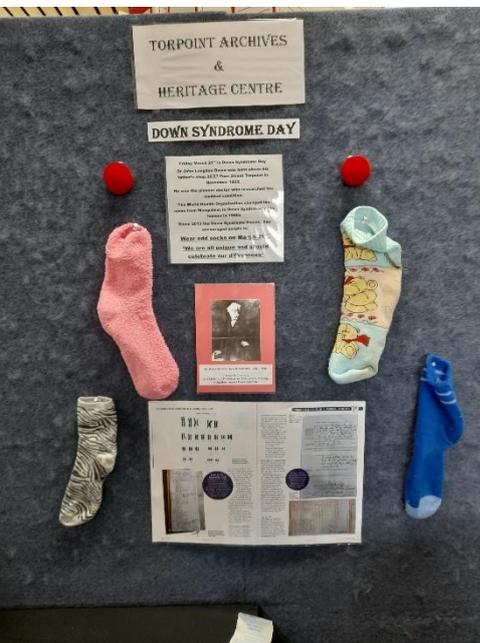


The children at Antony also used the stirrup pumps



The Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) hat worn by Rosemary at both school presentations is being worn by Mrs Hallett, who is standing in the back middle of the WW2 group of ladies above. Post war, King George VI granted all such groups Royal status (WRVS) in gratitude for all their wartime welfare services helping evacuees, bombed out families and providing refreshments to troops, firemen and anyone in distress.

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March 21st was Red Nose Day and Down Syndrome Day. The custom of wearing odd socks on this day is to raise awareness and celebrate individuality. This symbolises the uniqueness of every chromosome and embraces differences

The eagle has landed!

The owner of the site of the St John Ambulance Hall has lent us the effigy. Old maps of Torpoint show that the building was once a Temperance Hall. Maybe the eagle was the symbol of a higher presence.



Hours worked by volunteers on the premises and at home have increased this month as has the number of weekly visitors. There was a trickle of visitors when the Archives was open 10 til 12 on Saturday March 10th. The sun was out on the last Sunday of the month when the first Street Market of the year took place. The Library was buzzing! Bill and Rosemary greeted 25 visitors on that day.

TAHC is very grateful that Rachel (our TTC rep) picked up on a fraught e mail about difficulties being experienced by Archives volunteers with the free version of Microsoft Office, available to Charities Rachel and the other Pink Ladies from the Street Market team will donate £200 towards a download of a more reliable version of Microsoft Office.

Mike Pearn, Chairman

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