

Exciting Opportunities in Torbay's Museums 2006

Torbay has some terrific museums and we want schools to use them much more. Many of the staff who work in museums have a great deal of experience of putting together enjoyable and informative sessions for children on each site for a small charge. Museums also work hard to find funding for projects that bring in schoolchildren for special activities such as story writing and drama.

Many of you will already know that Torre Abbey is now closed for redevelopment until 2008. While closed there will be some outreach to schools. If you would like a talk on the Abbey its history and its future then please get in touch.

Torquay Museum is also being altered a good deal over the next eighteen months. There will be a new gallery based around Explorers and improvements to the existing Agatha Christie and archaeology spaces. Most of the museum will remain open throughout.

Here are some of the museums strengths:

Local History. Each of the towns in the Bay has a great deal of history. Pupils can learn about this by following one of the town trails,- please enquire. The museums can also assist through collections and archives of information and pictures. At Torquay Museum the life of local author Agatha Christie can be used to give insights into the growth of the town.

Archaeology Brixham has a good deal of material of Napoleonic origin. Torquay Museum has many of the finds from Kent's Cavern that give clues to the lives of early mankind.

The Egyptians. Brixham Museum offers outreach sessions on mummification while Torquay has an Ancient Egypt Gallery.

The Church in Mediaeval Life Torre Abbey is the site of a mediaeval monastery. The buildings have evolved over hundreds

of years and demonstrate many important parts of our local heritage.

The Victorians. Torquay Museum has a fine country life collection while Brixham Heritage Museum has a collection relating to the town and the fishing industry. Much of the bay's building is Victorian, the museums are happy to assist teachers in putting together resources to look at local surroundings.

If you would like help with any topic please call the museums directly or call Tim Crine, Museums Education Access Officer on 296026. We can offer plenty of different approaches that will bring the past to life!