



The Community Newsletter of TOTSOC - the Totnes and District Society

Special Edition

Jim Carfrae (Chair)

This edition of Contact is being produced solely to bring you notice of the TotSoc AGM, and a proposed change to the TotSoc constitution to be approved at the AGM.

This edition therefore contains no other articles of potential interest apart from a plea from the existing committee for any members who feel that they would like to become committee members and therefore trustees of TotSoc.

Special edition	1
TotSoc AGM	2
TotSoc Constitution	2
Joining TOTSOC	4
TOTSOC Committee	5
Draft Constitution	6

We are also looking for someone to take on the interesting job of editing this TotSoc newsletter, 'Contact'.

The editor's role would be to collect and collate articles for the newsletter – no technical knowledge would be required as we already have a member who can assemble the newsletter together on their computer.

TotSoc AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Totnes and District Society (TotSoc), will be held at the REconomy Centre, 13 Leechwell St, Totnes TQ9 5SX at 6:30pm on Tuesday 21st November 2023.

All members are invited, and a special item on the agenda will be the approval of a new constitution for TotSoc (see below)

Request for member's email addresses

Printing and distributing these newsletters is an expensive and time consuming process. Many of you receive a digital copy by email, and we would like to increase the number of digital copies and reduce our printing costs. If you haven't already supplied an email address, could we ask that you do so, and then future newsletters can be sent by that method. Thank you.

Proposal to amend the TotSoc constitution

Our current constitution dates from the 1960's. It contains a provision that our accounts should be audited that is inappropriate and disproportionately expensive for a charity of our size. We need to amend the constitution to remove this requirement.

Given that any amendment requires some formalities including a special resolution at a general meeting, it is proposed that a new constitution be adopted at the TotSoc AGM on Tuesday 21st November (6:30 pm at the REconomy Centre, 13 Leechwell St, Totnes TQ9 5SX)

The new constitution has been adapted from a template provided by the Charity Commission.

The benefits of a wholesale change would be to bring the provisions of the document up to date and provide much more detailed procedures than we currently have.

The specific changes would include:

1. Clarity as to the management - all committee members would be trustees (a Charity Commission requirement).
2. All trustees would have a one-year term that could be renewed at each AGM (at present there are different terms for some officers).
3. Specific authority to give notices to members by email and the option to allow trustees to use a telephone conference service for meetings.
4. Defining the role of 'President' (and if it is to be without voting rights, the holder should not be a trustee).
5. A requirement to produce accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission. This removes the specific requirement for audited accounts.
- . Removal of the requirement for a fixed quorum at an adjourned general meeting – the adjourned meeting would be quorate with however many attend.

There will be no change to the purpose (Charitable Objects) of Totsoc. The existing wording will be copied into the new constitution without any changes.

A copy of the existing and proposed constitution can be found at:<http://wordpress.totsoc.org.uk>. If any member prefers to have a copy by email or by post, they should contact the secretary by email: secretary.totsoc@gmail.com or by phone: 07884 266551.

Application to join TotSoc (The Totnes Civic Society)

Individual annual membership fee: £5.00; family membership: £8.00

Please complete the form below. Payment by standing order is much preferred, but if you wish to pay by cheque or cash this is also quite acceptable. The membership year is from 1st October.

Name.....

Tel.....

Address.....Post Code.....

Email address.....

STANDING ORDER FORM

To: (name of your bank).....bank

Please set up the following Standing Order and debit my/our account accordingly

1. Your Bank Account details

Account name.....

Account Number:

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Your bank branch.....

Sort Code:

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Postal address of your branch (please print)

.....Post code.....

2. Payee details

Name of organisation you are paying:

Totnes & District Society

Sort code of TOTSOC:

20-60-88

Account number of TOTSOC:

50878642

3. About the payment

How often are the payments to be made: **YEARLY**

Amount details: **£5.00 / £8.00 (delete one)**

Date of first payment: **on or after 1st October 2023**

until further notice (payments will be made until you cancel this instruction)

4. Confirmation

Customer signature(s)

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Date.....

Please return this completed form to **Jeremy Logie, TOTSOC Treasurer,**
15 Heath Way, Totnes, TQ9 5GP

He will then send the lower section it to your bank.

TOTSOC on Facebook

TOTSOC has a Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/Totnes-and-District-Society

The TOTSOC Committee

The current TOTSOC Committee Members are:

Jim Carfrae
Chair

jim.carfrae@plymouth.ac.uk

Tom King
Secretary

secretary.totsoc@gmail.com

Paul Bennett

paulbennett1935@gmail.co

Jeremy Logie
Treasurer and Membership Secretary

jeremy.logie@talk21.com

Kate Wilson
Planning Officer

katewilsondeane@gmail.com

Our President is:
Judy Westacott

tq9jude@gmail.com

A form for joining TOTSOC is on the previous page.