



## **News from the History Group Research Team .....**

I was recently reminded by Jonathan Hooper of some of St. Tudy's talented men – Bob Armstrong who was a highly skilled Master Mason, and Walter Burch who was also a Mason, along with Jonathan's father, Harry Hooper, who made the memorial screen in the Church which was installed 50 years ago on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1973. Jonathan said his father made the screen in sections in the workshop attached to Virginia House in 1973, and he could remember watching it's development. At that time, the workshop was the hub of Hooper Brothers; the family firm established more than 100 years earlier.

Bob Armstrong was born at the Wenford Inn, St. Breward, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August 1913 and had a varied life, and wrote about this in *The Binding Stone*. There were three main Granite works in St. Breward – De Lank, Hantergantic and Tor Down and Bob worked at all of them over the years.

His first job outside the St. Breward was on King Arthur's Hall in Tintagel, but Bob went on to work on carving the decoration on the doorway of the Dominion Shipper's building which was 18ft high and 14ft wide with giant protea flowers which he helped to carve with others. Bob also worked on a memorial to the victims of an air crash in France in 1974. In addition to this, there was the Paul Reuter bust at the Royal Exchange in London, where he worked with the Sculptor Michael Black. Bob also carved the "Churchill" lettering for the Churchill Statue in Parliament Square, London, and the most famous being the lettering on the Carl Marx memorial stone in Highgate Cemetery which has probably been visited and photographed millions of times from people all around the world.

Walter Burch was also born in St. Breward a year later on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 1914. Amongst other projects, he worked on the base for the Diana (the Huntress) Drinking Fountain in Green Park, London and still looks as good today as when it was made in 1954. I have looked at photos of people leaning on the base, and probably none of them know who made this.

Both of these very talented and skilled men were born in St. Breward in August a year apart, married St. Tudy sisters – Doris and Phillis Worth, and came to live in St. Tudy.

Jonathan has been successful in adding Bob and Walter's names to Art UK website which is an important repository for public art. The links to the site are on our website under the "Notable St.Tudyites" section: [www.ststudyhistorygroup.org](http://www.ststudyhistorygroup.org).

Thank you Jonathan for championing these very skilled and talented men of St.Tudy - hopefully they will now get the recognition they deserve!

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