



## The Newsletter of North Shields Library Club

*Welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter.*

### Project Reaches New Milestone - 250th Memory

In the last few weeks the project has published its 250<sup>th</sup> memory on the website, which is a wonderful achievement for all those that have been involved in the project since it started. The range and variety of memories that come into the project are a constant revelation. What has been pleasing about the most recent memories is that they have come from parts of North Tyneside that the project hasn't been involved with very much in the past.

Robbie Leck is the person whose memory, Fish for a Queen, has become memory number 250. Robbie was part of a 10 week reminiscence programme that took place in the Topaz project's base in Linskill Centre, North Shields.



**Robbie Leck**  
"Royal" Fisherman.

He told us about the time he was out in the North Sea as a trawler crew-member in the 1950s. His boat was hailed by a passing ship and they were asked if they had any fish for sale. According to Robbie, a box of fish was purchased and while the deal was being finalised he realised that the 'customer' was the Queen, on board the Royal Yacht Britannia. She was watching the transaction from her private quarters, with other members of the royal family. "I could see them all", remembers Robbie.

Robbie has several other memories of his time on the trawlers, which will be added to the website in the next few

[www.libraryclub.co.uk](http://www.libraryclub.co.uk)

## BBC's WW2 People's War Project: [www.bbc.co.uk/ww2](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ww2)



*Everyone knows a World War Two story*  
[www.bbc.co.uk/ww2](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ww2)

remain untold – and we know these heroes because they are our mums and dads, aunties, uncles, granddads and grandmas. From Bevin Boys and Land Girls to RAF pilots and the men of the Merchant Navy, ordinary people found themselves taking part in extraordinary events.

Through a combination of the BBC, historical experts and, most importantly, you, the website enables you to write about, reunite with and research the war generation. Your stories will then take their place in the historical context.

We have stories on our website already that could be used in this project but if anyone is interested in providing some more insights into the experience of people in North Tyneside during the war then talk to Kath about how to collect them.

During 2004/5 the BBC is running a project to collect the memories of those people involved in or affected by World War II. It is put together in much the same way as our project and aims to capture and preserve for future generations the story of the British people during World War Two. The stories of millions of ordinary heroes

## Age Takes Centre Stage Award

We were very pleased to receive an Age Takes Centre Stage group award for voluntary service. The presentation took place at a special ceremony on the DFDS vessel Queen of Scandinavia, while berthed in the River Tyne

The project was commended for its valuable contribution to the community and project volunteers were congratulated on their efforts.



**Alan Oxberry, Meg Stephenson and Irene Wederburn with the Captain of "The Queen of Scandinavia", accepting awards on behalf of the Library Club.**

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## Project News



unpredictable and they always rise to the challenge of promoting the project in whatever venue I manage to get them to. No two events are the same so we are never quite sure what to expect.

### **Project Working Group**

This group works hard all the year round to make sure that the events that we get involved in run smoothly. They each have such a range of talents and skills, but most of all they are fun to be with.

Planning sessions are always

Venues can range from a pub in Tynemouth to the Sensory Support Unit at Longbenton Community College and we can meet a very small group or a very large one.

We now have plans for most eventualities! The project could not run without the continued support of our volunteers and our thanks go to you all.

### **Wanted: people to proof read memories**

Now that more and more memories are coming into the project we need to keep up with the proof-reading so that they can be carefully checked before they go onto the website. This is a great job for someone who doesn't get out too much and can read a memory to see if they get the 'sense' of what the author is saying. If you're interested in finding out more, contact Kath on 200 6412.

### **Technical Update**

Next time you see this newsletter it may look a bit different. This is because we're busy re-designing the materials we use and also the website. There are a couple of reasons for this. We want our website to become 'Bobby accredited', meaning that it is as accessible and easy to use as possible. Also, we want to incorporate some new features onto the website, such as sound clips and a search facility,

making the site even more exciting. One of the things we've already done is buy another domain name, [www.memoriesnorthtyne.org.uk](http://www.memoriesnorthtyne.org.uk), and this will be the focal point around redesigning the website and all of our promotional material. The name was chosen because it fits in with our aim of covering the whole of North Tyneside.

### **Wanted: more memories of Dudley, Fordley, Wideopen & Seaton Burn**

We have begun to collect more memories of life in these areas but we still need more. If you live (or lived) in or near any of them, or have family or friends who do, we would love to hear the memories. Or, if you know of any clubs or organisations based in these areas who might be interested in hearing more about the project, we can arrange to go out and talk about the project and demonstrate the website.

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## CD Rom

The new version of the website is now available on CD Rom. These are handy if you want to show people the website but don't have access to the internet. If you would like a copy, or know someone who might, get in touch with Kath.

## More Project News

Our reputation is spreading throughout North Tyneside (and beyond) and we are increasingly being asked to go out to groups to talk about what we do. Since January we have explained the project to the following groups: Clousden Hill WI, Tynemouth Trefoil Guild, North Tyneside Disability Forum, Live at Home Scheme Mens Group and Lunch Club, Sensory Support Unit, Longbenton Community College, Leisure Choices, and North Shields Alzheimers Society Carers Group. We have also been involved with Age Concern Whitley Bay's People's War Group and have just finished a 10 week reminiscence programme at the Linskill Centre in North Shields with Topaz.

## Library Club News



**The Library Club in action**

The Library Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month at North Shields Central Library, 1.30pm – 3.30pm. The club offers activities and events on topics of local and general interest. If you are interested in

joining us please contact Kevin Dresser on 200 6968 (or if you're passing Wallsend Library he's currently working there). We have just returned from our summer trip to Chillingham Castle, a very enjoyable day out.

The Library Club has an active and enthusiastic membership and continues to attract new members, many of whom go on to become involved in the Remembering the Past Project.

## Obituary

It is with great sadness that we report the death of one of our most active members, Bill Harmon, shortly after celebrating his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday.



**Bill with his dahlias**

Bill was involved in every aspect of the Library Club's activities and many people will recall the talks he gave about his beloved dahlias, as well as the many jokes he also managed to slot in. Bill was a gifted writer, artist and poet and the Remembering the Past Project benefited from all of his talents and his prodigious memory of events and people in North Shields. At the time of his death Bill was busy planning the layout and artwork for a Library Club calendar, as well as working on a series of new memories.

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