

**Press Release
Immediate**



New Commemorative Art Work Titanic 2012

The Diaper Heritage Association in collaboration with West End Museum and supported by Hedge End, West End & Botley Area committee, have commissioned two commemorative art works as part of the centenary events for *Titanic* 2012.

At least three members of the Diaper family sailed on the maiden voyage of the *Titanic* only one, John Diaper, fireman survived. Charles Smith, a steward, perished although his body was recovered and is buried in Halifax, Canada but John Lovell Diaper who also lost his life was not recovered.

The Association, which researches the history of the family and Itchen Ferry village, felt that it should mark the anniversary of *Titanic* and so joined with other heritage associations to develop a number of events and remembrances. A film about John Diaper will be shown at The Berry theatre on the 1st April and a new *Titanic Trail* leaflet around the Hamble Valley will incorporate the story of John Lovell Diaper. Charles Smith's story will feature in a souvenir newspaper.

In talking to the curator of West End Museum, which has a growing local *Titanic* collection, the Association wanted to record that John Lovell Diaper had been born in West End, at the Union workhouse. It was decided to commission two artist designed plaques, one which is a simple memorial to John Lovell Diaper and the second which records the name of four locals involved in the *Titanic* saga: Captain Rostron, James Jukes, Fred Woolley and John Lovell Diaper.

The commission was awarded to Ron May a local craftsman who works in iron and wood. The main plaque is of burnished black iron on a teak mount in sympathy with the materials used in the building of *Titanic*; it incorporates the names of the four men with a poem by the internationally known Haiku poet Pearl Elizabeth Dell May. John Lovell's plaque has three links of heavy iron anchor chain mounted on a section of teak deck as it would have appeared laying on the fore deck of *Titanic* with an engraved plaque of polished brass giving John's name and dates.

The plaques will be unveiled by the mayor of Eastleigh at West End Museum on the 31st March, to be in place for the many visitors and *Titanic* historians who will be visiting the area throughout April

Ends

For further information contact Cheryl Butler on 023 8068 8187
West End Museum is located in The Old Fire Station, High Street, West End SO30 3FB
Photo opportunity 4pm at West End Museum, 31st March.

Supported by the
Heritage Lottery Fund

