

Drake Brookshaw

Drake Brookshaw, eighty years old, died at Treliske on June 25th 1993. He was a very courteous and gentle man.

His first home in Port Isaac was in Church Hill, bought in the 1940s. About 1956 he crossed the valley to 'Valencia' on Trewetha Lane, where he lived with Doreen, his first wife. They were very involved in the artistic life of the district and he was a founder member of the Camel Art Society.

Besides being a prominent illustrator of many books, he also drew beautiful illustrations in the pre-war Radio Times and for a few years later. In the late twenties he designed posters for the London Underground and some locals will remember sitting for portraits to be used by the Post Office in the poster campaigns.

During World War II he was trained as an air gunner but when

the Command found out that he was an artist he was promptly put to supervising and designing the camouflage of the famous Manston Air Base. He was susbsequently commissioned as an air photo interpreter and served in Sicily and Italy.

Doreen was an expert potter and they decided to go to Mijas near Malaga to open a pottery in an old mill, whilst Drake concentrated on painting. They returned to Port Isaac every summer.

A charming and interesting man, Drake was very modest about his achievements in the hard world of commercial art.

After a serious illness he returned to Cornwall in 1992 and stayed at Pen-y-Bryn, Wadebridge. His second wife, Joan, had died a year previously.

Unable to draw or paint any longer, he looked forward to a retrospective exhibition of his work in Wadebridge, but his death three days before the preview was a great sorrow to us as he never knew how successful it had been.