



The Frank McNichol Art Group

I first visited Port Isaac 40 years ago and remember seeing this artistic gentleman painting in the harbour, looking very much the professional that he proved to be. I admired his wonderful ability to capture the atmosphere of Port Isaac and Cornwall in general. We spoke of his lifetime involvement with the area and how he had been part of the famous ARK Scenic Studios in London, painting and designing scenery and settings for many leading theatrical productions, moving on to create designs and artwork for exhibition stand design, and working on murals and interiors for some of the foremost companies in the country.

I learned that he moved to Port Gaverne in 1966 where he pursued a serious professional career becoming recognised as a gifted painter. His friendly manner and enthusiasm for

painting was infectious and he was always willing and interested to encourage others to develop their artistic abilities. We became very good friends but unfortunately I didn't live in the area although I visited regularly to see my mother at St. Mabyn so I was not able to join the art group which he had formed. This group met regularly up until the end of his life at the age of 92 in 2003.

Little was I to know that I would have the responsibility, with my husband Bob, of carrying on the memory of Frank's contribution to art in the area through the continuation of his art group, who still meet regularly and continue to develop their skills as painters based on his teaching. Needless to say, all have fond memories of this special man who has left such a warm legacy here in Port Isaac. and was a true inspiration to all who knew him.

The group not only gather together weekly for art classes but visit art and associated exhibitions throughout the county. Professional artists, both local and from other West country areas come to teach the group from time to time .

Funding for the continuation of the Frank McNichol Art Group activities comes from the sale of selected special art edition prints of his work through the kind co-operation of The Port Gaverne Hotel where examples of his work are on display. If you want to know more call me on 01208 880765.

Sandie Bulgin