

# Have you ever wondered where the anchor on the Platt came from?

Over a period of 40 years, running from the mid 1960s, a keen group of scuba divers from an Essex based BSAC Club known as the Loughton Divers came to Port Isaac on a frequent basis taking the opportunity, when weather permitted, to dive the area and explore and photograph the undersea features of the North Cornwall coast. No less than seven of these divers fell under the spell of Port Isaac and are today residents in the village.

A number of good friendships were established with local fisherman and residents and the divers, in addition to their undersea explorations also helped to retrieve lobster pots that had been lost in gales. They also brought heavy anchor chain in to the harbour from wrecked ships to donate to the harbour commissioners for ground tackle moorings within the Harbour.

Back in 1979 three Loughton Divers, Dave Hurley, Tony Holdstock and Colin Champness, were enjoying an afternoon underwater. Dave was half way through his tank of air when he spotted the anchor resting on the seabed about 50 meters offshore in the vicinity of Lundy Bay. It was a very exciting find and he was immediately struck by the size of the anchor.

In the weeks that followed he began to find out more about the anchor. He consulted the late Bernard Baker, a retired Sea Captain who lived in the village. He was convinced that the anchor was from the *Fredricson* that had gone down in that area. A plan transpired between Bernard and Dave - wouldn't it be a marvellous idea to raise the anchor and place in on the Platt as a focal point of interest.

So it was that several weeks later the same three divers set out offshore carrying a 5-ton lifting bag and over a period of five hours raised the anchor and towed it into Port Isaac harbour. It was then moved by JCB to the Platt.

Dave donated the anchor to the Port Isaac Harbour Commissioners and says he gets lots of pleasure from seeing the anchor being photographed by visitors and also seeing it in paintings and on TV. Said Dave, "I feel the anchor lives on and brings the past to the present. The sun shines on it once again."

