

Fred Howett - Watercolourist

I started painting by accident. At school I chose the science route, went on to study physics at university and then followed a career as an electronic design engineer in the field of telecommunications. In 1980 while attempting to enrol for evening classes at Barnet College, I found my preferred classes full and in desperation asked what classes still had some spaces. I ended up in a drawing and painting class. After a year just drawing I tried my hand at oil painting, but after two further years felt I was not making significant progress. A couple of my classmates suggested I tried watercolour, so the following year I enrolled for a watercolour class. I took to this immediately and have stuck mainly to this medium ever since.

In about 1988 Barnet College cut most of their recreational evening classes and doubled the fees for the surviving classes. A group of the existing class members decided to search for an alternative venue and run their own class. At that time I was working for STC at New Southgate and negotiated the use of a large room in the New Southgate Sports and Social Club, to run a weekly painting group. In subsequent years I worked at STL and had some of my paintings on display in the corridor leading to the restaurant. However, as I still lived in Barnet, I continued to attend the art group at New Southgate.

The art group continued until Nortel closed the Southgate site in August 2002. The following year I joined Barnet Guild of Artists who owned their own studio in Barnet. They had been founded in 1948 and although a thriving group, were distinctly rooted in the past. At one meeting I (foolishly) suggested that the Guild should consider setting up its own website and I have now run it (www.barnetguildofartists.org.uk) since its inception in 2007. I also run the membership database and have been the Guild's treasurer for the last 7 years - a role that I shall be passing on at the end of this financial year. What with also running the QCC website and list server, and the website for the band I play in (www.richtandthebiscuits.com), there is not as much time for painting as I would like!

I have experimented with Chinese brush-painting, pastels, and more recently have started some painting with acrylics. Most recently I have tried using acrylic inks and the latest medium I have attempted is liquid pencil. I still keep returning, however, to my favourite medium - watercolour.

I mostly paint landscapes and seascapes, and am particularly fond of boats. I like to work from my own sketches and photographs, and also to interpret old black and white photographs



Sparrows



Clovelly Harbour

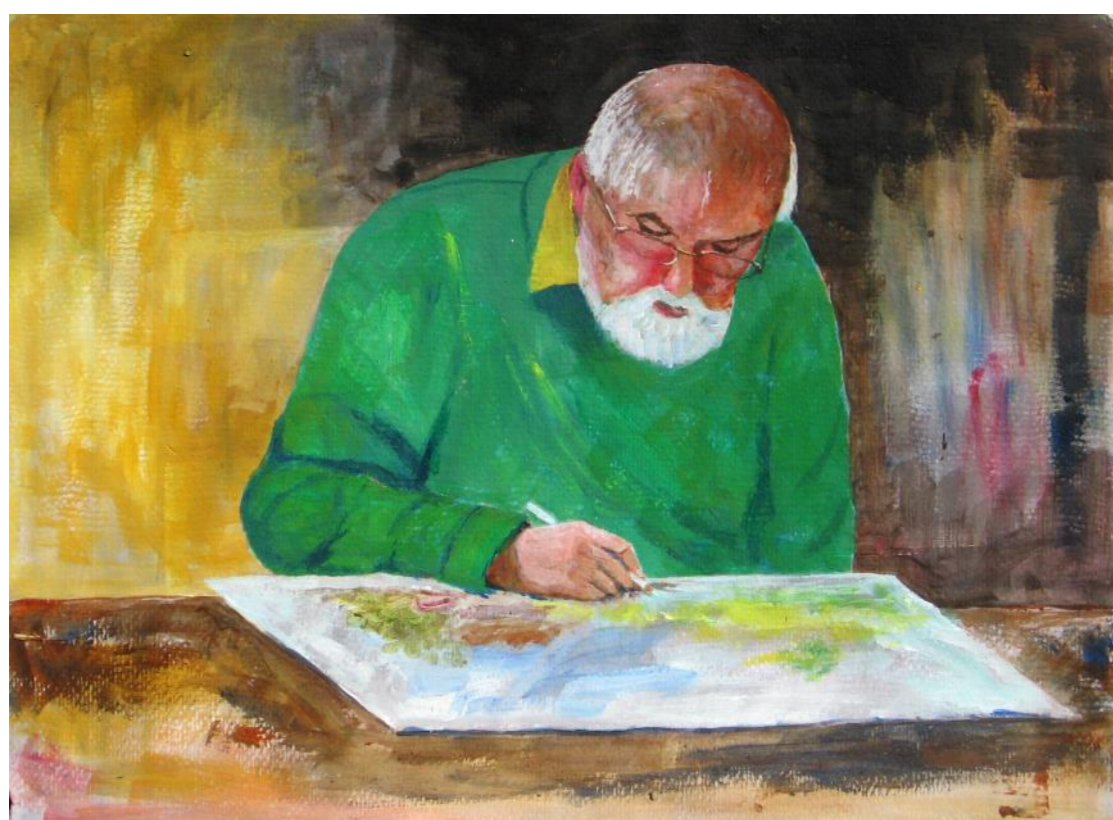


Woodland Scene



Ducks

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John Marsh



Boats at Villefranche



Castle Chillon



The Onion Field



Wells next the Sea

The photograph from which the painting was derived

