



A passion for painting that has never died...

When your father works in the Foreign Office, you travel the world... but that's given Tansley artist Carol Hill more inspiration than most, as *Eleanor Pollard* discovers.

TRAVELLING has influenced much of local artist Carol Hill's life but for the moment a lot of her inspiration comes from the Derbyshire Dales.

In the past she has followed her parents around the globe as they pursued their chosen careers but now it is her painting that is taking precedence and her retired husband Mick is the one in the supporting role as she concentrates on putting her brushes to work.

She has had a passion for painting all her life and has always displayed a keen interest in anything artistic including knitting, crochet and embroidery. She first started taking painting seriously while living in the Far East in the 1960s.

As a teenager, her father was posted to Hong Kong with the Foreign Office. She attended secretarial college and went to work for the Army in its surveyor's office which was building the new military hospital on the mainland. Later on, she decided to take the opportunity to study

art and she spent two years learning oil painting under the tuition of an American resident artist at the Hong Kong University.

"The subjects were mainly landscape, seascapes and still-life as well as portraiture and my tutor gave me all the basics that I needed to know. I painted as often as time would allow as well as studying Chinese painting. However, it was a long time before I was painting professionally," said Carol.

During her time in Hong Kong, Carol's main inspirations were the local characters, its atmosphere and the sea. She was also inspired by Chinese art. Her experiences in the Orient still influence her work today, particularly in the forms of brush work and her thought processes.

Back in Britain a few years later, while she was raising a family and working as a medical secretary, her father put some of her paintings on the walls of his office and his colleagues started commissioning more.

"It became known as Fred's Gallery at

the time and it was then that I first thought maybe I could take it a stage further."

It was only when her husband's job moved to Yorkshire from the South of England and she had to give up her own job that she decided



Beautiful Bradford Dale captured by Carol Hill.