

Pip on other side of lens as he meets Royal visitor

• by Lily Dane



Pip Sides meeting Prince Charles in Belfast this week.

Enniskillen photographer Pip Sides soon found himself at the other side of the camera lens when he met up with His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales during the Royal visit to Belfast this week.

The Prince and Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall attended The Prince's Trust's Christmas Party at the Harbour Commissioner's Office on Monday and that's when Pip had an opportunity to talk to Prince Charles and show him some of his work.

During the evening, the couple met and spent time chatting with young people who have set up businesses with the support of The

Trust's Business Programme. Pip Sides Photography, based in the Buttermarket, Enniskillen was one of the businesses.

Pip Sides applied for support from The Prince's Trust to set up a photography business in 2003. Since then his work and studies have taken him to Wales, America, England, Europe and Romania. His portfolio specialises on Ireland and his wider collection takes in France, Germany, Slovakia, Jerusalem, Budapest, Vienna and Lithuania. He has exhibited both at home and abroad.

It seems that Prince Charles enjoyed Pip's sailing trip images and he was complimentary about the framing and presentation of the work.

Pip explained that one particular piece was entitled 'Into the Ocean' and was from a sailing trip which he participated in around Britain. The piece, printed and framed and measuring six by four feet, also resulted in recognition for its Enniskillen based picture framer. Pip said that Prince Charles commented on the frame and he informed him it was done by Victoria Scott.

Christmas gifts presented to the Prince included a triptych of Cavehill in Belfast, by Pip Sides Photography, and framed by Victoria.

To have met the Prince and for him to receive one of his pieces proved pleasing recognition for Pip, who knew that one of his images had been selected for a special guest on the night, but he did not realise who it was.