



Coln lies on its side and so you can pick out many of the features.

The guns are one of the most recognisable and impressive features of these wrecks. On the cruisers they are 5.9-inches, while those on the battleships measure a whopping 12 inches. All three, Konig, Markgraf and Kronprinz Wilhelm carried ten of the big ones and 14 of the smaller ones. The Kronprinz Wilhelm is where they are most visible; you can find one of the 12-inch guns poking out from under the wreck down on the seabed. It is simply enormous, and takes a while to fin along its length.

Other memorable sites, and for me one of the enduring images of the wrecks in Scapa, was our dive on the Markgraf – beginning in 25m and disappearing down to 47m – it's the deepest of the three battleships. The Markgraf is also almost completely turned turtle with just a few metres of its upturned deck visible at the seabed. As you descend onto the hull you could be



Martin, Paul and Mark enjoy a warm brew between dives



Caroline hard at work underwater

THE ARTIST

Caroline Appleyard is an artist and diver from Chesterfield who has painted the wrecks of Scapa Flow

"As a professional artist I'm very lucky to combine my two passions, diving and painting. Scapa Flow is

my favourite dive destination because it's unique. I've had several trips there and couldn't wait to get back to paint on the great wrecks. I knew that I couldn't paint an entire wreck as I'd never have enough time, so decided to concentrate on guns and parts of the wrecks.

Painting wrecks is easier than fish as the subject doesn't move. I use oil pastels on hardboard because wet board sinks nicely. Some of the pastels are buoyant, so I cable-tie nuts and bolts onto them. I also wear lots more weight than usual so I stick to the seabed. I try to get to the place I'm painting as quickly as possible and play fast metal on my MP3 so I paint faster. Then I end up with less deco and finish before my buddy falls asleep." For painting sales and commissions, see Caroline's website: www.appleyard-art.co.uk

