

Autumn 2018

Newsletter

Another busy and productive year has flashed by and now everyone's talking about Christmas again.

This time every year I start thinking about producing a Christmas card of my own to give out to family and friends. It's a lovely thing to be able to do but it brings headaches of its own, such as remembering to get them printed in good time. This usually means thinking about a design LONG before I even want to contemplate the 'C' word.

This year, yesterday evening in fact, the 10th of October, a member of my art group brought in forms to enter the Southern Co-Op's Christmas Card competition. The winner gets a £1,000 donation for their favourite charity plus a hamper and 100 of their cards printed. The theme is 'Christmas Magic' BUT it has to be in by the 19th October. I've decided to have a go but got to get a wiggle on, as they say.

I thought I'd talk about some past Christmas card designs. I love doing them because I treat each project as an illustration job. As I say on the Home page, I trained as an illustrator because I naturally lean towards that way of working. Each one of these is very different and each one has its own story.

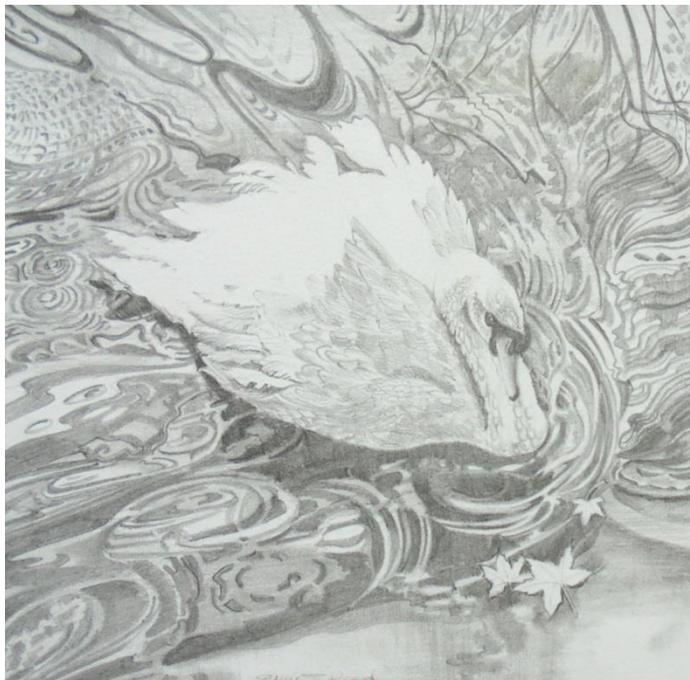
Birds in The Holly Tree



The idea for this card grew from a very cold spell we had one winter. So many birds that we never usually saw in our garden appeared there and the Holly tree seemed to be the main attraction.

Swan in Autumn

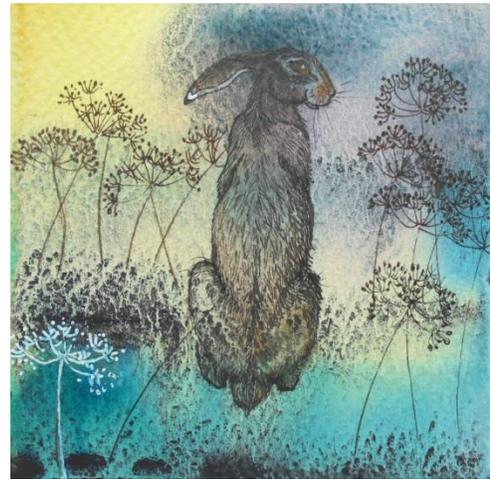
This drawing came about from a demonstration to my drawing class a couple of years ago. I decided to get about 20 photocopied, stuck the prints onto card blanks bought from a local hobby and materials shop and then hand finished them by running silver glitter glue around the lines of the drawn water.



Mocking Robins

One of my favourites. It started as an idea when I saw a picture of a very grumpy looking cat.

When I attempted to paint my grumpy cat, I had decided to try and get the effect of soft fur by dripping a splodge of water onto the wet black wash. It worked perfectly and in the way of the happy accidents that sometimes occur when painting with watercolours, the rest of the painting grew from that point. As it was to become a Christmas card the Robins got added and I had to make it so they were laughing at my snowed upon cat.



Moon and Hare pictures

This set of little paintings has been great fun to do. The initial idea came from practising running the colour, Lunar Black from the Daniel Smith range, into washes of Azure, Quinacridone Gold, Mars Brown and Scarlet. I Wanted to do something with all these practice pieces So drew pen drawings of hares (also foxes and wolves) Over the washes and added gold moons using imitation Gold leaf. Happy Christmas everyone.

