

We're writing this newsletter with a typically autumnal scene outside: beech and wych elms already turning colour and shedding their leaves; the sky suddenly empty of the swallows that nested in the stables all summer; and islands blurred by soft steady rain. Autumn on the west coast can go two ways: windy and wet, or fine and dry with frost, which prolongs the colour and makes us feel a lot better about the coming winter.

However, we can't reasonably complain about the weather, because in September we had a wonderful break on Orkney. What an extraordinary place! The seas are immense and spectacular, and the whole place is teeming with wildlife: big flocks of curlew and golden plover in the fields and parties of snipe resting on the edges of muddy pools.



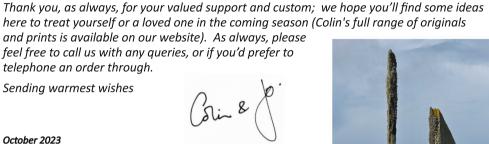
Around the shores were knot, dunlin, sanderling and turnstones, while hen harriers and short-eared owls quartered the farmland and moors on their long wings. By the last day, Colin was regretting that the one species he hadn't seen was an Orkney vole, at which point an obliging harrier dropped into a nearby field and flew off with one dangling from its feet.

Earlier in the year, we ventured up into the Rothiemurchus Forest to visit Loch an Eilein and

its picturesque island castle, with patches of snow still lying on the mountains beyond: and in the spring we headed across to long for a blissful walk along its white beaches. Cuckoos were calling from the woods from late April onwards, and then towards the end of summer we were regularly seeing a pair of roe deer with their two fawns.

This year, our Christmas cards feature a pair of crossbills. In the summer we watched a flock of these gargeous birds in some conifers above Dunardry, not far from Crinan. They were busy stripping the seeds from fir cones, and calling to each other as they hurried from one tree to the next. Some big paintings of sea and sky have been emerging from Colin's easel, and there will be more to follow so do check his website for updates. Likewise, he is now inspired by the birds and seas of Orkney, so new originals will keep flowing onto paper and hoard.

Thank you, as always, for your valued support and custom; we hope you'll find some ideas here to treat yourself or a loved one in the coming season (Colin's full range of originals





ORIGINAL WORKS FOR SALE



'Winter Morning' — With the sun barely risen and snow clouds clinging to the summits, this painting captures that feeling of intense cold just before dawn.

Oil on Gesso board Image size = $380 \times 615 \, \text{mm}$ £ 2750.00 product code **OO1**

'Sunset flight' — I was inspired to try and capture the way the setting sun caught just the edges of the birds and their wings seemed to glow!

Oil on Gesso board Image size = $320 \times 595 \text{ mm}$ £ 1450.00 product code **002**





'Waves II' I love water and find that the more I paint it the more I learn about how better to achieve the appearance of movement.

Oil on Gesso board Image size = $375 \times 550 \text{ mm}$ £ 2350.00 product code **003**

'Male Hen Harrier' — hunting off the tip of Orkney near the Brough of Birsay — we must have seen 10 or more Harriers.

Pencil study Image size = $110 \times 240 \, \text{mm}$ £ 395.00 product code **OP1**





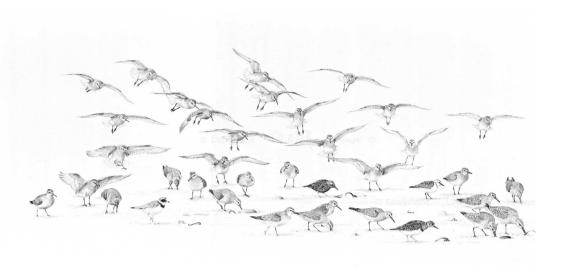
'The King of Birds' — In folklore, the wren is known as 'The King of Birds'. It is said that, in a contest with all the other birds to see who could fly highest, the wren won by hitching a lift in the feathers of an eagle and then leaping out to soar an extra few inches. In annoyance, the eagle swiped at the wren and it lost some of its feathers, resulting in its familiar stubby tail.

Watercolour Image size = $170 \times 280 \text{ mm}$ £ 1255.00 product code **OW1**

'West coast Ringed Plovers' — Looking out towards the isles of Eigg and Rum across the most beautiful clear water and beach. Terns and ringed plovers are common in these places.

Watercolour Image size = 200 x 280 mm £ 765.00 product code **OW2**





'Knot feeding' — A very welcome sight on an Orkney beach were flocks of waders chasing the tide and feeding on the abundant life amongst the seaweed.

Pencil study Image size = $160 \times 420 \, \text{mm}$ £ 570.00 product code **OP2**

'Winter Pine Marten' — Last winter, I spotted a pine marten in the daytime on the rocks opposite the house. He had a soft, long coat and seemed very interested in something in our hedge.

I sketched him quickly to capture his pose and attitude.

Pencil study Image size = $120 \times 180 \, \text{mm}$ £ 275.00 product code **OP3**



'Puffin Trio' — These charming characters were seen on a visit to the Treshnish Isles.

Pencil study

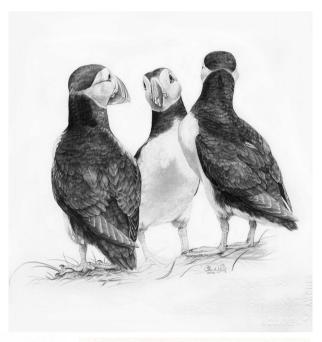
Image size = $160 \times 200 \text{ mm}$ £ 435.00

product code **OP4**

'Woodcock painted in sepia with a pin-feather'

Although I do not paint many of these any more, visitors to the studio are fascinated by the technique and ask if I have any for sale - so here are a few new ones!

 $\begin{array}{ccc} \textit{Image size approx.} = 120\,\textit{x}\,70\,\textit{mm} \\ \textit{£}\,375.00 & \textit{£}\,425.00 \\ \textit{code OWP1 (left)} & \textit{OWP2 (right)} \end{array}$









Mini prints: Swallow, brown hare, woodcock, otter and eider. Individually signed, ideal as delightful gifts. Supplied ready for your own frame. (Our own framing can be arranged - please enquire).

£10 Image size 155 x 115mm approx

SNAPSHOTS OF THIS YEAR



Above: Hummingbird Hawkmoth.

Right: Male Reed Bunting with damselflies for its young.
Below Left: Pyramidal Orchid (which is not common up here)

and Six-spot Burnet moth.
Below Right: Green Tiger Beetle.

Bottom: Two visitors in the garden at the same time.









BOOKS

'Britain's Landmarks and Legends'

Jo Woolf

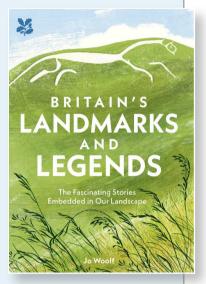
For a long time, I've had a sense that embedded in the landscape is an invisible but very tangible layer of legend. Often these legends are attached to prominent landmarks, either natural or man-made, and the stories have been handed down from one generation to the next, in an unbroken chain that goes back hundreds, sometimes thousands of years.

For this new book I've chosen 50 landmarks, scattered right across Britain from south-west England up to Scotland. Some are well known – Stonehenge, for example, and Glastonbury Tor, and Sherwood Forest – while some are less familiar, but still harbour some fascinating stories. Where, for example, is the cairn said to mark the grave of the last King of Cumberland, visited by the ghosts of his warriors who retrieve his crown from the depths of a nearby tarn? Which castle in North Wales gave rise to one of the most famous songs in the Welsh language, and who is said to gallop over Shropshire's Stiperstones in times of imminent war?

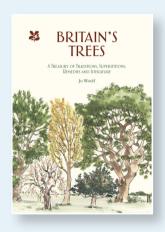
This has been a fascinating book to write, and the beautiful illustrations by Claire Harrup capture everything that is ancient and mystical about Britain's landscape.

Copies will be signed - please add a note with your order if you'd like a dedication.

£12.99 + P&P



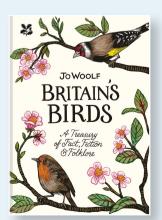
We also have stock of Jo's two previous books for The National Trust:



Britain's Trees - A Treasury of Traditions, Superstitions, Remedies and Literature

Britain's Birds - A Treasury of Fact, Fiction and Folklore

Priced as above



Christmas Cards 2023



We're delighted to bring you our exclusive Christmas cards for 2023: a pair of crossbills.

All Christmas cards are signed by Colin on the inside left.
Printed on 300gsm card, un-coated on the inside for ease of writing
Size: 148 x 210mm (approx 6" x 8¾") Supplied with 120gsm envelopes

Prices include UK postage

£14.50 for 6 code XC1 £25.50 for 12 code XC2 £42.50 for 24 code XC3 £86.00 for 50 code XC4

Blank cards and overprinting available as usual

colin@wildart.co.uk 07909 920 181

How to Order: You may order online via our website. Alternatively post this order form to the address below, or telephone / message your order through to

07909 920 181 before 7pm

If you are unsure of anything or just wish to ask a question, please do contact us; we pride ourselves on our personal and efficient service

For originals and prints, UK Postage is FREE on orders over £100

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