



Sango Bay with orchids

Most years on the west coast of Scotland, you can depend on some good weather in May and September. But this year, bitter winds and hail kept us wrapped up well into May, and the wind and rain that set in on 1st September took everyone by surprise, including a couple of newts and a fat toad which took shelter in the porch.

In between, unlike most of Britain, we've had a cool, unpredictable kind of summer but we've made the most of the sunshine, walking in our local woods and exploring the mountains and beaches of Assynt and Sutherland (you'll find more details in this newsletter). A stunning new painting of Ben Loyal was the result of this trip, its rock faces still glistening from recent rain, with white heads of cottongrass flecking the moor.

Other paintings that Colin has finished this year include Skye's Old Man of Storr, half-engulfed in swirling rain clouds; and a hugely impressive painting of Castle Stalker, with snow lingering on the hills beyond. At the time of going to print, a large painting of the hills around Glenelg is on the easel.

Our exclusive Christmas cards for 2026 feature a winter woodland lit by slanting sunlight with a roe deer grazing. The original painting is also for sale - you'll find more details inside.

As always, we'd like to thank you for your continuing support and interest. If you have a question that you'd like to contact us about - or perhaps an idea for a personal commission - please feel free to get in touch by phone or email.

With warmest wishes

October 2026

Colin & Jo



'Winter Woodland' with a roe deer. Colin says: 'This image was in my mind for some time - standing on the edge of a snow-covered woodland, with long shadows thrown by the low sun.'

Oil on Gesso board Image size = 490 x 350 mm £ 2350.00 product code 001



'The Old Man of Storr' - the Quiraing on the Isle of Skye under an approaching storm
 Oil on Gesso board Image size = 500 x 730 mm £ 3500.00 product code 002



'Kingfisher' - glimpsed rarely, but never forgotten
 Watercolour Image size = 160 x 100 mm £ 580.00 product code OW1



'Japonica' - blossoms of quince against an old stone wall
Oil on Gesso board Image size = 390 x 570 mm £ 2050.00 product code 003

'Sun Dog' A fleeting phenomenon also known as a parhelion

Oil on Gesso board
Image size = 335 x 425 mm £ 725.00 code 004





'October Mist' Ever-changing light and low cloud create some of the most beautiful effects over snow-covered mountains. This time of year, deer are surprisingly hard to spot.

Oil on Gesso board Image size = 500 x 730 mm £ 2975.00 product code **005**



'Swan family' Drawn using points made from pure silver, platinum and 9ct rose gold onto a specially-prepared ground, in a similar way to that used by the Renaissance artists.

Silverpoint study Image size = 100 x 290 mm £ 790.00 product code **OSP1**



'Castle Stalker' A large and dramatic painting. The second of a series of paintings planned to feature some of our favourite castles in Scotland. The first was Kilchurn Castle which can be viewed on the website - they look great together!

Oil on Gesso board Image size = 610 x 1160 mm

£ 6200.00 code **006**



There are many more paintings and pencil sketches
available on the website via QR code here - or contact
us if you would like more details.



Northwest Scotland

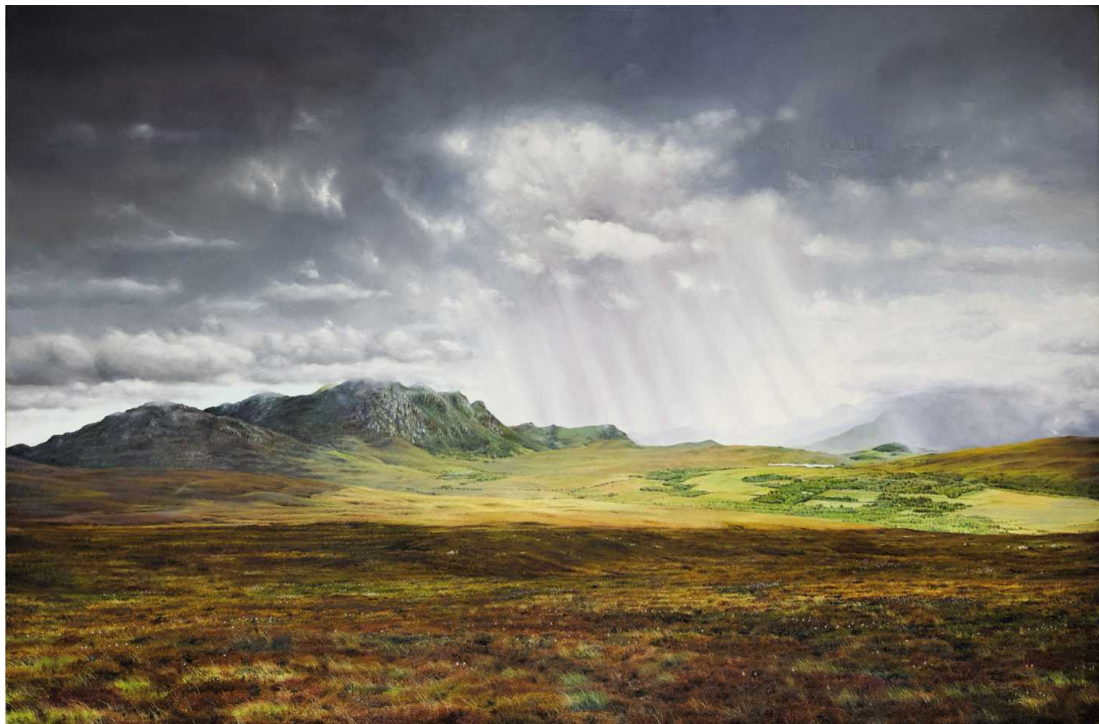
We've fallen in love with the otherworldly mountains and the quiet lochs and beaches of northwest Scotland. Wildlife encounters here can be both unexpected and magical: deer grazing in the midsummer twilight, with greenshanks calling around their nest on the moors above; red-throated divers displaying in a sheltered bay, with snipe drumming above our heads; cuckoos calling from ancient woods of oak and aspen, and orchids in such profusion that you risk stepping on them.

We also took a long-anticipated walk to a place we've always wanted to visit. Just to the east of Loch Assynt, the Bone Caves of Inchnadamph are a series of natural limestone caverns that have preserved the bones of animals - reindeer, Arctic fox, wolf, lynx, bears - that roamed this landscape between the ice ages. The path follows the river as it tumbles into lush green pools and occasionally disappears altogether, flowing underground through a network of caves. What an unforgettable day, with red deer looking down from the high screes just as they must have done when humans walked this glen in ages past.



Above: Colin enjoying the view from one of the caves

Left: Mountain Avens (*Dryas octopetala*), Moss Campion (*Silene acaulis*) and Early Purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*) - just some of the beautiful plants in the area close to the caves.



'Ben Loyal' Through a break in the clouds, a patch of sun lights up the wild, boggy moorland landscape of Sutherland
Oil on Gesso board

Image size = 380 x 580 mm £ 3150.00 code **007**



Left: On Clachtoll beach in June



Right: A chance encounter with a Green Hairstreak butterfly in ancient hazelwoods at Ballachuan in Argyll

HANDMADE BOOKS

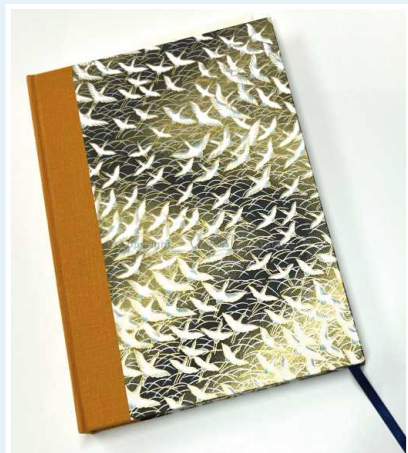


Top left: Japanese style sketchbook, with pure silk stitching on the binding and gorgeous Chiyogami paper.

Above: Colin pastes some bookcloth for the next project while a book dries in his handmade oak press.



In his spare time - and yes, he does have some! - Colin has taught himself the art of bookbinding, which he's been wanting to learn for many years. Having built his own book press out of seasoned oak, and sourced a range of exquisite materials from as far away as Japan, he's now offering hand-bound notebooks and sketchbooks for sale. Each design is one of a kind, beautifully tactile, and a delight to use. Some examples are shown here, and there's a full selection on our website. Custom options are available to order.



Christmas Cards 2026



*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year*

We're delighted to bring you our exclusive Christmas cards for 2026: 'Winter Woodland'. Every time we come across deer on our walks it brings a surge of joy - sometimes it's just a brief sighting of a single deer, as in this painting.

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: A5 148 x 210mm (approx 6" x 8¼") Supplied with 120gsm envelopes

Prices include UK postage

£14.50 for 6	code XC1	£26.50 for 12	code XC2
£44.50 for 24	code XC3	£88.00 for 50	code XC4

You can order any quantity of cards (min 6), the above packs are just for convenience.

Blank cards and overprinting available to order

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