

I was born in Lymm, Cheshire and graduated from Manchester University with a degree in Education.

I moved to Warwickshire, Gloucestershire and back to Warwickshire, following a full and varied teaching career. My first post was at Kitebrook House, Moreton-in-Marsh. I then trained to teach English to Foreign Students and taught in Stratford-upon-Avon, Banbury and France. My creative outlet at this time was as a singer-songwriter, especially performing at folk-evenings and I sold recordings of my own songs. I have continued to teach guitar though the focus now is classical. I lectured in English and Communication at South Warwickshire College.

When I returned to teaching children at Kitebrook I enrolled on the Writing School correspondence course and wrote 'Sun Kingdom' a short story which, 20 years later, became the outline for the libretto of the opera 'Sun Kingdom,' written with my composer husband, Richard Roderick Jones.

I wanted to publish the story as an illustrated text and was introduced to Trevor Waugh, who had trained with David Hockney. Trevor taught me the fundamentals of watercolour technique and the business know-how of mount cutting, framing and setting myself up to have my first exhibition with four other artists in Chipping Norton Town Hall in 1993.

From this time until 2011, I was employed at Kitebrook House part-time and followed a career as a professional artist. Owing to my teaching commitment I mainly worked on commissions gained from venues such as Craft-in-Action, Oxfordshire Artweeks, private exhibitions in the home of Lady Elizabeth Longman where I had a studio in 2000 and 2001 and more recently Warwickshire Artweeks and Shipston Creative Arts exhibitions.

Although primarily a watercolour artist my work has, over the years, developed in two other directions.

When I received portrait commissions I moved away from watercolour to pencil, charcoal and pastel. I studied classical techniques and the use of toned paper and watercolour washes beneath the drawing in the print room at the Ashmolean Museum and the drawings of Ingres from the London exhibition. Lady Elizabeth Longman had commissioned the society artist, Ludmila Trapp to draw her children in the early 1960s. She lent me these portraits which I copied 'after Ludmilla Trapp' to study her techniques. I researched the best pastel pencils to use and in producing my portrait of Jemima, was so pleased with the pencils that I contacted the company which made them with my gratitude. In return I was sent a wonderful gift of a box of 72 pastels and recommended the watercolour pencils which they produced.

The second direction my work has taken has been to produce drawings and paintings from worked sketches. I studied 'Technique of Miniature Painting' by members of The Hilliard Society' of miniaturists. I studied Gordon Beningfield's work through his books and especially his exhibition in Dorchester, his pencil drawings and his paintings of butterflies for the Post Office stamps issued in May 1981. I visited exhibitions at Nature in Art, Gloucester, which also influenced my work.

As a keen naturalist, in 2000 I embarked on a series of wild flower and butterfly paintings. In producing prints for my exhibition I sent one, as a thank you, to the director who had sent me the box of pastels. He subsequently used the poppy design for a tin of the watercolour pencils for Fantasia which is still available.

I had drawn 12 miniatures and 4 larger ovals using the watercolour pencils. The director then commissioned me to reproduce one of the oval designs for a tin of pastel pencils for Fantasia which is also still available.

The commissions after my exhibitions in 2000 and 2001 were both of portraits and watercolours. I had painted buildings for a Barnados charity Christmas card of Chester and Moreton Hospital for a doctor's retirement present. I was then asked to paint both Kitebrook House (twice) and Hillside for my colleagues retirement presents. In 2004 I moved to Ilmington and subsequently painted Ilmington School for two retirement presents. In 2007 The Cothill Trust bought Kitebrook House and commissioned me to paint the then five schools in the trust for an alumni calendar 2009.

Since 2008 my artistic output has been primarily for myself in the form of sketchbook drawings and paintings both from our holidays, especially in Scotland and at home. Much time has been spent working on the computer building and publishing websites for my husband and myself. I have drawn portraits of three performers to illustrate printed music books.

Earlier this year I enjoyed visiting the Royal Academy exhibition 'Painting the Modern Garden'. My exhibition at Ilmington Manor coinciding with the gardens being open is intended as a little 're-launch' of my artwork, which will focus on my favourite subjects in 'My Sketchbook Gardens'.