

Biography for Sally J. Collins

Sally was born in Wiltshire, England.

She enjoyed 5 years at the Art Secondary School in Bath, Somerset during the 1960s.

From a very young age, she had a burning ambition to be a designer or illustrator of fashion. But instead she trained as a teacher at Manchester Polytechnic: finally gaining a silver medal in City & Guilds Fashion, whilst teaching in comprehensive schools in Nottingham and Hull, and just before becoming a mum and giving up the idea!

Sally moved up to Elgin in North East Scotland in 1976, then later lived in Aberdeenshire until 1998.

She has been working as a freelance artist, art tutor and community banner-making project leader, exhibiting her artwork in Edinburgh and East Lothian galleries, and in festivals and libraries around Scotland.

Sally lives in Longniddry, East Lothian, where she loves being in the countryside, next to the sea, and yet so near to all the city delights of Edinburgh.

Sally has been commissioned by local councils, maltings, distilleries and various companies to make illustrations for booklets, posters, Christmas cards and information boards depicting social history, flora and fauna, local views, snow scenes and buildings.

She also made the Clan Crest fabric banners at the Prestonpans Community Centre.

Private commissions include landscapes, and portraits of animals, homes, gardens and children.

Sally uses technical pens, coloured pencils and watercolour pencils for most of her illustrations, but she also loves using charcoal and pastels, scraper board, acrylics, gouache and watercolours, and she loves making purely graphite images.

Most of Sally's pictures are "mixed-media", and she has always enjoyed experimenting with various combinations of media and methods, encouraging her students to do the same.

She loves to demonstrate her techniques with watercolour pencils and drawing media.

Pictures for books and other commissioned artwork are always planned very carefully in 2B and 4B pencils first ...from tiny rough "thumbnails" to "finished, full-sized roughs"....before working up with ink and colour for the final "finished artwork".

Sally is now focused on her illustration work and has illustrated over 21 books for children, including:

"The History of Scotland for Children" and a series of Scottish Folk Tales by Judy Paterson;

a new edition of

"The King of the Copper Mountains" by Paul Biegel;

"Greyfriars Bobby" and the very popular,

"Hamish McHaggis" series by Linda Strachan.

She enjoys working very closely with authors to bring their stories to life, and then has great fun taking the artwork in progress and finished books out to meet and work with a variety of audiences ...finding that the smiles on all the faces are such a lovely reward!

More details of Sally and her books can be seen on the
Scottish Book Trust website ~

www.scottishbooktrust.com/contacts/sally-j-collins

There you will also find
Online Teaching Resources based on the
"Hamish McHaggis" series.

Visit

The Pencaitland Railway Walk
to see more of her illustrations.

Find more on Linda Strachan's website...

www.lindastrachan.com

and

expect to see more on **Sally's BLOG...** coming soon!