

Life after the BBC

Like many of us who left the BBC, I was in shock! I had been a Designer working on daytime and London-based productions for 30 years. It was all I knew. It was not the work that I missed but the people with whom I had spent many wonderful years. I had been so happy there and going out into the big wide world was not easy. Most of my friends were still at work and although I briefly went freelance, I decided that I did not like the responsibility if anything went wrong. So I had to change. I was no longer a Theatre or TV Designer but an Artist, which is what I had started out being in the first place.



Sitting at home, bored, a friend suggested that I could work with her for a few weeks at the University of Birmingham. While I was there I had an idea! I visited the Vice Chancellor and suggested that I could do paintings of the university, turn them into prints and sell them at the graduations. He agreed it was a good idea and that's how it started. I still sell university prints of my paintings on their website today.

I decided that I would like my own art studio. I rented a space in Stoke Prior Craft Centre, where I established a small studio and gallery and began teaching art to beginners. I exhibited my paintings at the [Royal Birmingham Society of Artists](#) (RBSA). I painted a series about Birmingham, mainly of the new buildings around the canal system and turned them into prints, selling them to the owners of the new apartments. I became Vice President of the RBSA, organising their exhibitions and doing demonstrations and workshops. I exhibited my paintings at galleries and began doing art demonstrations around the Midlands to all the art societies.



Being born in the Midlands, I always loved to escape to the sea! This I did ten years ago and I love it here. I live in [Tipton St. John](#), a small village by the river, two miles from Sidmouth.

I have a studio/gallery near to the seafront in Sidmouth, called [Loft Art Studio](#) in Libra Court.

I go for walks along the seafront or the river most days.



I became Chair of the [Sidmouth Society of Artists](#) (SSA), organising their exhibitions and doing demonstrations. I also run three-day art workshops at holiday cottages around Devon. My friends from Birmingham still come and visit me in my studio, so please feel free – it's always lovely to see my BBC colleagues! We all grow older but have much in common and lots of happy memories.

Lynda



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