

# Charity benefits from card sales

Artist chooses to support foundation that provided helpful information and welcome back-up after her diagnosis

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A FARNHAM artist has harnessed her prowess in painting flowers to raise money for the charity helping her cope with an illness that went undiagnosed for years.



Some of Suzie Lidstone's large designs can take up to three weeks to complete.

Prints of Susie Lidstone's vibrant watercolours are now featured on a range of cards, with 20% of the sales donated to the Cystitis and Overactive Bladder (COB) Foundation.

The Upper Hale painter was approached by bespoke card-maker The Dandy Arthouse earlier this year and within three weeks her work was appearing on the cards.

Another range of floral paintings has already been commissioned for a second series, which the 55-year-old hopes will further boost the coffers of her chosen charity.

Speaking about her condition, Ms Lidstone said: "I was recently diagnosed but suffered from it for a long, long time before. You get to the point where you think you're going mad but they finally found out what was wrong with me."

Ms Lidstone said that once diagnosed, she had felt thoroughly supported by the COB



Suzie Lidstone's designs have been used on cards that are sold to raise money for the Cystitis and Overactive Bladder (COB) Foundation.

CHRIS WHITEOAK  
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Foundation: "The information is really helpful," she said. "The foundation has a very good website and someone is always there if you need to phone up and talk about something. It's the back-up that's so good."

The painter has specialised in flowers since graduating from the West Surrey College of Art and Design, now known as the University of the Creative Arts, in Farnham during the early 1980s and was particularly inspired by the work of renowned

Scottish architect and artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

"I just fell in love with flowers, particularly the way Mackintosh drew and structured them," she said.

Ms Lidstone, whose paintings can measure up to 60cm square and usually take three weeks to complete, said she uses watercolours because she is allergic to oil paints.

She explained that watercolours, often associated with softer colours, could yield striking results in the right hands.

"The pigments in watercolours are actually very vibrant," she said. "Much more than people think."

As well as focussing on flowers, Ms Lidstone is also a specialist architectural artist and has just completed a commission for The Mulberry pub in Farnham.

She is also due to take part in architectural drawing sessions at the Guildford Institute between April 20 and May 8.

To view her cards, visit [www.thedandyhouse.com](http://www.thedandyhouse.com).