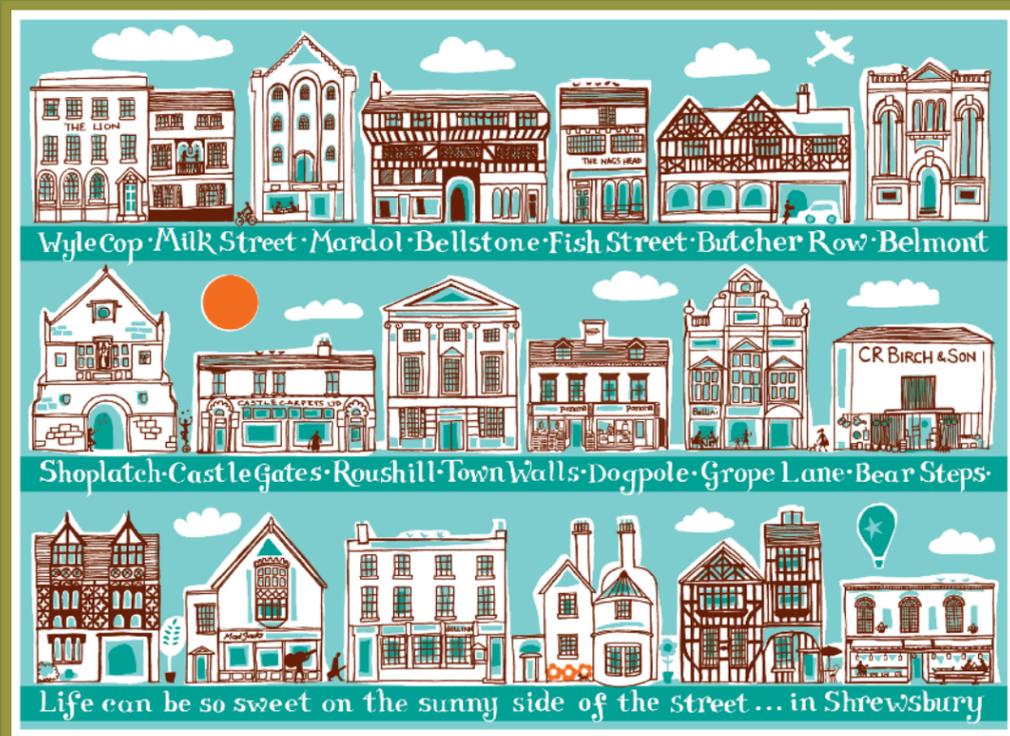


INSPIRED

by the country

ILLUSTRATIONS Linda Edwards, Shrewsbury

Interview by Catherine Waterfall Photography by Richard Hammerton



"I create vibrant, uplifting artwork that offers people an escape from the everyday grind. I like to connect with people and make them smile; human warmth and empathy are in everything I do. Each piece starts with a pencil drawing, then I add colour on the computer. Whether it's characters, pattern or mood, intense colour is my signature. My art is a celebration of places I love and offers an overall impression of a place, usually in Shropshire and particularly Shrewsbury. The people of this county are very laid back. It's such a beautiful and relaxing place to be, it allows me to be creative."



Linda Edwards
Although she has had no formal art training, Linda has worked as an illustrator and freelance artist all her life. She specializes in colourful gift-card and book illustrations, such as the best-selling *Children's Bible*.

Above: On the Sunny Side of the Street in Shrewsbury – "This all started from a song I had in my mind when I was walking around Shrewsbury. I wanted to mix up the buildings and I love integrating words and pictures."



▲ Life is but a Dream in Shrewsbury

"This view of the Quarry in Shrewsbury is close to my back garden. I wanted a theme for the river and everyone knows the children's song, 'life is but a dream' and the line, 'gently down the stream' works perfectly."

▼ Sunny Side Art Cards

"Through our business – Sunny Side Art – which I run with my partner, Nigel Elliott, we now have a range of about 40 designs which are used on art prints, cards, mugs, tea towels, bags etc. Most of the designs are of places I love in Shropshire."

► Darwin's Tree

"I find this quote from Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species* really inspiring. Darwin, who is from Shrewsbury of course, is featured as a young boy, and there are pigeons included because he used to be fascinated by them apparently."





▲ Sunny Side Art
Bone China Mugs

"These are very popular bone-china mugs which are hand-decorated in Stoke-on-Trent from two screen prints of my artwork. There are two designs, one of Shrewsbury and a general one depicting the whole of Shropshire. They cost £12.50 each."

◀ Over the Hills and Far
Away in Shropshire

"This is an impression of the places I love, such as Ellesmere and Whittington Castle. I was born in Africa but have lived in Shropshire for 25 years and I love the soft light here."



More information

For more about Linda and her work, visit www.lindaedwards.co.uk
For details of Sunny Side Art, including a list of stockists, visit the website at www.sunnysideart.co.uk

