

JANE STEPHENS

Illustrator • Writer • Former Tax Lawyer

EMAIL
jane@janestephens.co.uk

WEB
janestephens.co.uk

BASED
Blackbird Farm, near Rackham, West Sussex,
England

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

British illustrator and writer whose work combines loose ink drawing, restrained colour and a gently observant sense of humour. Jane creates warm, character-led images for games, publishing and editorial use, with a particular interest in animals, the natural world and the small details of everyday life. Her practice is informed by an earlier career in tax and governance law, bringing discretion and close attention to detail to her work for private clients.

ILLUSTRATION CAREER

Illustrator & Visual Storyteller | Independent practice 2020–present

- Develops original character artwork, narrative illustrations and visual concepts for digital and print use.
- Works in a deliberately direct, hand-drawn idiom: irregular ink line, sparse colour and expressive, economical detail.
- Maintains coherent character references and repeatable visual rules for artwork used across collections, formats and animation.
- Collaborates with commissioners on briefs, revisions, licensing, attribution and delivery-ready artwork.

Contributing Illustrator | Pembroke Games 2026–present

- Creates the animal characters and nature-led reward illustrations used across Pembroke Games' calm puzzle titles.
- Advises on character personality, speech, visual continuity and the translation of still artwork into simple animation.
- Contributes to a shared illustrated world designed to remain welcoming, understated and optional alongside the core games.

SELECTED COMMISSIONS & PROJECTS

Rural Rabies Awareness Campaign | French Government 2022

Selected through a competitive process to produce illustrations for a French Government public-information campaign promoting responsible pet ownership and rabies vaccination in rural communities across northern France. The commission, which grew from a professional connection made during Jane's earlier public-sector advisory work, received several awards.

Christmas Cards | Pembroke Publishing 2024

Illustration and copy for a series of charity Christmas cards inspired by nature.

WordWheel and Friends | Pembroke Games 2025

Artistic vision for a proposed series of word and puzzle games aimed at elderly, IT literate, women.

PREVIOUS LEGAL CAREER

Director & Senior Tax Adviser | Vital Interests Consulting

2011–2020

Advised individuals and organisations on complex UK tax and governance matters, combining technical analysis with clear, practical written guidance. Work required exacting research, careful handling of confidential information and close collaboration with clients and professional colleagues.

- Prepared and reviewed technical advice, correspondence and supporting documentation.
- Translated complex legislation and guidance into precise, accessible recommendations.
- Managed sensitive matters with discretion, sound judgement and meticulous attention to detail.

Solicitor & Tax Counsel | Harcourt Vane LLP

1996–2011

Trained and qualified as a solicitor before progressing through advisory and leadership roles in private-client taxation, cross-border matters and organisational governance. Later established Vital Interests Consulting to provide discreet, independent advice to private clients, public figures and representative bodies.

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Drawing, Printmaking & Botanical Illustration | West Dean College short courses

2018–2020

Part-time studio practice and professional development in observational drawing, ink, relief printmaking and restrained watercolour.

Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales | Law Society

Admitted 1996

Professional training followed by practice in UK taxation, private-client work and governance; subsequently non-practising.

BA (Hons) Law; LLM | Pembroke College, University of Cambridge

1989–1993

Undergraduate study in law (1989–1992), followed by the Cambridge LLM (1992–1993), with particular interests in taxation, public law and European institutions.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Beyond Nature | Private Exhibition, London

2024

Paintings and mixed media show and sale.

Governance and Expenses in the European Parliament | Vital Interests Consulting

2018

A guide for parliamentarians and parties to ensure efficient compliance (available privately)

SKILLS

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| • Ink drawing and restrained colour | • Character and visual-world development |
| • Editorial and narrative illustration | • Digital artwork preparation |
| • Creative briefing and collaboration | • Writing, captioning and wordplay |
| • Research and close textual analysis | • Confidential client work |

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Professional memberships: Association of Illustrators; former member, Law Society of England and Wales

References: Available on request.