



**Autumn Woodland – Aldbury Common by Jackie Carden** (oil painting)

The history of this special wood goes back many centuries. It has been owned and managed by many great men and women who would have used the woodland as a valuable resource for timber, hunting grounds and fodder. A monastery was founded here at Assherugge in the late thirteenth century by the nephew of Henry III, Edmund of Cornwall. In the 1530s, now known as Ashridge, the estate survived the reformation as a royal home and was bequeathed to Princess, later Queen, Elizabeth.

More recently in the last century, the Third Earl Brownlow left the part of the estate featured in this painting to the National Trust. Jackie said “I find every season beautiful here and a delight to paint, picnic and walk in. I have painted here with snow, autumn leaves underfoot, or haloed by bluebells and blossom – all wonderful.”