

The Guild's connection with the *Waterbird* goes back to late 2022 when Phil Hadley received an invitation from Anne Hughes, Trustee of the Lakes Flying Co. Ltd (and member of the LAA and Vintage Aircraft Club) to sketch the replica aircraft now in a hangar at John Lennon Airport, Liverpool.

The *Waterbird* (an Avro Curtiss-type floatplane) was the first aircraft in the UK to take off and land on water. The first successful flight took place on 25th November 1911 from Windermere. The full story is in Phil's article, published in the Winter 2022/2023 edition of the QN.

I was unable to attend the sketch day but knowing the Lakes and especially Windermere very well, I was inspired to do an oil pastel of the sister plane, the *Waterhen* flying over the lake.



That pastel is now in the *Wings Over Windermere* exhibition at the Windermere Library.

Earlier this year I then received a call from Ian Gee, Chair of the Trustees of the Lakes Flying Co. Ltd to ask could I come up with a design and painting for the poster for the annual *Wings Over Windermere* September event where *Waterbird* flies on Windermere. So a painting of *Waterbird* this time!

Thus started a very enjoyable project to illustrate *Waterbird* flying over Windermere accompanied by the small yellow Aviat Husky. The autumnal and iconic Langdale Pikes were to be in the background. The work was painted in acrylic on canvas board with some details in pencil. (not biro and crayon for a change!)

I met up with Ian at Kendal for lunch in October to deliver the painting.

David Calow GAvA

The excellent *Wings Over Windermere* exhibition in Windermere Library



Photo: Milton Haworth