

Welcome to the June 2022 edition of the Jack Russell Gallery Newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about what we've been up to.

A New Season!

Great to have the cricket season up and running again and I am really looking forward to painting as much live action as possible this Summer. I recently visited Lurgashall village, West Sussex, with its 16th Century [Noahs Ark Inn](#) and delightful village shop. There was no cricket on the day which was good because I set my easel up at short third. A couple of bikers from Brighton, Miriam Roberts and her companion Yari, stopped to chat and take this photograph.

Photo credit: Miriam Roberts



Lurgashall Cricket Club play here as well as neighbours Grayswood CC 3rd XI, known as "The Lurgashall Legends." Hoping to get back soon to capture the "Legends" in action plus many other scenes from the village. It really is a beautiful part of England. As is Chiddingfold, a few miles north, where I stopped to paint the evening light.



Will be revisiting to paint a larger picture. Keep an eye on our [blog page](#) where I will keep you posted of the latest paintings and which grounds I'll be visiting during the Summer.



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STROUD CRICKET CLUB

During the Winter I was contacted by Fiona Little, the wife of Gavin Little an old team mate from my playing days at Stroud Cricket Club. She wanted to know if I could paint her a small picture of our old club for Gavin's birthday. Of course I was delighted but this caused a major problem. We're talking 1980's era here so where would I get the necessary reference from, as the original Victorian pavilion had burnt down many years ago and the ground was now a housing estate!

I scratched my head for some time, and despite searching the internet, all I could find was a press photo of a saddened yours truly stood in front of a smouldering pavilion. There was something at the back of my mind that was convincing me that I had a photo of the ground somewhere in my archive. Or did I? I searched for days in the places I was sure it would be, but found nothing. I was about to tell Fiona I couldn't paint the picture for lack of reference material when by accident, searching through a box of photographs from our England Tour to South Africa in 1995/6 for a completely different painting, suddenly, there it was! A small 5 inch by 3 inch panoramic view of the ground, including the pavilion and my late brother's memorial score box.



Gold dust! I set about painting a small picture as requested, leaving out the score box because when Gavin and I first played there the score box next to the pavilion didn't exist. Fiona and I arranged a surprise and emotional visit to the gallery for Gavin to see his birthday present. I hadn't seen him for 30 years so we chatted for hours; it was like the old days (sorry Fiona!). After they left that day it suddenly dawned on me that I really should do a painting of my old club for myself. Not sure why I hadn't done it before but our trip down memory lane set the juices flowing and I was inspired.

Strange thing was, while I was painting the fielders they seemed to take on a life of their own. Almost sub-consciously certain shapes appeared for the fielders, unintentionally, they just happened to come out that way. Their body shapes and the way they move. I can't explain it but I can see and hear my old team mates. So this is the finished painting of my old club. Happy days.

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CHELTENHAM ANNIVERSARY

This year sees the 150th anniversary of the Cheltenham Cricket Festival, the oldest cricket festival in the world. I'll be there painting but to make life a little more difficult for myself, as with the [Ashes Collection](#), I'm going to attempt to capture the first ball of the festival. That will include the weather conditions; exact fielding positions and spectators wherever they are stood at that time.

So if you'd like to be a couple of "brush strokes" in the picture let me know; email jack@jackrussell.co.uk. Best to wear a bright colour and situate yourself at the college end of the ground and I'll do my best to get you in! We'll be making a limited edition giclee print from the picture to celebrate. If you'd like to be one of the first to see the finished painting please let me know and we'll make sure you know well in advance of the publication date just in case you would like the option of purchasing a low number from the 150 edition.

BROADHALFPENNY DOWN

This year is the 250th anniversary of the first ever 'First Class Cricket Match' which was played at Broadhalfpenny Down 24th June 1772. I have been invited to paint the match on 24th June this year between a Hampshire XI and an All England XI. If you are there on the day as a spectator please come and say hello and I'll do my best to get you in the picture.

There is a plan to produce a 250 giclee limited edition print to commemorate the occasion. Can't wait!



VISIT MY YOUTUBE CHANNEL [www.youtube.com](#)

THANK YOU

As always a big thank you to those of you who continue to support us. Without you this artist wouldn't be an artist!

If you would like a free copy of our latest gallery brochure please drop me an email at jack@jackrussell.co.uk, or give us a call on 01454 329583. Don't forget, you can also get me on twitter: [@jackrussellart](#), or visit our [website](#):

Take care everyone. Hopefully we can catch up again soon.

Jack Russell MBE

