

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

ANNIVERSARIES!

This Summer saw two very important anniversaries: the 250th anniversary of the first ever first class cricket match played at Broadhalfpenny Down, and the 150th anniversary of the oldest cricket festival in the world, which was first played at the College Grounds in Cheltenham. I was lucky enough this Summer to attend both anniversaries and capture them on canvas. At the famous Broadhalfpenny Down ground, a Hampshire All Stars XI captained by Mark Nicholas played an All England XI captained by Charlotte Edwards.

What a magnificent day it was too. I have to thank David Henderson for commissioning the commemorative painting and congratulate him and everyone involved at the cricket club for organising a superbly run day. Also, I have to thank them for looking after me so brilliantly. I even had my own "bodyguard" to make sure I had everything I needed! You'll see some of these characters dotted around the boundary edge as well as on the pavilion balcony. There is a superb view of the Hampshire landscape from the top of the pavilion so I couldn't resist painting a smaller picture from there.

You'll be able to see the finished picture on our website as well as a high quality limited edition giclee print of the anniversary match which was played 250 years to the very day of the first ever first class cricket match.

[Broadhalfpenny Down Colour Sketch](#)

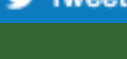
[Broadhalfpenny Down Giclee](#)



You'll see plenty of figures behind the boundary boards in my Cheltenham Cricket Festival painting as well. Thank you to everyone who posed for me and offered to meet me there on the first day of the match between Gloucestershire and Hampshire; you're all now immortalised on canvas forever! It's been over 20 years since I painted a major picture of the ground. Having not been to the festival for quite some time it was great to be back to catch up with old friends, and to remind myself what a truly unique and spectacular setting this venue is - simply glorious and steeped in history.

I was just so fortunate to have played at Cheltenham. Magical days. Priceless days. All the memories and emotions came flooding back. So much so in fact that the original 30 inch by 20 inch canvas got out of hand and grew to nearly 45 inches by 20! The ground is a big part of my heart so it had to be a big canvas. I couldn't help myself. To coincide with the 150th anniversary of the festival, the edition is limited to only 150 which are available now on a strictly first-come, first-served basis.

[Cheltenham Giclee](#)



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ELEMENTARY

I spent much of my time this Summer visiting village and club cricket grounds. It has been so refreshing to see our great game thriving, and to meet so many people that have such an immense love and passion for cricket. I have to congratulate so many clubs on their ability to nurture and connect communities as well as offering opportunities for men and women of all ages the chance to show their skills and enjoyment. The women's game in particular has blossomed in the last few years, and I think I'm right in saying that nearly every match this Summer I saw women on the field of play.

For quite a while I've wanted to paint Stoneleigh with its great abbey mansion backdrop; one of our country's finest cricketing views. I timed my visit just right because it was their last league match as Stoneleigh were attempting to get promoted - which I am pleased to say they did by just one point!

[Stoneleigh Giclee](#)



They were playing Wellesbourne who were fielding their first ever female player, 14-year-old Isabella Lawrence Posso.

She took a key wicket when bowling, and fielded brilliantly square of the wicket, just in front of my easel.



The Sherlock Holmes Society of London XI versus The PG Wodehouse Cold Bats XI at West Wycombe is probably the longest title for any cricket picture that I've painted over the 30 odd years, but the picture had to be painted. Firstly, because I'm a big Sherlock Holmes fan and the annual fixture intrigued me; secondly, the match was being played in the picturesque setting of West Wycombe Cricket Club, a ground I have been longing to paint. The backdrop is quite superb with the great hill and its 14th century church tower capped with a golden ball perched on top beside the Dashwood Mausoleum.

The ground also has a resident red kite that patrols above the outfield keeping a close eye on proceedings. In keeping with Conan Doyle and Wodehouse traditions, the match is played under Victorian rules.

[Sherlock Holmes Original](#)

[Sherlock Holmes Giclee](#)

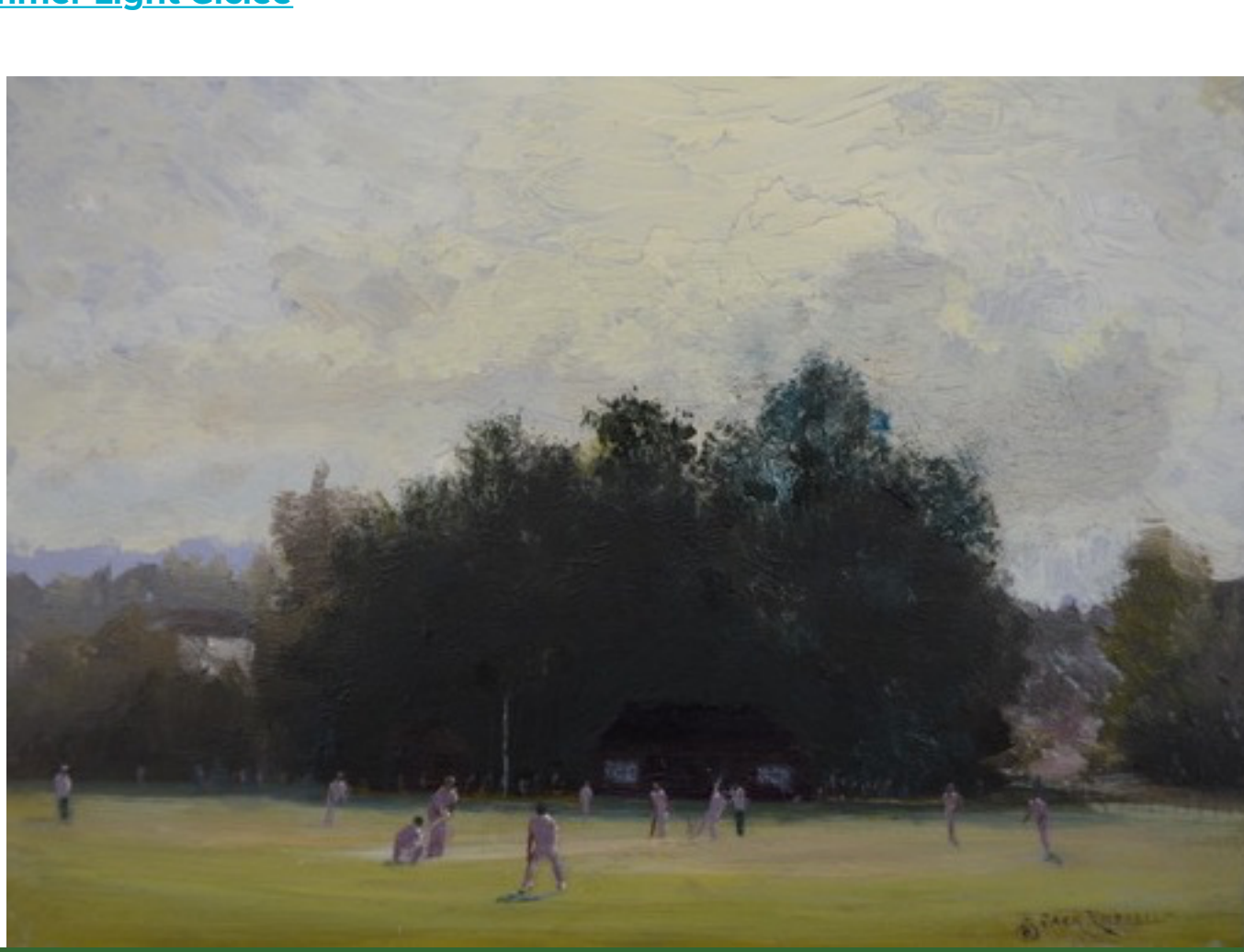


Please don't ask me to explain them - all I know is that one fielder was allowed to wear a green sunhat and red braces I sat on the boundary edge with my small paint box, and came up with a small colour sketch which I used as reference back in the studio to produce a larger version on canvas.



You may remember from our last newsletter in June of this year, I painted a small picture on location at Chiddingfold Cricket Club - I just happened to be passing on my way home but was stopped in my tracks by the lovely setting and wonderful evening light. I was hoping to return to paint a full sized version but lack of time and hectic schedule has beaten me, so I haven't had a chance to return. The little painting however has caused much interest, and although the original is not for sale, we have produced a limited edition giclee on museum acid free card on the same scale as the original. And because it typifies a quintessential English Summer, we've called the edition "Summer Light."

[Summer Light Giclee](#)



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THE LAST DAMBUSTER

In amongst all the cricket this Summer, I had the privilege and the pleasure to paint the last surviving member of the famous Dambusters Raid from World War Two, Johnny Johnson MBE, DFC. Despite celebrating his 100th birthday last year and now a little frail, he was in sparkling form. I was spellbound as he told me of his journey that dark night across Germany in a Lancaster bomber often travelling at less than 50 feet above the ground at several hundred miles an hour.



I would have been terrified, but Johnny explained he found it exhilarating because he had the best spot in the aeroplane to view proceedings. Being the bomb aimer he had to lie in the front of the Lancaster looking through the glass perspex situated in the aeroplanes front nose. That was just one night of many dangerous nights for young Johnny, and his life in the decades preceding the war was just as fascinating. I can recommend his autobiography. A truly amazing character that I've had the pleasure of capturing on canvas.



VETERANS APPEAL

I'm in the middle of a major project: to paint the portraits of the last surviving veterans who fought at the Battle of Imjin River in Korea, 1951. With the help of the former Commanding Officer of the Gloucestershire Regiment, and the Curator at the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum, we've managed to track down seven survivors who were on that famous hill in Korea in 1951.

We're still searching, as next year the veterans' portraits will be on display in SOCM in Gloucester to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the homecoming of all the prisoners of war from the battle when they returned back to blighty in 1953. We need to get in touch with as many of these veterans as we can so they can feature in the exhibition - so if you know anybody who might have fought in Korea, in particular if they served in the Gloucestershire Regiment, then please can you let me know, as I'd be happy to visit them to paint their portrait. (email address: jack@jackrussell.co.uk)

RARE SKETCHES EXHIBITION

I'm delighted to say I have been invited by Trent Art in Newcastle Under Lyme to put together a collection of sketches of Staffordshire. This will be the largest collection of sketches in one exhibition since my debut exhibition, which sold out in two days in Bristol way back in 1988. That was the start of my career as an artist and it's been a wonderful journey to travel around Staffordshire capturing not just the beautiful landscape, but its gritty industrial past.

The exhibition runs from Friday 2nd December through to the Saturday 7th January. For further details contact Ruth or Henry, art@trent-art.co.uk. You'll enjoy their passion for art! I will be there for the preview on the Thursday evening before the exhibition opens to the public, and again on the first Sunday of the exhibition between 11am and 2pm. Going to be great fun, can't wait!

VISIT MY YOUTUBE CHANNEL [www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/jackrussellart)

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!

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

Jack Russell MBE



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