

Welcome to the June 2025 edition of the Jack Russell Gallery Newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about what we've been up to.

BUSY YEAR!

I'm pleased to tell you we have had a very busy year. Amongst all of the painting projects and exhibitions, we have finally moved out of Chipping Sodbury - after 30 years! We have so many happy memories of our time in South Gloucestershire that you could write a book on it, and follow up with a sequel! But it was time to move on and hand over our buildings in the High Street and Russell Mews to a fresh face. Russell Mews will become apartments, and our old gallery on the High Street will become something new.

You can find our temporary address on our website: www.jackrussell.co.uk

I was delighted recently to have another one of my portraits on show at the Royal Portrait Society's Annual Exhibition in London: "Johnny Johnson: The Last Dambuster." The picture is now on show at Chris Beetles Gallery in London, as part of their Summer Show alongside a small portrait study of Korean War Veteran Joe Collett. To read about my amazing journey with these two very courageous gentlemen, please go to www.chrisbeetles.com and check out their summer exhibition. It was a moving journey, I can assure you.



SUSSEX AT HOVE

I've been out and about painting cricket grounds again! I was delighted to witness Sussex County Cricket Club's return to Division One of the County Championship down at Hove Cricket Ground, one of my favourite grounds of all time. I managed to capture the first delivery of the match - an historic moment. We have added the painting to our giclee print collection on our website:

<https://jackrussell.co.uk/shop/giclee/cricket-giclee/sussex-at-hove/>



FOLLOW ME ON INSTAGRAM

THE HONOURABLE ARTILLERY COMPANY GROUND

For many years, I've wanted to paint the ground of the Honourable Artillery Company, which is a hidden gem steeped in history in the centre of London. This year they are celebrating 300 years of cricket on the site, and are holding a number of events to celebrate. For more information go to <https://hac.org.uk>

<https://jackrussell.co.uk/shop/giclee/cricket-giclee/the-honourable-artillery-company-ground/>



TEIGN VALLEY

I find typical, quintessential English cricket grounds irresistible. Thanks to Annie Chave, County Cricket Campaigner, founder of County Matters Magazine and all round great cricket person, I had the chance to paint the Teign Valley ground down in Devon. It's basically in the middle of nowhere - or at least it feels that way when you're there. Hidden away from the hustle and bustle, only accessible via a thin farm track bordered by thick bushes (the slimmer your car the better!), rickety old pavilion, and no electricity, but this valley of delight is local village cricket at its best. It's not just the ambience of the place that proves it, but in support they provide one of the largest and most gorgeous cricket teas in the country!

Erratics CC play there, and their title is very apt. No reflection on their performances I might add (although please don't quote me as I didn't check their scorebook!), but they are a wonderful group of characters. To help raise money for club funds, and keep this classic cricket club in existence, we have produced a giclee limited edition print of the ground.

They are available though Annie Chave: Annie@countycricketmatters.com and the Erratics CC website: www.erraticshitsports.com



FOLLOW ME ON X (TWITTER) @jackrussellart

MALVERN COLLEGE

I had the pleasure recently of painting the cricket at Malvern College. Again, I have always wanted to paint there as everyone kept telling me what a beautiful ground it is. Well, they were right! My old Gloucestershire team mate, Mark Hardinges, is the Housemaster there in charge of cricket, and it was him who said it was about time I painted it. So I did! Not only does it have the most wonderful pavilion, but the architecture around the school is stunning. Plus, they have some very old oak trees in the grounds, which are an excuse to go back and paint there again!

The Old Malvernian Society there raise money to put back into sport, so we're allowing them to sell giclee prints. If you have a connection to the college - or just want to buy one of the prints because it's a beautiful view - please contact Abbie Elliston at Malvern College:

Abbie.Elliston@malverncollege.org.uk

www.malverniansociety.org.uk



END OF AN ERA

This year sees the end of an era at the great St. Helen's Cricket Ground in Swansea. The club have been asked to move grounds by the local council, so this is the final year ever of cricket at St Helen's - it's the club's 150th anniversary as well. So to help raise funds towards a new ground, they are selling our print "St. Helen's, Swansea".

To help support the club, please contact their Chairman Mike Hayden email: haydenmike540@gmail.com

We used to enjoy playing there with Gloucestershire, and - without fail every time in the changing room - somebody would mention that amazing performance of Sir Garfield Sobers when he became the first player in history to six sixes in one over. It happened on this ground!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZUVI3SapZo>



VISIT MY YOUTUBE CHANNEL www.youtube.com

DAVID "SYD" LAWRENCE MBE 1964-2025

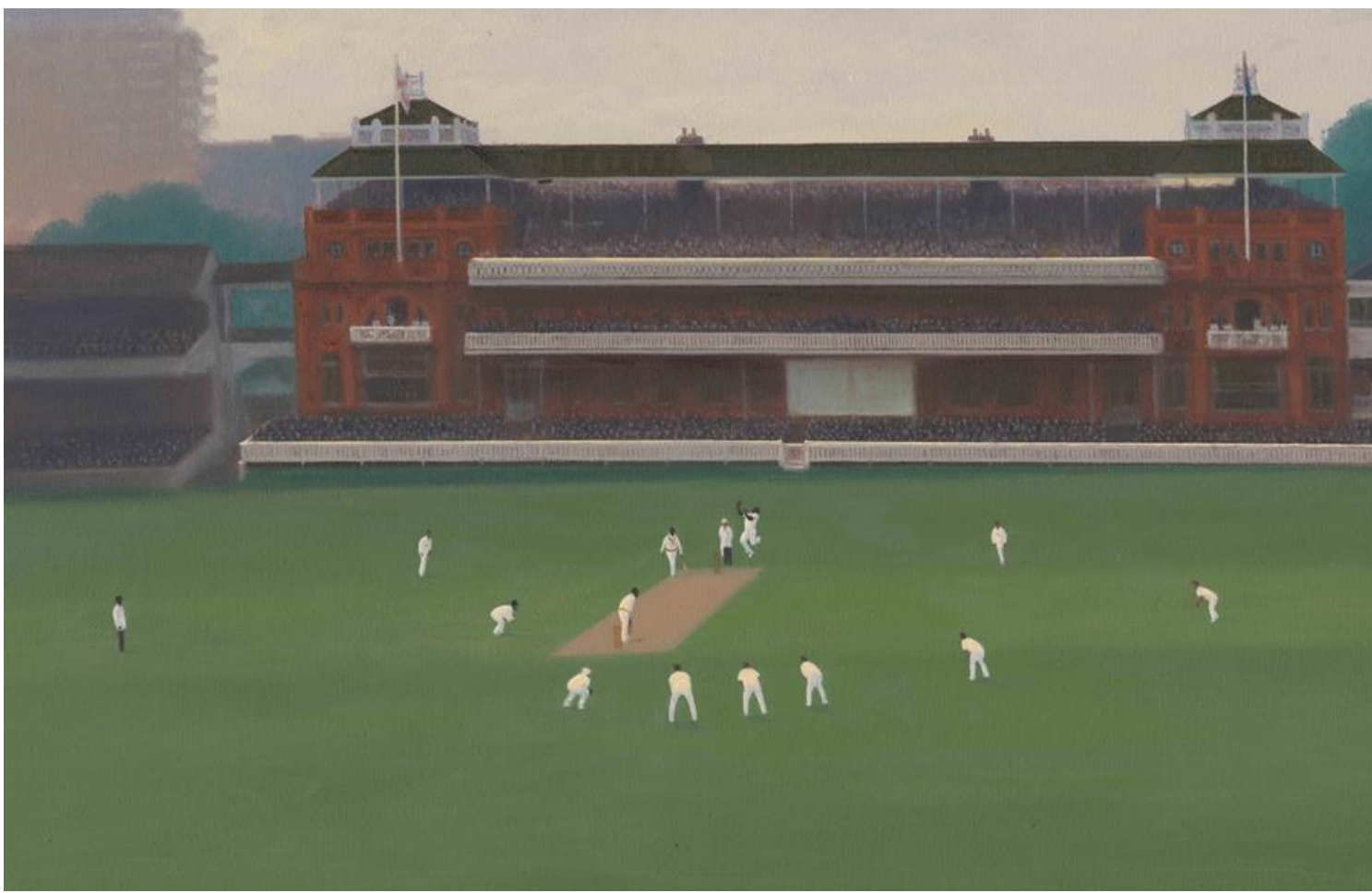
A few days ago my old Gloucestershire & England team mate went to mark his long run up in the sky. He finally lost his battle against Motor Neurone Disease (MND). He'd been battling the incurable disease for over a year. Typically, he fought until the very end. He knew that we all loved him to bits and we'll miss him. I know I can speak for the whole cricketing community when I say our thoughts are with his wife Gaynor, son Buster, and all the family. The last year for them has been devastatingly tough but they have showed, along with Syd, great courage against what they knew inevitably was a losing battle.

He and I came through the ranks together, right from Under 13's all the way up to England level. In fact we made our Test debuts together for England, at Lord's. It doesn't get much better than that! When he was diagnosed I decided to paint a picture of Lord's with us both playing. As kids we would always dream of a Caught Russell Bowled Lawrence for England. It didn't come in that match (that was my fault!) but it did happen eventually a few Test matches later.

In his last few days of his life we would sit and reminisce about the old days and how lucky we were to have gone on that journey together. He had the number one print from the edition hanging on his wall at home next to him, together with all the photos from his playing days. To take his mind off his circumstances he loved nothing better than to go back in time and chat about the old days and that magical journey. "We had a lot of fun" he would say. "Priceless" I would say. We produced the print to help raise money for Syd and his family.

If anyone would like to make a donation and add one of the few remaining prints to your collection please contact Andy Brasington at andy@finderskeepersuk.com. Andy will deal with everything for you.

Rest easy now my old team mate.



LONDON EXHIBITION

Just time to tell you that we will again have on-show cricket (and landscape) paintings at this year's Cricket Show at Chris Beetles Gallery in Ryder Street, St. James's, London. It will include some of the above mentioned original paintings - plus this latest portrait of the great Ranjitsinhji, the first Indian born player to play for England.

The exhibition previews on the evening of 8th July, and runs for several weeks. I will be there for the preview evening, and again all day the following day. Please call in for a chat - Chris loves his cricket. He has a wonderful team there, and they will all make you extremely welcome.

www.chrisbeetles.com



THANK YOU

Good luck to England and India this Summer for what will be a fascinating series. And thank you to everyone who has read this, and all of you who have supported the gallery over the years. Without you, this artist wouldn't be an artist.

Finally, a very big thank you to Chris Coley who has helped my old mate Syd Lawrence in a big way. He is now the proud owner of the painting "Test Match Debut." It couldn't have gone to a better home as Chris used to play against us in club cricket when Syd and I were kids!

Jack Russell MBE

