



The Basel

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Oh No! Oh Yes!

In May (for the third time this year!) we had a speaker withdrawing at the last minute, this time with a touch of flu, sore throat etc., so instead of Sandra Orme and her atmospheric pastels we had to do some very quick improvisation. The President stepped forward with a handful of sketchbooks containing mainly quick pen drawings done in various locations (don't mention the pubs!), which, when he had mastered the technique for projecting them onto the large screen, kept the assembled company fairly quiet, at least for a while. Then **John Lines** picked up his paintbrush and, in his inimitable way, kept us all enthralled with his chat and skill as he produced another minor masterpiece or two (sorry, but there was not enough time for a major masterpiece).

We apologise for the disruption to our programme, but these things happen, and our tolerant members took it all in good spirit, and even gave the impression that they enjoyed it. Thank you all for your support in a crisis - it is much appreciated.



John's emergency masterpiece

Words Make Pictures

We welcomed **Jamie Norton-Poole** to our June meeting. He works with a variety of subject matter including nature, wildlife, birds, the British countryside and coastline. For much of his work he uses a remarkable technique in which lines of poetry or religious text are printed on paper, torn or cut into strips and assembled as a collage landscape or portrait.

In 2018, Jamie was commissioned by the BBC to make a portrait of the famous Irish Poet W.B Yeats for the **One Show**. The large painting commemorated the anniversary of the poet's death and was made from some of his most well-known poems with lines visible for viewers to enjoy.

An engaging speaker, Jamie brought along a self-portrait which displayed a more sombre side of his friendly and amiable character.

More about his work on www.jamie-poole.com.



A John Clare influenced Landscape

Jamie and his self-portrait



Jamie on the One Show

A Touch of Whimsy

Our July speaker was **Kate Wrigglesworth** from Kidderminster, who trained as a classical dancer and dabbled in scenic design before moving towards her illustrative creations. Although her work is often based in real locations, Kate applies delicate distortion, symbolic imagery and softly graduated colours to conjure up delightful portrayals of a decorative world. She demonstrated how, from a simple layout, she gradually develops her theme and composition to suit the subject as she goes along. There was not time to see the picture finished, but she was still working on it at the Patchings Festival a week or so later, and as promised, sent us a photo of the finished work.



Kate's finished painting

Sketchfest

On three Saturdays during the **Rugby Festival of Culture** we set up shop at the entrance to St Andrew's Church before moving off with sketchbooks at the ready. We collected a number of both member and non-member sketchers on the way and distributed a fair number of leaflets, as well as having a most enjoyable time drawing an assortment of horseshoe bashers, chess players, musicians, market stalls, chimneys, trees, people, dogs and buildings in the company of other enthusiasts. Mercifully the weather was good each time. Next year we want you all there for at least one of the outings!

Barby Cue

The Bank Holiday show at **Barby** looked splendid and resulted in a good crop of complimentary comments and a pleasing number of sales. We are most grateful to all you regular members who continue to provide such a varied and worthy selection of art whenever we put on a show. Special thanks also go to those who gave of their time and muscles in the erection, dismantling and manning of the displays.

There were a few hiccups in the organisation, however, and these led to a special committee meeting where a number of improvements were agreed for introduction at future exhibitions.

AGM Plus

Lots of things to sort at the **AGM**: in the first half we hope to have new names seeking votes for committee membership; possible new initiatives regarding regular extra workshop sessions; new ideas for organising our annual shows; and, of course, a new programme of monthly meetings - so don't miss it!

In the second half **Sue Langmead** will be talking about and showing her remarkable salt-glazed dough designs - straight from the oven! So be prepared for something different!

One recurring problem is that of sub-standard framing, (which incidentally led to a most forceful and ungentlemanly expletive when the hanging string detached itself and a picture fell on someone's toe). A considerable amount of time was wasted in re-stringing and refurbishing unsuitable frames, and in future these will be rejected without a refund at the handing-in stage - we hope to give you more advice on this before the next show.

We also have other changes in hand which we think will enhance the presentation and organisation of shows, and these will be published in time for the next exhibition at the end of November. See you there!



A group of happy RADAS members at Tom Shepherd's workshop in May

Brum's Best

Three R&DAS members had their work accepted for display at the recent 'Friends of the Royal Birmingham Art Society' annual show, Well done **Jan Watts, David Newell** and **Colin Bywater**, and congratulations for upholding the honour of the Society in the big city!

