



The Basel

Newsletter of Rugby & District Art Society

Number 74 • May 2019

Jennie to the Rescue

Due to family problems **Nigel Fletcher**, our booked watercolourist for February, had to pull out, so for the second time this season we had to find a replacement. Luckily **Jennie Bambury**, from Nottinghamshire, was both available and highly competent, and at short notice bravely stepped into the breach.

After an introduction featuring her colourful watercolours Jennie painted a delightful demonstration piece based on a Tuscan scene with a field of sunflowers that grew as we watched. She also had a good selection of finished paintings on show, and emailed afterwards that she enjoyed the occasion very much and would be happy to come again for a workshop if we so wish. Many thanks go to our splendid audience for being so welcoming despite the change in programme.

Jennie will also be at the Patchings Festival in July.



Jennie Bambury and her painting of a Tuscan scene

Photo-realist

The creative arts include photography, so for a change we invited award-winning photographer **Chris Upton** to provide our March presentation. He talked in particular about his use of composition and the careful preparation required prior to the shutter moment in an easy to understand but very professional manner.

Splitting his work into various categories to indicate different approaches, his selection of beautifully crafted images brought coos of admiration from the audience, and his lively delivery and gentle sense of humour created an excellent rapport with viewers. And not a paintbrush in sight! A most informative evening.

The Wow! Factor

April brought us **Susan Isaac**, also from Nottinghamshire, a painter and sculptor of considerable individuality. She explained how her career had involved many twists and turns, before attacking the canvas with a bravado that left many of us open-mouthed.

Bold, brash brushwork was just beginning to coalesce into a picture of Burnham Overby Staithe when time ran out, but a finished image was emailed to us the next day!

Her array of supporting work showed how well her strong, uninhibited oils convey the special atmosphere of places, and members left with a glint in the eye that suggest the next exhibition may well show similar tendencies.

She will also be exhibiting at the Patchings Festival.



Susan at work...



...and her finished painting

Innovation

Susan Isaac's demonstration was streamed live through video and our projector onto the large projector screen instead of the TV, and many members commented favourably on the change. This was at the instigation of our tech wizard, **Ian Burke**, who is trying to teach us better ways, and we wish to thank him for all the work he does behind the scenes.

Makes a change from the President's fumbblings, eh?

Barby Show

Our next exhibition occurs over the Bank Holiday weekend 25th, 26th & 27th May, 10am-5pm at Barby Village Hall.

One of our Society's aims is to provide public display space for new, timid and aspiring artists as well as our more experienced members, so we would remind you that all paid-up members are eligible to enter work.

Things to Come

The next handing in day for the **Arnold Restaurant** display will be Thursday 9th May from 10am-10.30am, which is the day after the (delayed) May Dunchurch meeting. We would be very happy if more members could provide a picture or two. Entry is free and works are labelled for sale. There is a large convenient car park for unloading work next to the Arnold building at the far end of Elsee Road.

The trip to Wales will be over by the time you read this, but we still have the series of informal **Sketch Rambles** around town during the **Rugby Festival of Culture**. Meet by the porch of St. Andrew's church in the town centre at 11am on Saturdays June 29th & July 6th and 13th for a friendly couple of hours with sketchbooks. All abilities welcome, and it is free. Bring your friends!

The activity for the **August Fun Evening** has not yet been finalised, but if you have ideas pass them on to a committee member.



In Memory

Eric Thacker, who has been a loyal member of the Society for many years, coming to meetings even though confined to a wheelchair, sadly died on the 12th April, just a few days after attending our April meeting.

He was a gentle and kindly man, who always enjoyed participating in events, and painting and drawing with us. His funeral was scheduled for earlier today (8th May) with several members due to attend and represent our sadness at this sudden event.

Any extra hands will be welcome on Friday 24th at 6pm to help hang work, and even if you are not exhibiting committing to an hour or so at the help desk over the weekend would be most helpful.

Also please support us by publicising the show, and visiting it together with as many friends, relatives and rich patrons as possible. Entry is free, and refreshments are available. See you there.

If You Like ...

Our **AGM** in September may seem a long time in the future, but it is when we elect or re-elect committee members, and we need to collect prospective names in advance. We are always looking for new blood to keep our thinking fresh; the duties are not onerous – usually about five or six evening meetings a year – so if you enjoy our Society why not help run it? You may suggest yourself or a friend to any committee member during the next few months, or just ask for further information.



In the unlikely event of Paul's words not moving you to action you may be swayed by this undercover photo taken at a recent committee meeting. The duties of being a committee member are indeed not onerous but might stretch to cogitating over Jan Watts's impressive collection of art books. The dog reportedly fell asleep when the agenda was read. (Editor)



Members were charmed in June 2014 when we enjoyed a demonstration from Harriet Riddell, a talented and remarkable young woman who travels the world with her sewing machine stitching portraits and impressions of the places she visits.

Back in Dunchurch, Eric won a raffle to have his portrait captured while being interviewed by Harriet. In a few magic minutes she produced a memorable likeness of him – and a couple of onlookers – much to Eric's, and our, delight. (Editor)