



# The Basel

Newsletter of Rugby & District Art Society

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## Current programme

**Saturday 11th May – Leamington Hastings Village Hall. Members paint-in 10-4pm.** £10 per person. Still some places available. Book with Gill or Jan to secure. Work on your own projects in the company of like-minded people. Bring your own lunch but free tea, coffee and biscuits are available through the day.

**5th June – Monthly meeting at Dunchurch Village Hall. Live demo by Mark Warner, talented painter and teacher.**

Examples of his work at [www.brushmark.co.uk](http://www.brushmark.co.uk)

**Thursday 6th June – Mark Warner, Leamington Hastings Village Hall. Following his Dunchurch demo, Mark will hold an acrylic workshop from 10am - 4pm.** Places are still available and you can book ASAP by contacting Gill on [martinandgilld@gmail.com](mailto:martinandgilld@gmail.com) Price for members £42 or guests £47. If you have a friend who is a member and not on email please let them know of the new bookable events.

**3rd July – Dunchurch Village Hall Sandi Woods - Well-regarded lace maker** who exhibits and lectures around the world. Examples of her work at [www.sandiwoods.com](http://www.sandiwoods.com)

**6th July & 14th September – Urban Sketching around Rugby.** Details elsewhere in this newsletter

**3rd/4th August – members exhibition at The Barn, Houlton** - details nearer the time.

**7th August – Monthly meeting at Dunchurch Village Hall In-house activity.** Bring one or two items and set up a still life in groups. Alternative suggestions are welcome!

**4th September – Dunchurch Village Hall AGM** followed by a talk from Chris and Steve, owners of Art at the Alex.

**16th and 17th November 2024 – The Barn at Houlton. Members awards exhibition** - details nearer the time.

**Patchings Art Festival runs from Thursday 11th to Saturday 13 July 2024.** Always popular, it is proposed to again run a coach to the venue on the Thursday. If you want to go contact [margaret.linnett@ntlworld.com](mailto:margaret.linnett@ntlworld.com) and she'll add your name to the list.

**A possible trip to Coton Manor Gardens in Northamptonshire** has been cancelled due to lack of interest.

## Not so simple silversmithing



*Jo at her workbench*

Our guest at the March meeting was Jo Docking, a local silversmith, who brought along an impressive array of tools – even her workbench!

A confident and clear speaker, she took us through the myriad of techniques necessary to produce a simple pendant or bracelet. Not least is the cost of materials, with gold way beyond the financial reach of a small business and silver also fast becoming a 'precious metal' too. No wonder she diligently collects every small piece of her waste silver to melt down and reuse.

Influenced by foliage and landscapes, Jo is constantly expanding her designs. An absorbing and interesting evening.

## At the cutting edge of stained glass



*Brian and his trusty soldering iron*

For our May meeting Brian Dickinson of 'dolittleglass' introduced us to the delicate art of stained glass. A former scientist, he produces images inspired by space and technology but also takes on commissions which might be a panel in a local front door or a portrait feature.

Brian uses the 'Tiffany' method of joining glass together, popularized by the famous Tiffany lampshades. This involves cutting the glass shapes then gluing narrow copper tape around the edges and fusing them together with the aid of a soldering iron.

The glass pieces must be ground to ensure they fit closely and there's always the chance of cutting yourself. Brian keeps first aid plasters always to hand and as if to prove how often it can happen nicked his finger during the demo.

A member was invited to try cutting some glass and she thankfully managed it without any mishap.

Another entertaining and insightful evening!

## Line & Watercolour Brings Out the Smiles



Jim Watson, our Vice-President, held a workshop on the 13th April at Leamington Hastings parish hall. The subject was pen and wash. Jim explained the technique and we soon got into our chosen subject. He had encouraged us to do our own homes, working from photographs, firstly in pencil (from 'creative' tracings!), then overlaying those using waterproof pens. He advised us on the different ranges and sizes available and how to use them to advantage. The images were then coloured using watercolour.

We all managed to produce a painting and had a lovely day too!

Jim observed that, though we all used his technique, our different styles still shone through.

*Jan Watts*



*Thanks Jan*

*We did indeed have a lovely day and, although it was my first time to lead a workshop, the enthusiasm, determination and good humour of all the participants made it all well worth-while. Thanks to you all. Workshops are definitely life-enhancing!*

*Jim*

## Take to the Streets!

As part of the committee's drive to make our Society more well-known in the community we invite all members to take part in an **Urban Sketching** session around Rugby town centre on Saturday 6th July from 10.30am to 12 noon. Meet inside the Clocktowers shopping centre.

Information cards will be available to hand out to anyone interested in the Society and what we have to offer. You can draw whatever urban scene takes your interest. Add colour if you like but that's not essential.

Coffee and cake at one of the town's multitude of cafes will be a good way to end the morning and compare the fruits of our labours.

The object of the exercise is to let people know we're around, while having a pleasant get-together in the summer sunshine (fingers crossed!). Another **Urban Sketching** session is proposed for the 14th of September.



## Discussions and Decisions

A committee meeting was held on Monday 29th April when a wide range of Society matters was discussed.

### Survey of members

The committee is anxious to provide a programme that most members like so it was decided to conduct a survey, which began with request forms on seats at the May meeting.

Members not at the meeting can still vote for their preferences by emailing [jimartwatson@btinternet.com](mailto:jimartwatson@btinternet.com) questions asked were:

1. Which workshops are likely to appeal to you? (technique, landscape, portrait etc)
2. Which medium do you prefer? (watercolour, acrylic, oil etc)
3. Favourite artist?
4. Would you prefer a five day group holiday or several days out to art venues?

*Stop Press!*

*Thanks to exceptional work by Ralph, early results of the survey are now in:*

- Q1. Landscapes and portraits most popular.*
- Q2. Watercolour most preferred, followed by oil then acrylic.*
- Q3. Top favourites were our very own John Lines and Peter Keegan. Hockney and Monet came way behind them.*
- Q4. Day trips preferred.*

If you were not at the meeting you can still make your preferences known. Indeed please comment on any aspect of the Society. All opinions, good or bad are useful and welcome. No names will be published. Email: [jimartwatson@btinternet.com](mailto:jimartwatson@btinternet.com)