

Welcome to this issue of the RSTC Newsletter.

We aim to keep members informed of what is going on in and around RSTC and what is on offer during the coming months. We always welcome feedback and suggestions from members on anything concerning the events we stage and how they are carried out.

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Agatha Christie: The Queen of Crime

With the upcoming visit of RSTC to 'Death on the Nile' it seemed appropriate to include a potted biography of the lady herself.



Dame Agatha Mary Clarissa Christie, born on September 15, 1890, in Torquay, Devon, remains one of the most celebrated and prolific authors in literary history. Known as the "Queen of Crime," Christie penned 66 detective novels, 14 short story collections, and the world's longest-running play, *The Mousetrap*. Her works have sold over two billion copies, making her the best-selling fiction writer of all time.

Christie's early life was shaped by a privileged upbringing and home education. Her father, Frederick Miller, passed away when she was just 11, and her mother, Clara, nurtured her imagination and

love for storytelling. Agatha taught herself to read by age five and began writing poetry and short stories in her teens. A brief stint at finishing school in Paris honed her musical talents, though stage fright kept her from pursuing a performance career. During World War I, Christie worked in hospital dispensaries, gaining knowledge of poisons that would later become a hallmark of her murder mysteries. Her debut novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* (1920), introduced Hercule Poirot, the meticulous Belgian detective who would become one of her most iconic characters. Later, she created Miss Marple, the astute village spinster with a knack for solving crimes.



Christie's personal life was as dramatic as her fiction. In 1914, she married Archibald Christie, with whom she had a daughter, Rosalind. Their marriage ended in 1928, following a highly publicized disappearance in 1926 that captivated the nation. Christie vanished for eleven days, eventually found at a Yorkshire spa under an assumed name. The incident remains a mystery, adding to her enigmatic legacy.

In 1930, she married archaeologist Max Mallowan and spent years accompanying him on digs across the Middle East. These travels inspired settings for novels like *Murder in Mesopotamia* and *Death on the Nile*. Christie's ability to weave exotic locales with intricate plots showcased her versatility and global appeal.

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Her literary achievements earned her numerous accolades, including being named a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1971. Christie's influence extended beyond books—many of her stories were adapted into films, television series, and radio plays, cementing her status as a cultural icon.

Agatha Christie passed away on January 12, 1976, in Oxfordshire, leaving behind a legacy that continues to captivate readers and audiences worldwide. Her timeless tales of suspense, clever twists, and unforgettable characters ensure that her name remains synonymous with mystery and mastery. Whether you're a seasoned sleuth or a curious newcomer, diving into Christie's world is a thrilling journey through the golden age of detective fiction.

Upcoming Events

In **December** we enjoy the annual Christmas Celebration by Sir John Rutter at the Royal Albert Hall. **January** sees us visit Yvonne Arnaud in Guildford for Agatha Christie's **Death on the Nile**. **February** is the Valentine's Day Opera Gala at Cadogan Hall and in **March** we visit the Piccadilly Theatre to see the musical **Moulin Rouge**.

Reminders to Members

Please make sure that you take careful note of events you have booked. Particularly for London theatres, we have to commit to bookings often many month's in advance of the show.

In addition, due to all of the roadworks and road closures in and around Wokingham, please keep an eye on **Pick-up times** on the website, which may change at short notice.

RSTC AGM

The RSTC AGM was held on Thursday 16th October 2025 in the Bradbury Centre. Guest speaker Peter Gill entertained members with 'The Wit and Songs of Noel Coward'. The RSTC Committee were re-elected unanimously and the draw for two free tickets for a forthcoming event was won by Rose and Bill Mahony.

Payment by Cheque

Many thanks to all those members who pay by cheque and have added 50p to cover bank processing costs.

Please note that the 50p surcharge **only** applies to payment by cheque and is per transaction, **NOT** per ticket!

Feedback from Members

After many of the events we stage, the Committee receives grateful messages for the services provided. Many thanks to all responders. Feedback can be made via email to one of the Committee or by using the Contact Form on the website.

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