

By special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.

# GASLIGHT

A Victorian thriller  
by Patrick Hamilton



**21-23 February 2019**  
**Tivoli Theatre Wimborne**

EVENINGS 7.30PM, £13. SAT MATINEE 2.30PM, £11  
BOX OFFICE: 01202 885566  
ONLINE: [TivoliWimborne.co.uk](http://TivoliWimborne.co.uk)  
(Booking fees may apply)

**WIMBORNE**  
DRAMA PRODUCTIONS

**WIMBORNE**  
DRAMA PRODUCTIONS

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S

# MURDER

ON THE  
THE NILE



**18-20 OCTOBER 2018**  
**TIVOLI THEATRE**  
**WIMBORNE**

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the Tivoli Theatre for this production of *Murder on the Nile*.

This play has a somewhat complex history, being based on Agatha Christie's 1937 novel *Death on the Nile* - with Hercule Poirot as the detective - which itself started off as a play called *Moon on the Nile* and which has been made into several films that I am sure many of you will have seen.

According to her notes, she had thoughts at one time of using Miss Marple, rather than Poirot, but decided to leave her in St Mary Mead.

In 1942 she decided to resurrect the play version, but had grown tired of Poirot and wanted to exclude him altogether. So she wrote the part of a church canon to take over the detective role.

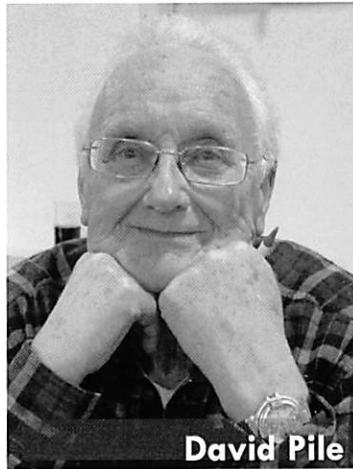
The play you will see tonight, although very similar to the film *Death on the Nile*, has some significant differences, with several characters being merged and some taken out altogether. I hope you will find this equally as enjoyable and there may well be one or two surprises.

As always I have a dedicated and hard working cast that it has been a joy to work with, their names being detailed in the programme. I must, however, mention two of them: John Sivewright who has taken over the part of Simon Mostyn at short notice, due to illness, and similarly Richard Scotson, the Beadseller, who has additionally taken the part of McNaught, again at short notice due to illness.

The staff at the Tivoli - especially Kyle, Chandler and Luke - have provided invaluable technical support for which we are very grateful.

Thank you for coming and I hope that you enjoy this production as much as I have in directing it.

**David Pile - Director**



**David Pile**

## WIMBORNE DRAMA PRODUCTIONS

# GASLIGHT

**A Victorian thriller  
by Patrick Hamilton**

**Directed by Sam Moulton**

**21 - 23 February 2019  
TIVOLI THEATRE**

**Tickets on sale now!**

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**27-30 June 2019**

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**Directed by Richard Neal**

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**Boo Feltham, Kristy Dixon, John Sivewright, Kimberley Scott and Tony Parkinson**

# DEATH ON THE NILE

*Death on the Nile*, published in 1937, is among Agatha Christie's best-loved and most famous works – a murder mystery story of love, jealousy and betrayal set aboard a paddle steamer. Christie drew inspiration for the novel from her travels in Egypt, picking up geographical and historical details throughout her time spent there.

The story had started off as a play which Christie called *Moon on the Nile*. Once written, she decided it would do better as a book and she only resurrected the play version in 1942.

The book features Christie's eminent Belgian detective Hercule Poirot, but when she adapted the book into a play, she dropped Poirot from the script as she felt that he drew too much attention on stage. The title was changed to *Hidden Horizon* and the play opened at Dundee Repertory Theatre in 1944.

When the play moved to London's West End in 1946, the title was changed again, to *Murder on the Nile*. Later on in the same year the show opened on Broadway.

Twentieth Century Fox are currently adapting *Death on the Nile* for the big screen, following the success of their 2017 adaptation of *Murder on the Orient Express*. The film is due for release in 2019. It will be directed by Kenneth Branagh who will reprise his role as Poirot.

Previous adaptations of *Death on the Nile* include the 1978 film



**Agatha Christie in the 1940s**

which had a star-studded cast including Peter Ustinov, Bette Davis, Angela Lansbury, Maggie Smith, David Niven, Mia Farrow and Simon MacCorkindale. John Moffatt played Poirot in the first radio adaptation based on the book in 1997 which was broadcast as a five-part serial.

In 2004, ITV's *Agatha Christie's Poirot* saw David Suchet take on the role in an adaptation which included Emily Blunt and James Fox in the cast. The novel has since been adapted into a computer game and a graphic novel.



## AGATHA IN EGYPT

Agatha Christie first visited Egypt as a young woman of twenty in the winter of 1910-1911, staying with her mother Clara for three months at Cairo's glitzy Gezirah Palace Hotel. She spent her time



**SS Sudan: Agatha Christie was inspired to write *Death on the Nile* after travelling on board the paddle steamer**

at parties and dances - which helped to remove her natural gaucheness - making occasional, reluctant visits to the Cairo Museum, and refusing to visit the Nile.

"Luxor, Karnak, the beauties of Egypt, were to come upon me with wonderful impact about twenty years later. How it would have spoilt them for me if I had seen them then with unappreciative

### TONY PARKINSON CANON PENNEFATHER

Tony joined WDP in 2009 and has appeared in nine productions, including *Habeas Corpus* (as Dr Wicksteed), *Single Spies*, *The Hollow*, *Hay Fever*, *Present Laughter* and *The Ladykillers*, but his favourite role was Mellersh in *Enchanted April*. He also has happy memories of Father Mullarkey for Big Little Theatre's production of *Once a Catholic*. Most recently Tony appeared for CJ Productions in a new play called *Tipping Point* at the Corn Exchange, Dorchester.

### RICHARD SCOTSON BEADSELLER/MCNAUGHT

This is a brand new adventure for Scottie. Playing the Beadseller and McNaught will be the first time he has ever trodden the boards. He grew up in Manchester, having seen *Barnum* and *Evita* as his first shows. "I am a big fan of Agatha Christie, so this is a great privilege for me performing in this intriguing story, and working with the wonderful people of WDP."

### KIMBERLEY SCOTT JACQUELINE DE SEVERAC

Kim was previously in our 2015 productions of *Pride and Prejudice*, playing Jane Bennet, and *The Hollow* (Midge Harvey). After a break to have a baby, she returned to acting last October in *Life of Riley* for Ferndown Drama. One of her favourite roles was Alice in *The Vicar of Dibley*. She has also acted with Bournemouth Shakespeare Players, appearing in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Richard III*.

### JOHN SIVEWRIGHT SIMON MOSTYN

This is John's second Agatha Christie with WDP, having first appeared as the nefarious Oliver Costello in *Spider's Web* back in 2013. That was also his debut production with the group and, since then, his favourite roles have included Gerald Croft in *An Inspector Calls*, Louis in *The Ladykillers* and Mr Collins in our open-air offering of *Pride and Prejudice*.

*Copperfield* and Lynne in *Stepping Out*, memorable because of the show stopping dance the cast managed to pull off at the end. Other plays include *The Hollow* (our 2003 production), *Role Play*, *The Talented Mr Ripley* and *Enchanted April*. In 2009 Boo directed *Steel Magnolias*.

## JUDY GARRETT

### MISS FFOLIOT-FFOULKES

Judy played Grace Winslow in *The Winslow Boy* here at the Tivoli in February and also Miss Paterson in *Travels With My Aunt* last October and Antonia in our 2017 summer production of *Much Ado About Nothing* at Deans Court. Other recent highlights for WDP include Mrs Swabb in *Habeas Corpus*, Mrs Gardiner in *Pride and Prejudice*, Miss Erikson in *Present Laughter*, Maria in *Twelfth Night* and Costanza in *Enchanted April*.

## CALUM HEARNE

### STEWARD

Calum has been with the company for five years and in that time has been involved on

or off stage in most of our productions. This is Calum's seventh acting role. He has played Dickie Winslow in *The Winslow Boy*, Conrade in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Dennis in *Habeas Corpus*, Roland Maule in *Present Laughter* and also appeared in *A Man For All Seasons* and *Pride and Prejudice*.

## SAM MOULTON

### DR BESSNER

Sam has been a very active member of WDP since joining in 2011 and is the company's chairman. He has directed *Pride and Prejudice* and his acting credits include *The Ghost Train*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Hay Fever*, *Present Laughter*, *Relative Values*, *Twelfth Night* and *Enchanted April*. His favourite roles, however, have been the dramatic ones: Sir Thomas More in *A Man for All Seasons*, CS Lewis in *Shadowlands* and Sir Robert Morton in *The Winslow Boy*. Sam is very excited to appear in his first Agatha Christie, having loved her stories ever since watching the film version of this play as a small boy.

eyes," Christie wrote in her autobiography.

Nonetheless Cairo must have had a clear impact on her as it inspired *Snow Upon the Desert*, which became her first, unpublished, novel. It drew on the lives of the wealthy - people she had seen in the hotel dining room.

Christie returned to the region in the late 1920s, meeting her second husband, the archaeologist Max Mallowan, at a dig in Ur, Iraq.

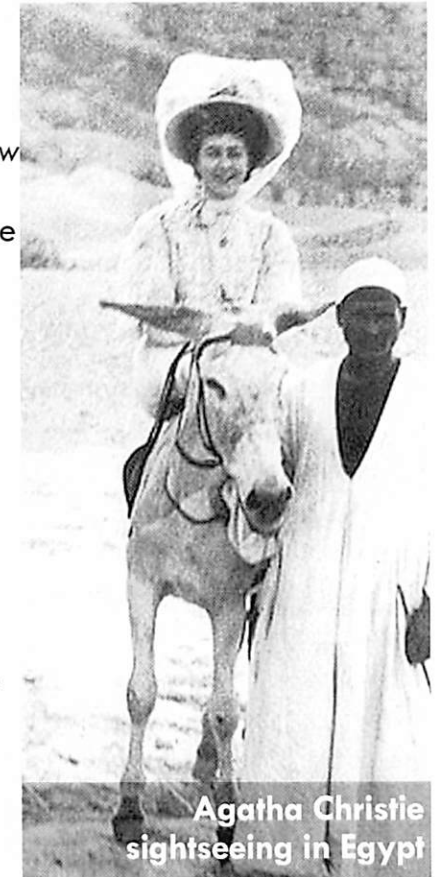
Throughout the 1930s, Christie and her husband spent several months each year in Iraq, Syria or Egypt, where she participated in his archaeological work and wrote some of her most popular books.

The digs, far from the concerns of modern life, provided the peace she needed to work.

"I enjoy writing books while I am in the desert. There are no distractions such as telephones, theatres, operas, houses and gardens," she is quoted as saying in *The Agatha Christie Companion*.

*Murder on the Nile* was written in 1937 while Christie was on a visit to Aswan in Egypt. She installed herself at the Old Cataract Hotel, overlooking the Nile. The hotel, which was opened in 1900, had hosted Howard Carter after he discovered Tutankhamun's tomb. As well as featuring in the book, the hotel was later used as a location in the 1978 screen adaptation. The hotel now has a suite named after Agatha Christie.

In 1944 Christie wrote *Death Comes as the End*, set in ancient Egypt. It is the only one of her novels not to be set in the 20th century and not to feature any European characters. The death of



Agatha Christie  
sightseeing in Egypt

a priest's concubine sets off a series of murders within the family and, as in Christie's more familiar 20th-century whodunnits, the scene is soon littered with bodies.

Christie was inspired by the 4,000 year old Heqanakhte letters discovered in the 1920s. Egyptian priest and landowner Heqanakhte wrote a series of rather acerbic letters to his extended family. The letters, as well as providing his children with meticulous calculations of crop yields and instructions for land investments, also hint at disharmony within the family caused by the recent addition of Heqanakhte's second wife to the household. No stranger to ancient Egypt, in 1937 Christie had written a play called *Akhnaton*, about the heretic pharaoh of the 14th century BC. An ambitious effort, with 11 scenes and 22 characters, the play didn't satisfy Christie, who tucked it away and forgot about it. It wasn't published until 1973, when she rediscovered it among her papers.

In his memoirs, Max Mallowan said *Akhnaton* "comes as near to historical plausibility as any play about the past can be". He said the play offered a way "to learn painlessly about Ancient Egypt".



Agatha Christie with her second husband Max Mallowan

## THE CAST

### MICHELLE BARTER

#### LOUISE

Shelly says she has always wanted a trip down the Nile so jumped at the chance to play Louise the French maid. "The director said I got the part not for my accent, which was terrible, but because I do devious well." She loves being part of Wimborne Drama Productions and has been an insolent madam in two other plays - *Habeas Corpus* at the Tivoli in 2016 when she played Felicity Rumpers, and *Much Ado About Nothing* at Deans Court in 2017 (Margaret). When not being insolent, Shelly also performs for Broadstone Players.

### JAMES BOURNER

#### SMITH

James appeared in our production of *Single Spies* in May which was his first stage appearance since his school days a decade ago, highlights back then being *Slightly* in *Peter Pan* at the

Lighthouse and appearances in productions of *Crazy For You* and *The Hot Mikado*. In July James played Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Bournemouth Shakespeare Players.

### KRISTY DIXON

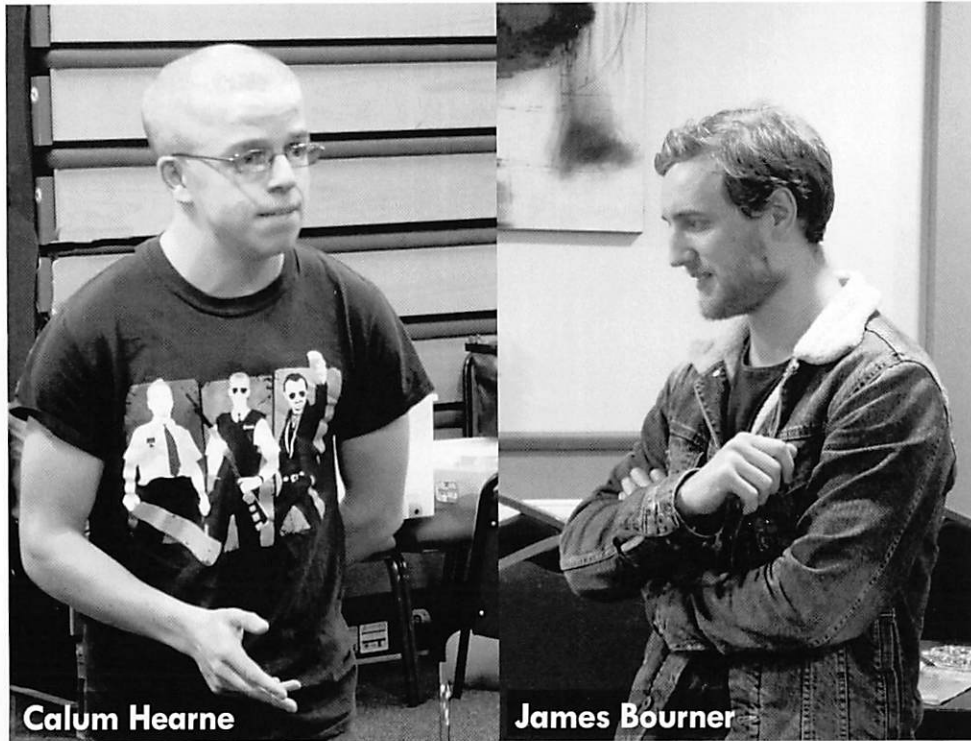
#### KAY MOSTYN

Kristy is very happy to be back with Wimborne Drama Productions undertaking the role of Kay Mostyn - "the richest girl in England you know!" She was previously in our productions of *Pride and Prejudice* and *The Hollow* in 2015. Her last role was playing Monica in *Life of Riley* with her home group of Ferndown Drama. "I hope everyone enjoys this show as much as I've enjoyed rehearsing and performing it!"

### BOO FELTHAM

#### CHRISTINA GRANT

Boo makes a welcome return to the Tivoli stage after a four-year gap. Her last role was Monica in Noël Coward's *Present Laughter*, one of her favourites along with Rosa Dartle in *David*



**Calum Hearne**

**James Bourner**

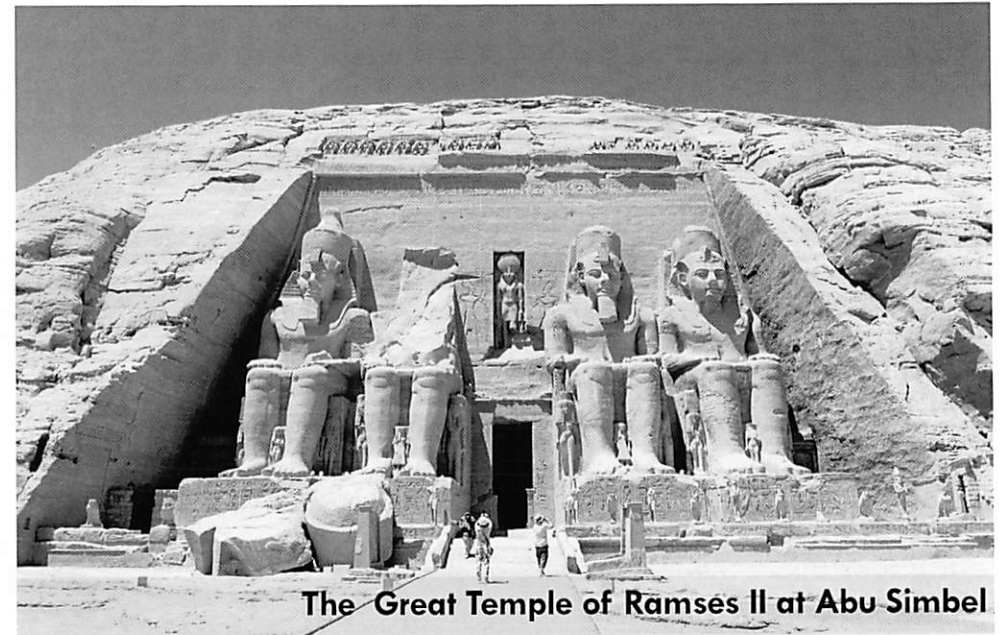


**Sam Moulton**

# THE TEMPLES AT ABU SIMBEL

The site of Abu Simbel – two temples built by the pharaoh Ramses II in the 13th century BC – is one of the most recognisable ancient sites in Egypt and lies 170 miles south of Aswan. For 3,000 years, it sat on the west bank of the Nile River. However, in a remarkable feat of engineering, the temple complex was dismantled and rebuilt on a higher hill to make way for the Aswan High Dam in the 1960s.

The larger of the two temples contains four colossal statues of a seated Ramses at its entrance, each about 21 metres tall.



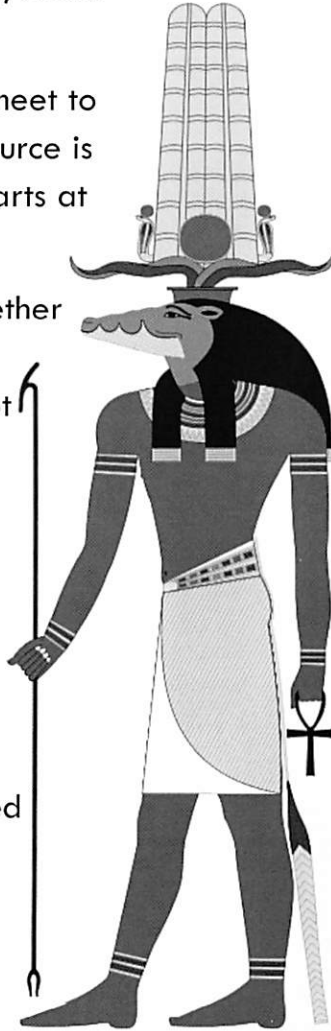
**The Great Temple of Ramses II at Abu Simbel**

The temple was built in such a way that on two days of the year, 22nd October and 22nd February, morning sunlight shines into the inner sanctuary and illuminates three statues seated on a bench, including one of the pharaoh. Historians think these dates mark his coronation and birth.

In addition, Abu Simbel has a second, smaller temple dedicated to the pharaoh's favourite wife Nefertari.

# NINE NILE FACTS

1. The Nile, at approximately 4,258 miles long, is widely recognised as the longest river in the world.
2. Its drainage basin covers 11 modern-day African countries: Tanzania, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Eritrea, South Sudan, Sudan and Egypt.
3. The river has two main tributaries which meet to form 'the Nile' - the White Nile, whose source is Lake Victoria, and the Blue Nile, which starts at Lake Tana in Ethiopia.
4. The Blue Nile and White Nile merge together in Khartoum in Sudan. From there, the river continues to flow north through Egypt and, finally, into the Mediterranean Sea.
5. The Nile has been an important source of life for people throughout history. Around 5,000 years ago, the Ancient Egyptians relied on the Nile for fresh water, food and transportation. The huge blocks of stone used to build the pyramids at Giza were sailed down the Nile. The river also provided Egyptians with fertile land to farm on when the river flooded every summer.
6. Following the building of the Aswan High Dam, which opened in 1971, the Nile no longer floods. The 111-metre high dam



**Sobek, god of the Nile**



**Richard Scotson**

**John Sivewright**



**Kristy Dixon**

**Kimberley Scott**





**Judy Garrett**



**Boo Feltham**



**Tony Parkinson**



**Michelle Barter**

controls the flow of the river to generate electricity, irrigate farms and provide homes with drinking water.

7. More than 95% of Egypt's population depend on its water and live within a few miles of the river banks.

8. The Nile crocodile is the second-largest reptile in the world. The ancient Egyptians believed that the god of the Nile, Sobek, was a crocodile who once took a bite out of Osiris, the king of the gods.

9. Each year in August, Egypt has a festival called 'Wafaa an-Nil' to celebrate the ancient flooding of the Nile, an important natural event which allowed their civilisation to grow.



AGATHA CHRISTIE'S  
**MURDER**  
ON THE NILE

**THE CAST** in order of appearance

Beadseller	<b>RICHARD SCOTSON</b>
Steward	<b>CALUM HEARNE</b>
Miss Ffoliot-ffoulkes	<b>JUDY GARRETT</b>
Christina Grant	<b>BOO FELTHAM</b>
Smith	<b>JAMES BOURNER</b>
Louise	<b>MICHELLE BARTER</b>
Dr Bessner	<b>SAM MOULTON</b>
Kay Mostyn	<b>KRISTY DIXON</b>
Simon Mostyn	<b>JOHN SIVEWRIGHT</b>
Canon Pennefather	<b>TONY PARKINSON</b>
Jacqueline De Severac	<b>KIMBERLEY SCOTT</b>
McNaught, Ship's Master	<b>RICHARD SCOTSON</b>

**PERIOD AND SETTING**

The action takes place in the observation saloon of the paddle steamer *Lotus* on the Nile between Shellal and Wadi Halfa

Period: late 1930s



Act 1 - At Shellal, late afternoon

Act 2 Scene 1 - By the temple of Abu Simbel, three days later.  
Evening, after dinner

Act 2 Scene 2 - The same, five minutes later

Act 3 - The same, next morning



Running time approximately 2 hours 20 minutes including a 20 minute interval at the end of Act 1

**THE CREATIVE TEAM**

Director  
Set and Sound Designer  
Stage Manager  
Set Construction

Continuity  
Costumes/ASM  
Costumes  
Armourer/ASM  
Publicity and Programme  
Tivoli Production Manager

**DAVE PILE**  
**COLIN PILE**  
**TRACEY NICHOLLS**  
**CHRIS DURHAM**  
**COLIN PILE**  
**ANN McCOLGAN-CLARK**  
**RUTH FLANAGAN**  
& members of the company  
**JAN STEVENSON**  
**ANN McCOLGAN-CLARK**  
**MOIRA HAWEY**  
**PHYLLIS SPENCER**  
**RICHARD NEAL**  
**KYLE BEST**

**PRODUCTION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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Guns supplied by **History in the Making, Portsmouth**  
Record player loaned by **Sam Moulton**  
Furniture loaned by **Ann McColgan-Clark**  
and **Royal British Legion Wimborne**

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