

## Angela's Desert Island Discs

About 40 people were warmly welcomed to Holy Cross on the evening of 12 September with a dual purpose in mind. First, we were to hear the musical choices of Angela Coleman interwoven with her fascinating life story. Second, we were to have a chance to see some of her beautiful drawings and paintings.

Skilfully guided by questions posed by Maggie Goldthorpe, Angela started her story by speaking of two young Jewish men who decided in the 1890s, to leave Russia and Poland respectively, with their families, to escape the murderous anti-Jewish pogroms and seek a new life in England. The young men were Angela's grandfathers. Arriving in the East End of London they worked hard, prospered and in due course, when Angela's generation children were during the Second World War, they had established themselves as part of the community. During the Second World War Angela's brothers' school was evacuated to Marlborough where they were integrated into the famous public school as day scholars. As a result a very young Angela and her mother moved to a house in remote rural Wiltshire.

Here she had a happy, peaceful war, but when she returned to London after the war she hated it. She started her education in an LCC primary school which was tough but she loved it, moving on to The Skinners Grammar School and then winning a scholarship to Queens College in Harley Street for the 6<sup>th</sup> Form. Many members of her extended family were doctors and there was some pressure and expectation that she would follow the same path, however she had other plans. Having had a talent for drawing and painting as a small child she was keen to become an artist.

However, parental pressure meant that she had to do a degree in Medicine at Cambridge. She loved Cambridge but hated medicine. She passed her degree but promptly gave up medicine. After several successful jobs in publishing, she found herself in Oxford at a party at which there were a large number of lawyers present; eyes met across a crowded room and six weeks later she and Anthony were engaged. After marrying, they lived in Chorleywood, but knew Sarratt as Anthony was a pupil of Sir Christopher Staughton. They loved the village and The Chess Valley and in due course bought the Mill House where they still live.

Her musical choices were eclectic, echoing many aspects of her life and ranged from Bach to Ella Fitzgerald via Gilbert and Sullivan. Her luxury was a waterproof box of her favourite drawing paper and her book was the Oxford Book of English Verse. The record she would save from

the waves was Kol Nidre, an Aramaic prayer sung by Jews at the opening of the Day of Atonement service on the eve of Yom Kippur.

After her talk, Angela had some prints of her art work on sale in aid of Water Aid India and a retiring collection was taken for the same good cause, which raised £312 in total.

**Robin Gain**



## Sarratt Parish Council September report

At this month's parish council we saw progress on a number of matters we have been pursuing for some time.

Traffic and speed matters first: Quotes were reviewed for replacing the railings at the duck pond on the green, after being damaged by a car crash. The vehicle activated speed signs for either end of the green in Sarratt are due to be delivered this month and should be installed shortly thereafter.

We are also expecting delivery of 30mph wheelie bin stickers shortly, as suggested by a resident at this year's Annual Parish Meeting. We will be distributing them to households on the main routes and will be available in the parish office for anyone else who wants them. Hopefully the combination of these measures will have an impact on speeding motorists through the village. If successful, we'll be looking at similar initiatives elsewhere in the parish.

The annual review of the May Fair was undertaken at this month's meeting. With just two complaints received together with one of support, the council agreed to the fair taking place next May, opening on Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday, again with early closing hours to minimise noise and disruption to residents.

There's a new monthly newsletter from Hertfordshire Police on the parish council website (<http://www.sarrattparishcouncil.co.uk>) that's tailored for us - do go have a look at those as well as information on the council and our meeting dates that are all open to the public.

We are two members short on the council. If you're interested in helping to keep our parish special, please contact the Clerk, **262025** for further information or to apply, or why not come along to one of our meetings and see what we do.

One of those is supporting our local groups with grant funding. On that, a reminder that grant applications for the financial year 2016/17 close on 16 October. Application forms are on the website under the Finance section.

Finally, the parish office is now open from **08:30-16:30 (Mon-Thurs)** and **08:30-16:00 (Fri)** on a trial basis. Do give us feedback on whether that is useful.

**Anthony Soothill, Chairman, Sarratt Parish Council**