

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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The Society's AGM was held on 24th May at the National Liberal Club, where it was announced that **Mattias Boström** was this year's winner of the Tony and Freda Howlett Literary Award for his book, *From Holmes to Sherlock*. Congratulations to Mattias, who also received the Agatha Award for best non-fiction, which was presented at the Malice Domestic awards dinner on 28th April in Bethesda, MD.

The annual **Victorian Cricket Match** will take place on Sunday 24th June at the West Wycombe Cricket Club from 11:30am to 6:00pm. Once again, the gentlemen of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will take on the 'Gold Bats' of the PG Wodehouse Society, playing to 1895 rules. This is a delightful informal event, open to everyone. Bring your own picnic lunch and seating, and enjoy a splendid day out in good company. For more details go to: <http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/event/the-victorian-cricket-match-3/> **Please Note:** In the past, uncooperative weather has occasionally made it necessary to cancel the match. If this is the case, a notice will be posted on the website, so please check before you set out on your journey.

Further on the subject of cricket, an interesting item is coming up for auction at Sotheby's, London on 10th July. *The Library of an English Bibliophile, Part VIII* includes the autograph manuscript of a complete Conan Doyle story, described in the catalogue as "one of the most famous cricket stories ever written." "The Story of Spedegue's Dropper" follows Tom Spedegue, who is "an asthmatic school master with a weary heart who, through a series of delightfully told events, ends up playing for England at Lord's against Australia in the deciding Test of an Ashes series." Conan Doyle was an avid cricketer and the story is based on his own experience when clean bowled by a "most extraordinary ball from A.P. Lucas." "The Story of Spedegue's Dropper" was first published in *The Strand Magazine* October 1928 and published in book form within *The Maracot Deep and Other Stories* in July 1929. The manuscript reveals a number of changes, not least the title, which is given here as "The Story of Pedegue's Dropper." The estimate on the lot is £10,000 - 12,000. The same auction includes the original map of The Hundred Acre Wood, drawn by E.H. Shepard for *Winnie the Pooh*. <http://www.sothebys.com/en/auctions/2018/the-library-of-an-english-bibliophile-viii-118416.html>

**The Poor Folk Upon The Moors** have been working to raise their profile in the West Country, with the aim of recruiting new members. A press release sent to local media has resulted in interest from the BBC, who will be featuring the Poor Folk in an upcoming radio broadcast. **Mike Menhenitt** will appear on BBC Radio Devon on 8 June at 12:05 pm, talking with presenter David Fitzgerald about the activities of the society and all things Holmesian. In the meantime, if you're interested in joining the Poor Folk, contact [Mike.menhenitt@btinternet.com](mailto:Mike.menhenitt@btinternet.com)

The 22nd of May is Arthur Conan Doyle's birth date, but it seems also to have earned the moniker of **International Sherlock Holmes Day**. To mark the occasion, *Sherlock* creators Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss have released an 'intercepted transmission' which promises a new adventure for fans. You can learn more details about *The Game is Now* here: <http://www.bbcamerica.com/anglophenia/2018/05/benedict-cumberbatch-and-mark-gatiss-kick-off-sherlock-holmes-day-with-intercepted-audio>

Big cities such as New York and London have a reputation for being heartless and uncaring, with passers-by unwilling to help in an emergency. So, although the incident has received worldwide news coverage already, it is worth repeating the recent story of **Benedict Cumberbatch** coming to the aid of a delivery cyclist who was set upon by four muggers in Marylebone High Street, close to Baker Street. When asked why he put himself at risk, his simple response was: "...well, I had to, you know."

Rail enthusiasts mingled with members of the Society for a special journey on 29th April, when a Class 20 British Rail diesel engine was christened Sherlock Holmes at Quanton Road, Buckinghamshire. Sir Peter Hendy CBE, Chairman of Network Rail and former Commissioner of Transport, Transport for London, carried out the unveiling and our own President, Guy Marriott, presented him with membership in the SHSL. There will be a full report and photos in the Summer issue of *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*.

**Martyn Sutton**, proprietor of **Uncle Jeremy's Household** in Ingleton, alerts us that "In July there will be a competition running for the whole month to win a Sherlock Holmes bear, as sold in Harrods for £44.95. I will be selling these bears in my shop in Ingleton, North Yorkshire, to replace the Sherlock Bear no longer available from The Great British Teddy Bear Company. Every month, a member business from Ingleton Area Business Group offers a prize via the 'This is Ingleton' Facebook page. There is a simple question and everyone who gives the correct answer as a comment on the post goes into a draw at the end of the month to win the prize. Our question will be posted on the page from July 1st, but to show you how it works, here is a link to the June competition: <https://www.facebook.com/VisitIngleton/posts/2174957092521569>. The purpose of the 'This is Ingleton' Facebook page and website is to promote Ingleton as a tourist destination, so the competitions are intended to attract a larger audience. I am therefore prepared to pay the shipping cost to a winning address anywhere in the world."

**The Baker Street Babes** celebrated their birthday on 26th May, and are offering merchandise for sale, which helps to meet the costs of running their informative and entertaining website. They have teapots, prints, books and more, available at <http://bakerstreetbabes.com/we-have-merch-tea-pots-prints-books/>

English Heritage will be honouring **Peter Cushing** with a Blue Plaque, to be installed at his childhood home in Croydon in early July. The announcement was made on 4th May, known as Reichenbach Day amongst Sherlockians. However, it is also Star Wars Day (May the 4th be with you), hence the references in the local news report, which managed to omit any mention of Cushing's forays as Sherlock Holmes. <https://www.croydonadvertiser.co.uk/news/croydon-news/you-realise-star-wars-actor-1531645>

**The Reichenbach Irregulars**, who began their activities on 24th June 1989, will be celebrating their 30th anniversary next year in Meiringen, where the group was founded. Marcus Geisser has been in touch to announce their next conference, *Dark Deeds in the Canon*, which will take place from 31st May to 4th June 2019, to examine the sinister aspects of the canon. Marcus explains: "The conference offers us the unique possibility to combine two Sherlockian venues in Swiss alpine heights. Whereas Meiringen is well known to many Sherlockians, the second location we will visit is entirely new territory for most of us. The Splügen mountain pass is located in the Canton of Grisons, along the Swiss Italian border, and it is there where that most repellent man in the Canon, Baron Adelbert Gruner, murdered his wife. We will travel from Meiringen across the Alps to Splügen and we will not only present a series of papers on the circumstances of this notorious murder, but we will also actually undertake the first ever Sherlockian excursion to the Splügen Pass itself. Please note that the number of participants is limited to 40. Early booking is highly recommended." For more information, have a look at the Reichenbach Irregulars' website, [www.221b.ch](http://www.221b.ch) or email Marcus at [marcusgeisser@gmail.com](mailto:marcusgeisser@gmail.com)

**Benoit Guilielmo** has been in touch with some interesting news: "Just to let you know that I've made available online a set of rare Sherlockian papers from the 1920s and 30s, that have never been re-published anywhere. Some introductory papers by Kate Donley and myself come along with the material at: <http://earlysherlockiana.blogspot.fr/> The papers really unknown these days are the ones from David Leslie Murray who made important reviews of classical books of our sport, and the one by Cyril Connolly. These (re)discoveries would not have been possible without the work of RL Green's *Sherlock Holmes Letters*, 1986, pp. 35 & 156-157, which was the starting point."

The Repertory Theatre at Stoke on Trent will be presenting a new adaptation of *The Hound of The Baskervilles* by Tim Churchill and Catherine O'Reilly, produced by the United National Theatre. The show runs from 31st July to 4th August 2018. For tickets go to: <http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/HFIFDJ>

*Sherlock Holmes and the Ghoul of Glastonbury* by **Allan Mitchell**, 344pp, pbk, MX Publishing, £12.99 / €14.99 / \$16.95. Holmes is summoned to Glastonbury, where he and Watson discover that initial events lead to a discovery of historic significance that could rock England.

*A Sherlock Holmes Alphabet* by **P. James Macaluso, Jr**, 68pp, pbk, MX Publishing, £7.99 / €8.99 / \$12.95. Characters and objects from the canon have been created out of LEGO models and mini-figures, cleverly arranged in scenarios, and photographed to represent the alphabet with accompanying rhyming verse.

#### OBITUARIES:

**Lord Cottesloe (John Fremantle)** died on 21st May, aged 91 years. He retired from the Royal Navy in 1966 with the rank of Commander and in 1994 he succeeded his father, after whom the Cottesloe Theatre was named, as Baron Cottesloe. John was a long-standing member of the Society, but after the death of his friend and fellow Sherlockian, Percy Metcalfe in 2004, his

attendance at our meetings became less frequent. Many of us will remember the occasion of the Society's visit to Essex and Suffolk in July 1997, when the hotel fire alarm went off in the early hours. In our nightwear, we were evacuated to the car park to await the all-clear. John was discovered standing in his bare feet on a newspaper, looking blissfully happy, as he was surrounded by most of the female members of the excursion.

**Patricia Morison** died on 20th May at the age of 103. A trained singer and dancer, she debuted on Broadway in 1933, and in 1948 created the role of Lilli Vanessi in the original Broadway production of *Kiss Me, Kate*. In 1938 she came under contract to Paramount Studios, whose publicity made the peculiar claim that she had the longest hair in Hollywood (39 inches). A versatile actress, she appeared in numerous films, including *Dressed to Kill*, the last of the films starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce. As the villainous Hilda Courtney, she was a master of disguise in her attempts to reclaim a music box containing the essential key to recovering missing plates from the Bank of England. (This is the same film in which Dr Watson regales a tearful child with his imitation of a duck.)

#### Periodicals received:

We must first bid a fond adieu to *The Sherlockian E-Times* and *The Baker Street Bulletin*, which have been produced by Joel and Carolyn Senter for 30 years. They sent the following message: "Well, Loyal Readers, it is time for me to be composing the May issue of *The Sherlockian E-Times*. However, circumstances have conspired such that I find that I can no longer rise to the occasion. Hence, the April 2018 edition will be our final issue. I thank you for your readership and I also thank those of you who helped fill our pages by sharing your Sherlockian scholarship with us. It has been a pleasure serving you first through *Classic Specialties* and *The Sherlockian Times*, and then through *The Sherlockian E-Times* during these past three decades. Farewell and so long. Very sincerely yours, R. Joel Senter (Carolyn joins me, of course, in this Farewell.)" Thank you, Joel and Carolyn, for the pleasure that your efforts have brought to so many Sherlockians over the years.

*The Arthur Conan Doyle Newsletter and Birthday File*, 22nd May 2018 XXV (**The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment**, Brian W. Pugh, 20 Clare Road, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1PN; [brianpugh140@btinternet.com](mailto:brianpugh140@btinternet.com))

*The Baker Street Journal*, Spring 2018 (**The Baker Street Journal**, P.O. Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077-1934, USA; [email@bakerstreetjournal.com](mailto:email@bakerstreetjournal.com))

*The Beacon Society Quarterly Newsletter*, Vol. 2, No.2, May 2018 (**The Beacon Society**, Denny Dobry, "Headlight"; [denobry@ptd.net](mailto:denobry@ptd.net), [www.beaconsociety.com](http://www.beaconsociety.com))

*The Bilge Pump* – The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star, May 2018 (Steve Mason; [mason.steve@epa.gov](mailto:mason.steve@epa.gov))

*The Illustrious Clients News*, May 2018 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T. Doyle, 9 Calumet Court, Zionsville, Indiana 46077, USA; [IllustClients@gmail.com](mailto:IllustClients@gmail.com))

*Mayday Mayday*, May 2018 (**The Crew of the SS May Day**, Belfast, Oscar Ross; [oscarross@hotmail.com](mailto:oscarross@hotmail.com))

*Plugs and Dottles*, April/May/June 2018 (**The Nashville Scholars**, Jim Hawkins and Dean Richardson; [seniorhawk@gmail.com](mailto:seniorhawk@gmail.com))

*Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, April 2018 and May 2018 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; [blau7103@comcast.net](mailto:blau7103@comcast.net))

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