



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

Jean Upton, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE

e-mail: [district.messenger@yahoo.com](mailto:district.messenger@yahoo.com)

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**Catherine Cooke** has shared some news from the Baker Street Quarter Partnership, who have been involved in the project that restored Baker Street to a two-way traffic system. It was circulated on 1st April: <https://www.bakerstreetq.co.uk/news-and-whats-on/no-st-sherlock/>

April is **World Autism Awareness Month**, and many Sherlockians, including myself, are on the Autism Spectrum. **Peter Blau** notes: 'It wasn't that long ago that people diagnosed Sherlock Holmes as displaying Asperger's syndrome, which now is considered part of the autism spectrum; **Alan Rettig** has found an interesting mention of Sherlock Holmes in a discussion of "autism chic" in an article by Robert Hughes in *Northwestern Magazine* [www.tinyurl.com/y589z3hl](http://www.tinyurl.com/y589z3hl).'

Our Society's annual **London Mini-Festival** will soon be underway. Running from **May 16th to 19th**, there are a number of interesting events and activities on offer. Of particular interest this year is a visit to the **Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew** on Saturday the 18th May, including a new attraction that would have received approval from Holmes: "*The Hive is a unique, multi-sensory experience designed to highlight the extraordinary life of bees... The lights you see and the sounds you hear inside The Hive are triggered by bee activity in a real beehive at Kew. The intensity of the sounds and light change constantly, echoing that of the real beehive. The multi award-winning Hive was inspired by scientific research into the health of honeybees. It is a visual symbol of the pollinators' role in feeding the planet and the challenges facing bees today.*" If you would like to attend, there is still time to book your place on some of the festival events. For more details go to: <http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/>

From **Oscar Ross**: 'Conan Doyle is one of the writers featured in *The Written Word: Horsham District's Literary Life - Collected, Portrayed, Displayed*, an exhibition running from 30th March 2019 to 22nd June 2019 at Horsham Museum in West Sussex. More details can be found here: <https://www.horshammuseum.org/events/the-written-word-a-literary-life-of-horsham-district>.'

Founded in 1989, **The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment** is devoted to the promotion of the life and works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. An annual Birthday File, composed of news clippings and other items of interest pertaining to ACD is circulated in May, and the Establishment also produces an *Irregular Newsletter* and its own interesting publications. It also serves as a useful point of contact for anyone researching the life of ACD. Because participation has waned, along with difficulty in securing the interest of young people, the Establishment's Curator, **Brian Pugh**, recently sought opinions regarding the future of the organization. Members agreed that the society should, for now, enter a state of dormancy. However, Brian states: 'We are not closing down the Establishment. The Establishment will continue in name

and will probably have a Facebook presence and the *Irregular Newsletter* will probably continue.' Brian will remain as Curator and the first point of contact for other societies, the media and any new member requests, etc. This arrangement will be reviewed in 2020. Brian says, 'My own interest in ACD has never waned. If anything, I am more interested and my research into the life and times of ACD and his family will continue.' To learn more about the Establishment, its membership, or to make a donation, go to <http://www.the-conan-doyle-crowborough-establishment.com/>

From **Oscar Ross**: 'At the 39th annual list of **The Golden Raspberry Awards**, *Holmes & Watson* (2018) swept the boards in four categories. This so-called comedy was named the "Worst Picture" of 2018, the "Worst Remake, Ripoff or Sequel" and its director Etan Cohen won for "Worst Director". John C. Reilly (as Watson) collected the gong for "Worst Supporting Actor". Among the nominations for "Worst Actor" were Will Ferrell as Sherlock Holmes and Johnny Depp (voice) for *Sherlock Gnomes* (2018). Neither Ferrell and Reilly, "trashing two of literature's most beloved characters" or Johnny Depp and "his fast-fading film career" could grab the gong for "Worst Screen Combo". The winner in both these categories was Donald Trump, for *Death of a Nation* and *Fahrenheit 11/9*.' *Holmes & Watson* was released on Region 2 DVD and Blu-Ray on 9th April; added features include 20 deleted scenes.

**Jennie Paton**, BSI ('Laura Lyons') is what the late John Bennett Shaw used to describe as 'a benefactor of the race.' She compiles and maintains an astonishing audio and video reference library of Sherlock Holmes material, which is a boon to fans and researchers. Recently, she found *The Shackles of Sherlock* available at YouTube. Broadcast by ITV3 in 2007, the documentary features David Burke (Watson in the Granada series) and includes commentary by Owen Dudley Edwards, David Stuart Davies, Andrew Lycett, Jon Lellenberg, and Gyles Brandreth. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVNhZXNPD9w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVNhZXNPD9w)

Jennie has also discovered a new Sherlockian artist, **Domino Erdmann**, a young woman in Germany who spent six months creating something that requires just seven and a half minutes of your time: [www.tinyurl.com/y5sjmhe8](http://www.tinyurl.com/y5sjmhe8)

**Jon Lellenberg** advises that **The Conan Doyle Estate** website has a new section devoted to character profiles. According to the web page, '*...these original "shorts" have been penned by interesting names nominated by The Conan Doyle Estate who share similar professions or traits to the characters themselves.*' Contributors so far include SHSL members Guy Marriott on Colonel Sebastian Moran and Alastair Duncan on Victorian London. You can view the profiles at <https://conandoyleestate.com/characters>.

Our correspondents have informed us of two new websites:

**Ales Kolodrubec** reports from the Czech Republic: ‘After a long time, our Society website is finally working. You may find it at [www.SherlockHolmes.cz](http://www.SherlockHolmes.cz) (however, it will be redirected to another site, a free one with an editorial system). I am sorry it is only in Czech and not bilingual.’

**Mattias Boström** says: ‘Daniel Hånberg Alonso and I have relaunched the Swedish Sherlock Holmes website <http://www.sherlockholmes.se>. It’s been inactive for a number of years, but now there will be new posts every week; short news items, but also longer articles, mainly in Swedish, but now and then also in English. Daniel is the new editor of the website, and I will concentrate on writing for it.’

If you are unable to read Czech or Swedish, **Roger Johnson** advises that ‘Google Chrome offers the option of automatic translation into English.’

Spotted by **Nick Utechin** at the Drake Manor Inn in Buckland Monachorum (on the edge of Dartmoor) is **Black Dog Gin** from the Dartmoor Distillery [www.teignworthybrewery.com](http://www.teignworthybrewery.com)

**The Beacon Society** reports that **Carolyn Senter** has established the **R. Joel Senter Sr. Prize** in honour of her late husband, so that his contributions to the Sherlockian world can be remembered. The prize will reward young people from grades four through twelve (in the UK, that’s around age 9 to 18), for excellence in writing and critical thinking, through an essay competition about one of the Sherlock Holmes stories. The Award will be administered by the Beacon Society and you can contribute by way of their website [www.beaconsociety.com](http://www.beaconsociety.com). Click on the section marked *How to Support the Society*, and indicate that your donation is for the Senter Prize. Carolyn has already raised over \$6,000 to fund the program, which the committee expects to launch in Autumn 2019.

Sherlockian authors **Rob Nunn** and **Dan Andriacco** have created an e-mail exchange for Sherlockian societies, so that they can share news and announcements. If you would like to publicise your society’s activities and learn about what other societies are doing, contact Rob at [parallelcasestl@gmail.com](mailto:parallelcasestl@gmail.com).

The Mystery Writers of America held its annual awards dinner on 25th April. Congratulations to **Les Klinger**, who received an Edgar Award in the category of Best Critical/Biographical, for his book *Classic American Crime Fiction of the 1920s* published by Pegasus Books.

A new edition of **Nicholas Utechin’s** book, *Sherlock Holmes - Amazing and Extraordinary Facts*, has just been published by Rydon Publishing, of Exeter, Devon at £9.99. The book originally appeared via David & Charles in 2012. This version is a reprint with a few small corrections and a new blue cover. [www.rydonpublishing.co.uk](http://www.rydonpublishing.co.uk)

**Richard Kellogg** has been in touch to say: ‘Volume Six in my Barry Baskerville series of mysteries for children, *Barry Baskerville and the Buried Treasure*, is now available on the Amazon website. In this adventure, young Barry emulates his role-model Sherlock Holmes and helps his parents locate a buried treasure on the farm they inherited. Young readers will learn about the Great Detective while enhancing their problem-solving skills.’

**Catherine Cooke** has discovered that Bibliophile Books are offering **Mike Ashley’s** *Adventures in the Strand* for £7.50 plus postage. Its original published price was £25. <https://www.bibliophilebooks.com/adventuresinthestrans>

## Obituaries

**Susan Z Diamond** died on 25th April after a hard-fought battle with cancer. An active member of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes and co-editor of *The Serpentine Muse* for 22 years, she was also invested in the BSI in 1998 as ‘The Great Mogul’. **Evelyn Herzog** says: ‘We all will miss Susan’s lively humour, insight, and kindness, and be grateful for the hard work she generously did for the Adventuresses. We are lucky to have had Susan for a friend and to have her own appreciation of her Sherlockian relationships in the Toast to Friendship she wrote for last autumn’s luncheon, printed in the *Winter Serpentine Muse*. She will always be one of us.’ **Denny Dobry** shared the following: ‘We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Susan Diamond. After 15 years as an active member of the Beacon Society Board of Directors, Susan resigned as Grant Chairperson last year due to her deteriorating health. Our Newsletter featured an article on Susan after she announced her resignation. At our annual meeting in January this year, we announced that the Society’s most prestigious award henceforth would be known as *The Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award*. I am so happy that we were able to have the Award’s name change Proclamation presented to her. Susan was very moved and appreciative of our gesture. We will miss Susan’s leadership and friendship. She was always there for anyone who sought her advice and counsel. Please remember her family in your thoughts and prayers.’ Lyndsay Faye has also shared her experience of knowing Susan at <http://bakerstreetbabes.com/in-memoriam-susan-diamond/>

Our thoughts are with Susan’s husband Allan Devitt, her family and friends. This is a great loss for the Sherlockian world.

## Periodicals Received:

*The Beacon Society Quarterly Newsletter*, Vol. 3, No.2, April 2019 (**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*, April 2019 (Steve Mason; [mason.steve@epa.gov](mailto:mason.steve@epa.gov))

*Canadian Holmes*, Spring 2019 (**The Journal of the Bootmakers of Toronto**, Mark and JoAnn Alberstat, 46 Kingston Crescent, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B3A 2M2, Canada; [markalberstat@gmail.com](mailto:markalberstat@gmail.com))

*The Irregular Newsletter*, April 2019 (**The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment**, Brian W. Pugh, 20 Clare Road, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1PN; [brianpugh140@btinternet.com](mailto:brianpugh140@btinternet.com))

*The Illustrious Clients News*, April 2019 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T Doyle, 9 Calumet Court, Zionsville, Indiana 46077, USA; [IllustClients@gmail.com](mailto:IllustClients@gmail.com))

*Ineffable Twaddle*, May 2019 (**The Sound of the Baskervilles**, Terri Haugen; [terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com](mailto:terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com))

*Mayday Mayday*, April 2019 (**The Crew of the SS May Day, Belfast**, Oscar Ross; [oscarross@hotmail.com](mailto:oscarross@hotmail.com))

*The Passengers’ Log*, January 2019 (**The Sydney Passengers**, Erin O’Neill, editor; [erin.index@gmail.com](mailto:erin.index@gmail.com))

Jean Upton