



## THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

*Founded as The Sherlock Holmes Society in 1934*

### **CAPITAL, WATSON!**

**The London Mini-Festival Weekend**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

After the success of our previous London Weekends, the Society is putting on another weekend of Sherlockian events in London. All members and their guests are cordially invited – we hope you will find something of interest. As always, we have done our best to keep costs to a minimum. Inevitably London, like all capital cities, is expensive. It is, however, where Holmes and Watson lived and worked and there is, therefore, absolutely nowhere like it!

Applications for the various events must be received by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May *at the latest*, together with the appropriate remittance, where applicable. All prices quoted are *per person*. We regret the numbers for some events are limited and will be on a *first come, first served* basis, so please apply early. Where a meal is specified, a vegetarian or fish alternative can be provided, provided they are ordered in advance. All prices are inclusive of room hire, service and VAT. All drinks are on a cash basis and must be paid for individually at the time. Dress at Society functions is usually smart-casual. In particular at the events at London clubs, gentlemen are asked to wear jackets and ties – trainers are definitely not allowed. This is a common requirement in London clubs and we have to abide by it.

### **PROGRAMME**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

#### **Annual General Meeting**

The Society's AGM will be held at The **Savage Club**, housed in the premises of the National Liberal Club at 1, Whitehall Place, London, SW1, at 6.00 for 6.45pm. The National Liberal Club is located on the corner of Whitehall Place and the Victoria Embankment, not far from Embankment Underground Station, and also conveniently placed for Charing Cross main line station. It is usually possible to find a parking space in the vicinity at this time in the evening – although you may have to pay the congestion charge. <http://www.savageclub.com/>

Members and their guests may opt to attend the meeting only at no charge, or to dine beforehand at a cost of £35.00 per head. This includes VAT and service but not drinks, which must be paid for on the day. For those who choose to dine, the meal will comprise Roast Duck with a Plum and Ginger Sauce, followed by Lemon Tart with Raspberry

Coulis, Coffee and Mints. A vegetarian or fish alternative main course may be ordered in advance – please specify if you want this on the application form.

A cash bar will be open in the Savage Club Room on the ground floor of the building from 6.00pm. After the meeting, members may use the National Liberal Club bar. Dinner will be served promptly at 6.45pm in the David Lloyd George Room on the first floor and will be followed by the AGM, papers for which are enclosed, from around 8pm. We anticipate that the meeting will finish around 9.45pm, though many members stay on to chat.

After the formal business of the evening we will continue our tradition of adapting well-known television and radio shows for our own purposes. Having shamelessly adapted the likes of "University Challenge", "Just a Minute" and "Have I Got News for You", the Society now turns to that long-running BBC radio favourite "Twenty Questions".

W. S. Gilbert said "...I am the very model of a modern Major General. I've information vegetable, animal and mineral." In command of this operation will be Elaine McCafferty, ably assisted by her panel of Jean Upton, David Jones, Marcus Geisser and Heather Owen who will be challenge to identify objects and subjects from the Canon.

- **Meet at the Savage Club, 1 Whitehall Place, London SW1 from 6pm onwards: nearest tube Embankment**
- **Charge for those opting to dine beforehand: £35.00 US\$70.00**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

### **London Zoo**

Now you too can "feel a creeping, shrinking sensation, when you stand before the serpents in the Zoo, and see the slithery, gliding, venomous creatures, with their deadly eyes and wicked, flattened faces"! There are over 50 animals, fish and birds mentioned in the Canon – how many are represented at London Zoo?

<http://www.zsl.org/zsl-london-zoo/>

We will meet at 11am at the Warrington Hotel, 93 Warrington Crescent, Maida Vale, London, W9 1EH, where unlimited tea and coffee, and cakes will be served. The Warrington Hotel is a hotel in name only, there are no longer any guest rooms. It was built in 1859 and was a hotel in the late 1800's. Actually, it was rumoured to be a brothel, which must have worried its then owners, the Church of England! It was completely refurbished around 1900 and retains the surprisingly high standard of the decoration. The owners wanted to build a pub so fantastic and lavish that it would ooze respectability and be safe from suppression. As they say, "The Warrington certainly oozes". The entrance porch is flanked by two large, rare lamps, the porch columns and walls are covered with glazed tiles. Inside, the huge saloon bar is dominated by a marble topped, horseshoe bar, with a carved mahogany base; cherubs peer down from above. There is also art nouveau glasswork, turned mahogany and ornate plasterwork. The pub with its upstairs restaurant is now owned by Gordon Ramsey.

We will take the 13:00 Waterbus from Little Venice to London Zoo. It is a 10 minute walk from the hotel to the waterbus and a 50 minutes journey to the Zoo. Once we arrive, you are free to wander at will. Cheat sheets of Canonical animals will be provided. The zoo stays open until 6.

- **Meet at 11am at the Warrington Hotel, nearest underground stations Maida Vale and Warwick Avenue.**
- **Charge: £23.00 US\$46.00**
- **Please note that this event is limited to 30**
- **PLACES WILL BE ALLOCATED STRICTLY IN ORDER OF BOOKING – EARLY APPLICATION IS ADVISED**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

### **"The Other Side"**

#### **A short play about Houdini and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

A unique opportunity to attend the first British production of *The Other Side* by Jerome Coopersmith at The Old Doctor Butler's Head, 2 Masons Avenue, Moorgate London EC2, commencing at 6.30 pm. A two-course dinner of steak and kidney pudding (alternatives: vegetarian lasagna or fish) followed by apple crumble and custard will be included in the price. We have exclusive use of this traditional English pub in the heart of the City of London.

After dinner a cast of the Society's finest thespians will present a rehearsed reading of *The Other Side*. Like many others, Jerome Coopersmith is fascinated by the strange friendship between Harry Houdini, debunker of mysteries, and Arthur Conan Doyle, apostle of spiritualism. We hope that, following the performance, Mr. Coopersmith will tell us a little about how he came to write this entertaining and powerful one-act play.

- **Meet at the Old Dr. Butler's Head, 2 Mason's Avenue, Moorgate, London EC2. Bar opens at 6.30pm: theatrical performance at 7.30 pm: nearest tube Bank.**
- **Charge: £19.00 / US\$ 38.00 to include two-course meal with vegetarian/fish option.**

**Please note, numbers are limited to 70.**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

### **The Glades of the New Forest**

While Watson yearned for the New Forest on a blazing hot day in August, we will visit on what we hope will be a hot day in May. Please note that this will be a long day out.

We will meet at Ravenscourt Park Station (District Line) at 9.15 where our coach will be waiting in nearby King Street, Hammersmith. Our coach is to be a 1947 Leyland Tiger PSI, with a 31-seat rear-entrance coach body by Park Royal Coachworks. It was operated by the East Kent Road Car Company of Canterbury (and is still in their maroon livery)

and in the 1950s worked on express services from Victoria Coach Station to the Thanet Coast Towns. The coach is comfortable, but not as fast as today's coaches!

Note that track work closures infest the London Underground at weekends these days; on 17 May the District Line is scheduled to be closed in the east from Embankment to Whitechapel, and does not affect Ravenscourt Park. However – when booking please provide a mobile phone number where we can reach you on the day if there are problems. Guy Marriott's number is 07770 667603 and he can be reached at any time on that number.

Our coach journey will take us down the M3 and then the M27 to the New Forest. Leaving the motorway, we hope to make a brief detour via Bignell Wood (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's house in the New Forest). The house is not open but we will go slowly past, and continue for the short journey to the Rufus Stone, which marks the spot where King William II (William Rufus) was shot by an arrow and killed whilst out hunting in August 1100.

After a short stop we will continue through the New Forest to Exbury Gardens. The Exbury Estate was purchased in 1919 by Lionel de Rothschild and over the years has been developed into a series of magnificent gardens. May is the best time to visit, when the Azaleas are in flower. There is a narrow-gauge steam railway which explores part of the grounds and chauffeured golf buggies are also available to help explore the gardens. The usual eating and shopping facilities are also to be found. We will supply entrance and railway tickets, but lunch will not be provided as part of the cost of the day, and you are invited to make your own arrangements in the restaurant at the Gardens.

We will leave Exbury at 3.00pm for the drive to Minstead. At this ancient New Forest village, with its green, the local village shop will be open for the purchase of local produce, and at 4.00pm tea is provided for us in the village pub, The Trusty Servant (included in the cost of the day). After tea we will walk the short distance to the church of All Saints, Minstead. We will have a guided tour of the ancient (and curious) church, and of the churchyard. We will stop at the grave of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and of his second wife, Lady Jean, and lay a wreath. Nearby is the memorial tablet to their daughter, Dame Jean Conan Doyle, Lady Bromet, whose ashes are scattered nearby, and we will also lay another wreath. Dame Jean was a long-term friend of the Society until her death.

Thereafter, we will return to the Church for Evensong at 6.00pm where a commemoration will be made of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of Sir Arthur (which falls on May 22<sup>nd</sup>).

After the service we will return to London in the coach, where we should anticipate an arrival by 9.30pm.

*If you wish to make your own arrangements to drive to the New Forest that day, we should be delighted to see you at Exbury around lunchtime, and for tea and Evensong at*

*Minstead. If you would like to join us for tea at The Trusty Servant, please advise beforehand (so we can advise numbers to the pub) and send Catherine Cooke a cheque for £7.00 per person, made payable to The Sherlock Holmes Society of London.*

- **Meet at: Ravenscourt Park Station at 9.15am. Please provide a mobile number if you have one.**
- **Charge: £25.00 / US\$ 50 (includes coach, Exbury Gardens entrance and steam railway (but not lunch) and includes tea at Minstead)**
- **A complementary booklet for the day is also to be provided to participants.**
- **IMPORTANT NOTE – numbers are STRICTLY LIMITED TO 25 ONLY**

#### **DIARY 2009-10**

21 or 28 June 2009	Cricket Match
11- 13 September 2009	Edinburgh
October 2009	RLG Lecture (to be confirmed)
November 2009	Film Evening
9 January 2010	Annual Dinner
10 January 2010	Morning After



**THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON**

*Founded as The Sherlock Holmes Society in 1934*

VAT registration no.: 527 7037 40

To: Miss Catherine Cooke,  
15, Copperfield Court,  
146, Worples Road,  
Wimbledon,  
London, SW20 8QA.

**“CAPITAL, WATSON”**

**Friday 15 May      AGM – Just a Minute      Total**

I / We should like to attend the AGM and dine beforehand with ..... guests      £ / \$

I / We would like to order ..... fish / vegetarian meals

*(please delete or specify as applicable)*

Charge: £35.00      US\$70.00 for those opting to dine beforehand.

NAME(S).....

I / We should like to attend the AGM and meeting only with ..... guests

NAME(S).....

**Saturday 16 May      London Zoo**

I / We should like to visit London Zoo with ..... guests      £ / \$

Charge: £23.00      US\$46.00

NAME(S).....

**Saturday 16 May      "The Other Side"**

I / We should like to attend "The Other Side" with ..... guests      £ / \$

I / We would like to order ..... fish / ..... vegetarian meals

*(please delete or specify as applicable)*

Charge: £19.00      US\$38.00

NAME(S).....

**Sunday 17 May      The Glades of the New Forest**

I / We should like to visit The New Forest with ..... guests      £ / \$

*(please delete or specify as applicable)*

Charge: £25.00      US\$50.00

NAME(S).....

MOBILE :

I / We should like to make our own travel arrangements, but book tea      £ / \$

Charge: £7.00      US\$14.00

NAME(S).....

**TOTAL PAYMENT**

£ / \$ .....

I enclose the appropriate remittance payable to The Sherlock Holmes Society of London.  
*Please note, cheques are not generally presented until after the events have taken place.*

As numbers at some events are limited, please provide contact details, so we can let you know if your application for any event has been unsuccessful.

E-mail address, telephone number or postal address:

.....

.....

**Please print or write clearly - especially if giving an e-mail address as these can so easily be misread!**

c.cooke@dsl.pipex.com