

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

<http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/>

Dr. Carrie Parris e-mail: distmessenger@yahoo.co.uk

Twitter: @SHSLondon **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/TheSherlockHolmesSocietyofLondon

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Our annual **cricket match** with the P. G. Wodehouse Society is drawing near, and you could be part of it. On Saturday 2 July, we take on the 'Gold Bats' once again at the beautiful West Wycombe grounds in Buckinghamshire. Members and their friends are welcome to come along for free. See our website for more details: <http://goo.gl/JwMGj9>.

After the summer hiatus, the next Society event will be the excursion to **Cambridge** in September, where interested parties will once more fight to persuade us that the University must be Holmes's *alma mater*. This trip has proved very popular and has already sold out, but you can still find details on our website: <http://goo.gl/qkF6ys>.

The **Richard Lancelyn Green Memorial Lecture 2016** has been confirmed for Monday 17 October if you wish to note the date for your diary. Details to follow later in the year.

The Society is proud to have recently published a book inspired by our trip to the Gladstone Library in 2013. *Let Me Recommend This Book* is edited by Bob Ellis and Roger Johnson, and features contributions from David Jones, Guy Marriott, Nick Utechin, Jonathan Hopson, Ashley Mayo and Martin Edwards. You can purchase the book from the Society website for £7.75: <http://goo.gl/wT5cNM>.

Martin Edwards has been winning a number of awards for his book about the Detection Club, *The Golden Age of Murder* (available in hardback, RRP £20). He is currently President of the Detection Club, so he is well placed to know their secrets.

On Friday 27 May, the facsimile of 'The Adventure of the Abbey Grange,' published in collaboration with **Fondation Martin Bodmer**, was officially launched at the Fondation in Coligny, Switzerland. Members of the Society and Société d'études holmésiennes de la Suisse romande attended the event in costume, and you can view some beautiful photos on the Fondation Martin Bodmer's Facebook Page: <https://goo.gl/pZOWAW>. The facsimile is available to be purchased via the Society's website for £29.00: <http://goo.gl/MZ9iNr>.

This coming Thursday 16 June, an **autograph manuscript leaf** from *The Hound of the Baskervilles* will be auctioned by Christie's in New York as part of their 'Fine Printed Books & Manuscripts Including Americana' sale. Randall Stock has created a detailed page about the manuscript leaf and the sale (including photos, and details of how to purchase the catalogue) on his excellent *The Best of Sherlock Holmes* website: <http://goo.gl/LMeRCS>.

Volume II of Orlando Pearson's *The Redacted Sherlock Holmes* was published at the end of April and there will be a **launch party this Wednesday 15 June** in Central London.

Pearson will introduce his brand new collection of Sherlock Holmes stories, and there will be a live performance from the mentalist, Ben Cardall. Steve Emez will also give a brief update on progress at Undershaw, and there will be a raffle with a chance to win exclusive prizes including a very rare Chinese version of the *Benedict Cumberbatch - In Transition* biography in its original packaging. The event starts at 7.15pm at Truckles of Pied Bull Yard, Bury Place, London WC1A 2JR, nearest tube stations Holborn and Tottenham Court Road. The party is ticketed. All proceeds from ticket sales will go to the restoration of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's old house, Undershaw near Hindhead. More details and ticket sales here: <https://goo.gl/dXXu3N>.

Stepping Stones Senior School is due to open at **Undershaw** for the Autumn Term this year, with Jeremy Hunt MP pencilled in to attend the official opening. Waveney Borough Council have approved the building of a games area, paths, and an outdoor learning area. Here is a recent article about the development from *Get Surrey*: <http://goo.gl/5a85Qf>.

Now open at The Tabard Theatre in Chiswick is *Sherlock Holmes and the Invisible Thing*. This is an original story by playwright Greg Freeman, whose marvellous adaption of *A Study in Scarlet* ran at the Southwark Playhouse two years ago. *Sherlock Holmes and The Invisible Thing* runs from 7 June – 16 July, Tues – Sat 7:30pm, Sat Mat 4pm, Sun Mat 2pm. No performances on Mondays and 14 - 18 June & 28-30 June. Book online at <http://goo.gl/q6gi6Y> or 0208 995 6035 (Tabard Theatre, 2 Bath Road, London W4 1LW).

Chapterhouse Theatre Company are touring National Trust properties around the UK this summer with their **outdoor production of *The Hound of the Baskervilles***. If you wish to follow their footsteps, full details of dates, venues, and ticket information can be found on their website: <http://goo.gl/aVte6o>.

Controversy now. *The Sunday Times* recently published an article highlighting claims that 'The Problem of Thor Bridge' was an act of plagiarism: <http://goo.gl/A4Rn2o>. Unsurprisingly, these spurious claims fall apart quite quickly when examined, and the article has infuriated a number of Doylean scholars, as Mattias Boström explains via *I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere*: <http://goo.gl/ATJA0T>.

As has been widely reported, Les Enfants Terribles will be staging an immersive theatrical detective experience at **Madame Tussauds this summer**, titled *The Game's Afoot*. They describe the premise as follows: 'As the newest recruits of Scotland Yard, follow in the footsteps of the great detective himself. Make your own deductions by interviewing suspects, reading reports and searching for hidden clues in this free roaming, multi-sensory and intricate world. Two peculiar unique cases await you, alternating each evening. Your sleuthing skills will be rewarded with a trip to our bar to celebrate with your fellow Scotland Yard officers.' Les Enfants Terribles have an excellent reputation for their immersive experiences, so this promises to be a very exciting opportunity to experience their vision of the Holmesian world practically on the doorstep of 221B. *The Game's Afoot* will run from Monday 18 July to Friday 30 September. See their website for tickets and further information: <https://goo.gl/7f7iPA>.

Basil Rathbone's *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1939) has been released on Blu-Ray for the first time. Facebook users, keep an eye on the Society's page, I may be running a prize draw to win a copy very shortly. Full details about the new release can be found on this website: <http://goo.gl/Vi0wb8>.

It has been announced that **Toby Jones** will be playing the villain in the fourth series of BBC's *Sherlock*. No clues as to his character yet, my money's on a poisoner... <http://goo.gl/csWkyN>.

This year's **Edinburgh Fringe Festival** is due to take place between 5 - 29 August and, as ever, there is plenty to interest a Holmesian audience. For full programme details, ticket purchases, etc, you can visit their website: <https://goo.gl/kcD1JH>. There is also a dedicated phone number for ticket purchases: +44 (0)131 226 0000. Here are some shows to note:

Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother in the Case of a Study in Blood will run at Spotlites, 4-20 August, with a start time of 10:55pm each night. Here's how they describe the plot: 'Sherlock Holmes kidnapped. His father, Professor Holmes, murdered. The Holmes family under siege by shadowy adversaries looking to wipe out the bloodline. Mycroft recruits brash and brilliant American private detective Tyson Jackson to unravel these mysteries and reveal something even more shocking. With Watson's help and Lestrade's bumbling, will the truth be revealed?' More details through the show's website: <http://goo.gl/4YIHS2>.

Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes will run at Just the Tonic at the Community Project, 4-14, 16-28 August, with a start time each afternoon of 3pm. I am a big fan of the cast behind this show, who are returning to Edinburgh after a critically acclaimed run last year. You may recognise them from the History Bombs video *The History of Sherlock Holmes (in One Take)* – if you haven't watched it yet, stop reading this and do so immediately here: <https://goo.gl/e51eVZ>. Here is how they describe their Edinburgh show: 'Light up your (imaginary) pipe as a completely spontaneous and exceedingly engrossing mystery tale unfolds before you, with rollicking plot twists and hilarious characters – different every time and based on audience suggestions! Family-friendly.' More detail on the show's website: <http://goo.gl/UJBEKF>.

Spontaneous Sherlock will run at La Belle Angèle, 6-15, 17-22, 24-28 August, with a start time of 7.45pm. This show, according to the programme, 'is an entirely improvised Sherlock Holmes comedy play based on an audience suggestion of a title. Performed by four of the country's most critically acclaimed comedy improvisers with live Victorian musical accompaniment.' It's free, but you need a ticket: <https://goo.gl/tq22wK>.

Arthur Conan Doyle – *Man of Mystery* will be on at Mayfield Salisbury Church, 8-12 August, starting at 6pm. One for the Doyleans, here's the description from the programme: 'Since 2002, the Mercators, one of Edinburgh's longest established amateur theatre groups, have presented costumed, dramatised readings celebrating famous writers such as Charles Dickens, Oscar Wilde, Jane Austen and JM Barrie. This year we take a fresh look at Sir Arthur Conan Doyle – author, doctor and explorer, documenting his life with his own words and the words of his extraordinary characters such as Sherlock Holmes, Doctor Watson, Professor Moriarty, Irene Adler, Sir Charles Baskerville, Professor Challenger, Micah Clarke, Decimus Saxon, Brigadier Gerard and many more.' Here's the Mercators' website: <http://goo.gl/pJ9Bzu>.

Appropriately, there are events of interest at the Arthur Conan Doyle Centre. ***Arthur Conan Doyle, an Edinburgh Man***, runs on 9, 11, 16, 18, and 23 August from 2pm. 'Following her third year of successful, sell-out shows, Ann Treherne, Chairman of The Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Centre, talks about this famous man of literature – and spiritualism! Famous author of Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle eventually became the world's foremost spokesman on spiritualism. Throughout her talk Ann explores the early stirrings of his lifelong interest in psychic and spiritual matters and tells us why the building bears his name!' The mighty **David Stuart Davies** will be presenting his own *The Game's Afoot*, 15-19 August, starting at 6:30pm: 'David Stuart Davies presents the story of the great detective Sherlock Holmes along with his creator Arthur Conan Doyle. In dramatic fashion, Davies provides an entertaining overview of these two fascinating characters. An enthralling hour.'

Elizabeth Crowens's debut novel *Silent Meridian*, was released in May. Crowens has devised an alternate history novel featuring Arthur Conan Doyle and a time travelling professor, John Patrick Scott. The book is available to be purchased through MX Publishing and most major suppliers (RRP £10.99), and Crowens is scheduled for a number of events and signings in the US. See her website for details: <http://goo.gl/j40f5U>.

At the UK Games Expo in Birmingham last weekend, I was fortunate to encounter the creator of a **new Holmesian game** titled *Beyond Baker Street*, due to be released this year by Z Man Games. I hope to bring you more news about this in a future *DM*. Here are some details on the Z Man Games website: <http://goo.gl/8K6rVH>.

Finally: on visiting my local fire station in West Norwood yesterday, I met a **dog called Sherlock** who is often consulted by the London Fire Brigade. As you will see from this photo, not only is he skilled in the detection of ignitable substances, he's also a master of disguise: <https://goo.gl/ZUDI3d>.