

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's mini-festival weekend, *A CAPITAL RETURN!* is rapidly approaching, and applications for events must be received by Friday 11th May. This year's programme of activities includes:

- Thursday 24th May - AGM followed by a performance by David Stuart Davies of *The Game's Afoot*
- Friday 25th May - A visit to **The Postal Museum** including a journey on the underground Mail Rail
- Saturday 26th May - A day at **Undershaw**, home of Stepping Stones School
- Sunday 27th May - *Holmes in The City* walking tour followed by lunch at **The Centre Page** pub

More details are available on the Society's website.

Stepping Stones School, based at Undershaw, is also planning a number of events to honour Arthur Conan Doyle, which include:

5th - 26th May - An exhibition at **Haslemere Educational Museum**, organised by Stepping Stones School, on the life and times of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Friday 25th May - an opportunity to play golf at **Hindhead Golf Club**, plus lunch and a talk.

Friday 25th May, 7:30pm - *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, performed by Torchlight Mysteries. *Bookings at Haslemere Hall Box Office at:* <http://www.haslemerehall.co.uk/> or call on 01428 642161

Saturday 26th May - **Open Day at Undershaw**. Refreshments available, and a series of informative talks throughout the day.

Saturday 26th May. 6:30pm - *The Hound of the Baskervilles*

Sunday 27th May, 10:00am - **Dramatic Walk of Grayshott** Local historian John Owen Smith will lead a walk of Conan Doyle's local area starting and finishing at the Fox & Pelican, his local pub.

Sunday 27th May, 12:00 noon - **Vague Memories in Our Souls**: Catherine Cooke, curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collection for Westminster Libraries, will explore the part played by music in Conan Doyle's life and works.

Sunday 27th May, 12:00 noon - 3:00pm - **Open House and Refreshments at Undershaw** For more details and to book places: <http://www.steppingstones.org.uk/Community/Conan-Doyle-Events/>

Laura Musco, Chairman of **The Grayshott Stagers**, has been in touch to alert us to yet another event in Conan Doyle Country: "As you may know, Grayshott is a small village on the Hampshire / Surrey border with historical connections to Arthur Conan Doyle. He took a keen interest in Grayshott life, even playing cricket for the village, as well as being a regular visitor to the post office and shops. His wife, son and mother are all buried at St. Luke's Church, Grayshott. To celebrate this connection The Grayshott Stagers are performing a production of Leslie Bricusse's West End musical *The Revenge of*

Sherlock Holmes at Grayshott Village Hall on the 23rd - 26th May. *What appears at first to be a final confrontation between Sherlock Holmes and his perennial arch-enemy, Professor Moriarty, proves to be more than even Holmes bargained for; he finds himself facing an old-but-new enemy, whose determination to outwit and destroy the great detective is even greater than before.*" For information and to book tickets go to <http://www.grayshottstagers.co.uk/trosh/trosh.html>

We should mention that Bricusse's production was originally titled *Sherlock Holmes - The Musical*, which opened at the Cambridge Theatre, London on 24th April 1989. *The Revenge* is a slightly revised version, which has been improved by tightening-up and simplifying certain aspects of the show. We saw an excellent production of *The Revenge* several years ago at Hoxton Hall.

Communication has been received from Maja Margasińska and Katarzyna Kowalska, based in Poland, to let us know that the second *Sherlockon Polska* Holmes and Watson fan convention will take place on 30th June - 1st July in Warsaw. Based on reports we've heard of last year's event, it was a great success and enormous fun. If you're interested in attending, get in touch with Maja and Katarzyna at sherlockonpolska@gmail.com

Catherine Cooke brings news of the **Marylebone Music Festival**, which this year will be celebrating Sherlock Holmes. Taking place from 21st - 24th June at a variety of venues in Marylebone, there will be a programme of concerts and events inspired by Holmes's connection to music. All proceeds from the Festival go to the Marylebone based homeless charity, The West London Day Centre. For the full programme go to:

<https://www.marylebonemusicfestival.com/2018events>

Spotted by Howard Ostrom is *Sherlock and the Sign of Four - A Whodunnit Evening* on Saturday 12 May at Alderholt Village Hall, Station Road, Alderholt, Dorset SP6 3RB, from 7:30pm - 10 pm. "Alderholt Chapel & Searchlight Theatre invite you to the wedding reception of Dr. John and Mrs. Mary Watson. A 'whodunnit' theatrical evening with a selection of cheese and wine. Licensed bar will be available, selling alcohol and soft drinks." <https://bookwhen.com/alderholtchapel/e/ev-s00c-20180512193000>

We mentioned it last month, but here's a brief reminder that **Portsmouth Museum** opens its new exhibition, *You Don't Know Sherlock Holmes Yet?* on 22nd May. You can find more details at: <https://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk/conandoyle/our-work/events>

The Poor Folk Upon the Moors will hold their annual Henry Drew Memorial Croquet Match and Sunday Breakfast on 24th June at The Twisted Oak in Ide, just outside Exeter. The afternoon will conclude with a traditional Devon Cream Tea and birthday felicitations for The Poor Folk's President (and long-time member of our Society), **Vosper Arthur**, who will turn 100 on 25th June.

Last month we reported that the manuscript of "*The Adventure of the Dancing Men*" would go to auction on 18th April at Heritage Auctions in Dallas, TX. With an opening bid of \$250,000, it sold for \$312,500, including the buyer's premium; the new owner remains anonymous.

For a slightly more affordable collectible, **Paul Miller** has spotted a **Sherlock Gnomes** heart-shaped badge being sold by **Variety**, the

Children's Charity. Proceeds from the pins will benefit Variety programmes that provide life-saving, life-changing, and life-enriching equipment and services to children who have a disability or are disadvantaged. Badges are £3.00 and may be ordered here: <https://www.variety.org.uk/shop/variety-gold-hearts/2018-sherlock-gnomes-gold-heart> or ring 020 7428 8100

Nicholas Briggs ("the voice of the Daleks") shares the news that **Big Finish** has released a new Sherlock Holmes audio play, *The Master of Blackstone Grange*, written by Jonathan Barnes and directed by Ken Bentley. Nicholas Briggs is back as Holmes with Richard Earl as his excellent Watson. The DVD is £23.00 or Download for £20.00, available from <https://www.bigfinish.com/releases/v/sherlock-holmes-the-master-of-blackstone-grange-1749> It's worth having a look at the Big Finish website for their other offerings.

Sherlock Holmes Through the Microscope by **Carl Heifetz**, 214pp, pbk, MX Publishing, £10.99 / €12.99 / \$14.95. This is a collection of items that have appeared in numerous Sherlockian publications over the past couple of decades. Mr. Heifetz is a microbiologist, and brings this perspective to his subjects.

The Druid of Death by **Richard T. Ryan**, 228 pp, hbk with dj, MX Publishing, £17.99 / €12.99 / £28.95. On the vernal equinox of 1899 a young woman's body is found at Stonehenge. The murder appears to be a Druidic sacrifice, but also bears the hallmarks of Jack the Ripper.

Sherlock Holmes and the Shadows of St. Petersburg by **Daniel D. Victor**, 182pp, pbk, MX Publishing, £8.99 / €9.99 / \$12.95. Two horrific axe murders in London's East End appear to be a re-staging of Dostoyevsky's narrative in *Crime and Punishment*, of an incident in St. Petersburg.

Watson: My Life by **David Ruffle**, 148pp, pbk, MX Publishing, £8.99 / €9.99 / \$12.95. Watson's autobiography, as transcribed from 1936 recordings on wax cylinders.

The Ardlamont Mystery by **Daniel Smith**, 254pp, hbk with dj, Michael O'Mara Books, £18.99. This chronicles the real-life case of the murder of Cecil Hambrough. Key prosecution witnesses were Dr. Joseph Bell and Dr. Henry Littlejohn, who, working together as pioneers in the field of forensic detection, had been investigating crimes for more than 20 years. The author re-examines the evidence of the case, and feels that Littlejohn deserves equal billing as the inspiration for Sherlock Holmes.

Thomas Wheeler has been in touch to say: "After reviewing the relative sales of my Thames e-book and paperback, I decided to withdraw the publication of *The GPS Guide to the London of Sherlock Holmes* and issue the paperback version of *The Mapped London of Sherlock Holmes*. I have also redesigned the cover and edited my <http://Sherlockslondon.com> website to show the new book cover." You can find the book on Amazon.

Sherlock the Fire Brigade Dog by **Paul Osborne**, published by Penguin for the London Fire Brigade, tells the story of the bond between handler Paul Osborne and Sherlock, the fire investigation dog, and how their partnerships has become an important and integral part of the Brigade's firefighting and prevention team. Amongst his many adventures, Sherlock has met HRH Prince Charles and received the Mirror and RSPCA Animal Hero award in 2017. The book will be released on 4th May to coincide with National Firefighters' Day, and is available to pre-order. For more information go to <https://t.co/RXaslkd73l>.

Tim Walsh has written to say: "I would like to draw your attention to the Sherlock Holmes novel, *Chameleon - The Death of Sherlock Holmes*, written by blind South Australian author, **Annette Siketa**. The book was released late last year in electronic format only. However, such is its popularity that a print version now available. Below are the relevant links:" For e-book: <https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/747787>, for print: <https://www.digitalprintaustralia.com/bookstore/fiction/crime-intrigue/chameleon-the-death-of-sherlock-holmes.html>.

OBITUARIES:

We are sorry to report the death of our good friend, **Roger Llewellyn**, on 17th April. Many members of our Society had the opportunity to see Roger's tour de force performances in his one-man shows, *Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act!* and *Sherlock Holmes - The Death and Life*, both written by David Stuart Davies. He also played Inspector Lestrade to Ron Moody's Holmes in the ill-fated *Sherlock Holmes - The Musical* in 1989. He trained at RADA and went on to a varied and versatile career, from performing with the Royal Shakespeare Company at the Old Vic to appearing in many popular TV programmes such as *The Bill*, *Inspector Morse*, *Casualty* and *Silent Witness*. Whenever he appeared in Chelmsford, Roger was our very welcome house guest. With the skill of the true raconteur, he would regale us and other guests with amazing and hilarious anecdotes, holding court until the wee hours of the morning. He will be missed by many. There are appreciations online at <http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk> and <http://www.ihearofsherlock.com/>. If you missed seeing Roger on stage, you can still obtain excellent recordings of *The Last Act* and *The Death and Life*, produced by Big Finish:

<https://www.bigfinish.com/ranges/released/sherlock-holmes>.

Periodicals received:

The Bilge Pump – The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star, April 2018 (Steve Mason; mason.steve@epa.gov)

Canadian Holmes, Spring 2018 (The Journal of the Bootmakers of Toronto, Mark and JoAnn Alberstat, 46 Kingston Crescent, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B3A 2M2, Canada; markalberstat@ns.sympatico.ca)

The Illustrious Clients News, April 2018 (The Illustrious Clients, Steven T. Doyle, 9 Calumet Court, Zionsville, Indiana 46077, USA; IllustClients@gmail.com)

Ineffable Twaddle, May 2018 (The Sound of the Baskervilles, Terri Haugen; terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)

The Irregular Newsletter, March 2018 (The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment, Brian W. Pugh, 20 Clare Road, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1PN;)

Mayday Mayday, April 2018 (The Crew of the SS May Day, Belfast, Oscar Ross; oscarross@hotmail.com)

The Moor, March 2018 (The Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden, Anders Wiggstrom; bhc@telia.com)

The Passengers' Log, January 2018 (The Sydney Passengers, Erin O'Neill, editor; erin.index@gmail.com)

The Petrel Flyer, October/November/December 2017 (The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia, Fran Martin; franziskah@shaw.ca)

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press, March 2018 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; blau7103@comcast.net)

The Serpentine Muse, Spring 2018 (The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, Susan Z Diamond, 16W603 Third Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106-2327, USA; szdiamond@comcast.net)

The Torr, Spring 2018 (The Poor Folk Upon the Moors, Stephan Arthur; editor.poorfolk@gmail.com)

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