

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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Please keep visiting our website, which is being updated frequently with news, important information and many items of interest: [www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk](http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk).

The Society's September excursion to Harwich, *Ships, Spies and Ghosts in the Windy East* has been postponed until the weekend of 10th to 12th September 2021.

The **Richard Lancelyn Green Lecture** will be held on Thursday 15th October 2020 on Zoom. Our speaker is **Dr. Andrew Blick**, Reader in Politics and Contemporary History and Head of Department of Political Economy, King's College London. He is the author of numerous books, essays and pamphlets on the UK constitution, including histories of special advisers to ministers and of aides to prime ministers. For more details and to register, please see our website.

The Society's **Film Evening** will be held on Friday 13th November 2020, again using Zoom to stream the film and provide live simultaneous chat during the showing. Chat is easy to hide if you would prefer just to watch the film. Our amiable host, Matthew J. Elliott, makes a welcome return. This year's offering will be the 1933 *A Study in Scarlet*, starring **Reginald Owen**. Despite the title, the film bears no similarity to Conan Doyle's novel, and even features a character from *The Red-Headed League*! See the website for more details.

The Society welcomes **Paul Gillings** as our new Merchandising Officer following the retirement of Bob Ellis. The Society is very grateful to Paul for volunteering and to Bob for maintaining this important Society role. Paul will be the contact for all orders from Monday 14 September: email [shsmerchandise@yahoo.com](mailto:shsmerchandise@yahoo.com)

Our annual Christmas Card is now ready to order. *One Winter's Night*, designed by Swiss artist **Laurence Pernet**, was chosen from a competition held earlier this year. The title is taken from a quotation in *The Musgrave Ritual*. For more information and to order the cards, please see our website.

**Nicky Bird** has produced a very handsome set of full-colour **Sherlock Holmes playing cards**. The illustrations include rare book covers, photos, illustrations and ephemera. The cards are £6.00 plus P&P from [www.birdplayingcards.com](http://www.birdplayingcards.com)

**Nick Utechin** says: "I have been involved with the idea(s) behind and, crucially, the text for, a Sherlock Holmes jigsaw puzzle. It is 1000 pieces and produced by gift/game producers Laurence King." *The World of Sherlock*

*Holmes* puzzle is available now on Amazon for around £14.00. According to the description, it "Includes fun Sherlock facts on a fold-out poster."

**Don't Go Into the Cellar** theatre company is touring again with *Strictly Sherlock!* Jonathan Goodwin plays Sherlock Holmes, in a show scripted by himself and co-directed by Goodwin and Gary Archer, in which Holmes investigates *The Sussex Vampire, The Creeping Man and The Devil's Foot*. Dates and venues are: 1st October, Middleport Pottery, Stoke-on-Trent; 21st October, Poltimore House & Grounds, Exeter; 11th December, The Beggar's Theatre, Millom, Cumbria. Full details may be found via the **Don't Go Into the Cellar** Events page on Facebook at [https://www.facebook.com/pg/CellarTheatre/events/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/CellarTheatre/events/?ref=page_internal)

The **Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium** takes place this year online on **October 10th**. This one-day virtual event is hosted by Sherlockians on the West Coast of the United States. Expect educational and enlightening talks, camaraderie, and a generally good time. Attendees are invited to **name their own ticket price**. The ticket includes five virtual talks and an afternoon/evening social 'cocktail hour'. Speakers this year are **Les Klinger, Bonnie MacBird, Angela Misri, Rob Nunn, and Mina Hoffman**. For details: <https://www.leftcoastsherlock.com/> or to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/left-coast-sherlockian-symposium-2020-tickets-76818388869>

Back in the 1980s, **Kelvin Jones** edited a highly regarded journal, *The Sherlockian*. There are now plans afoot to reprint the original contents of the journal in book form, along with new material. Kelvin is inviting new contributions as follows: "Scholarly articles on The Canon, any aspect, any theory, however outrageous, absurd or outré. No length limit, except submissions over 10,000 words. Also utterly Doylean/Holmesian style pastiches, but no American style dialogue, aliens or supernatural explanation tales, please. Please submit brief outline in first instance to: Kelvin I. Jones (ed.) [sherlocks.irregulars@gmail.com](mailto:sherlocks.irregulars@gmail.com) or my Facebook page @Siger Holmes."

The current issue (October 2020) of **The Oldie** magazine includes an article by **David Horspool: Sherlock Holmes's elementary schools**. Inspired by the 'Lighthouses' quote from *The Naval Treaty*, it supplies a brief history of Board Schools, which 150 years ago first provided free education to children.

As part of its promotion of *Enola Holmes*, Netflix has erected statues of the accomplished sisters of some of England's more widely recognised male cultural icons. Frances Dickens, sister of Charles Dickens, can be seen beside her brother in Portsmouth; Mary Hardy, sister of Thomas Hardy, is installed in Dorchester; Princess Helena Victoria, sister of King Edward VII is in Birmingham; and Maria Anna Mozart, sister of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, in Bath. Needless to say, Enola appears alongside her famous brother outside Baker Street Station. <https://www.popsugar.co.uk/entertainment/enola-holmes-female-empowerment-statues-around-uk-47812052>

If you ever wondered what a **Lion's Mane** jellyfish looks like, here's a recent news article forwarded from **Oscar Ross**: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-53823153>

**MC Black** recommends the **Sherlock Holmes Map of London** by cartographers Aventuras Literarias, It shows London as it was in 1891 and is keyed to locations in the four novels. It is available from Amazon, Stanfords, Wordery and other sellers at prices ranging from £7 to £10.

### Books of Interest

**Commissionaire: Julian Wolff and His Baker Street Irregulars** by Sonia Fetherston, BSI (Baker Street Irregulars Press, 176 pp pbk, \$21.95 plus shipping) For those of us who had the honour and pleasure of meeting and/or corresponding with Julian Wolff, this book is sheer joy. It is a reminder of a simpler and more gentle time, and an appropriate tribute to the quiet little man who was the longest-serving leader and guiding light of the Baker Street Irregulars. The author's research has included documentary sources as well as oral histories and reminiscences from friends, family members and fellow Irregulars. Newly-hatched Sherlockians will find this a splendid introduction to one of our Founders of the Faith. <https://bakerstreetirregulars.com/2020/07/11/commissionaire/>

**The Curse of Sherlock Holmes: The Basil Rathbone Story** by David Clayton (The History Press, 192 pp hbk, £18.99) The publishers have a reputation for producing high-quality non-fiction, so I was really looking forward to reading this. It turned out to be like a childhood birthday party, at which every gift received was either socks or underpants. Apparently, the author's forte is writing about sport, which perhaps explains his obsession with statistics – how much a film cost to produce, how much it earned, etc. He also doesn't know the difference between 'exhaustive' and 'exhausting.' Surprisingly large chunks of Rathbone's excellent autobiography, **In and Out of Character**, are inserted throughout the book; already a fairly slim volume, its size would be reduced considerably if these excerpts were removed. Although there is more information about Rathbone's children than was included in the autobiography, I would still refer readers to the original source for a more enjoyable reading experience.

### Obituaries

Sad news received from **Caroline Logan**: "I am writing to notify you of the death of my aunt, **Mrs. Jessie Hinrich** on the 2nd July 2020. Both my Aunt Jessie and my Uncle Derek were active members of the Society for a great many years and I would be grateful if you could remember my aunt to any members of the Society who knew her." Derek and Jessie will be remembered as being very welcoming and kind to new members of the society, and were popular figures on our pilgrimages to Switzerland.

**Dame Diana Rigg** died on 10th September, age 82. Her career spanned five decades, and included stirring the hearts of many a young man in her early role as Emma Peel in the television series *The Avengers*. Younger audiences will be more familiar with her appearance in *Game of Thrones* as Olenna Tyrell, matriarch of the House of Tyrell. Although she did not appear in a Sherlock Holmes drama, she did take on the role of host of the PBS series *Mystery* when Vincent Price retired. Diana Rigg provided the introductions for the later Jeremy Brett episodes *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*, *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* and the feature-length episodes 'The Master Blackmailer,' 'The Eligible Bachelor,' and 'The Last Vampire.' You can learn more here: <https://www.ihearofsherlock.com/2020/09/remembering-diana-rigg.html#.X2o-5Yt7mUk>

### Periodicals Received

*Baker Street in Baltimore*, August 2020 (**The Six Napoleons of Baltimore**, Greg Ruby, [SixNapoleonsOfBaltimore@gmail.com](mailto:SixNapoleonsOfBaltimore@gmail.com))

*The Baker Street Journal*, Summer 2020 (**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. 4, No. 3, September 2020 (**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*, September 2020 (Steve Mason; [mason.steve@epa.gov](mailto:mason.steve@epa.gov))

*The Illustrious Clients News*, September 2020 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T Doyle, 9 Calumet Court, Zionsville, Indiana 46077, USA; [IllustClients@gmail.com](mailto:IllustClients@gmail.com))

*Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, August 2020 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; [blau7103@comcast.net](mailto:blau7103@comcast.net))

*The Torr*, Autumn 2020 (**The Poor Folk Upon the Moors**, Stephan Arthur; [editor.poorfolk@gmail.com](mailto:editor.poorfolk@gmail.com))

*The Whaling News*, September 2020 (**The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn**, St. Charles, MO; J Andrew Basford; [pcairnes26@outlook.com](mailto:pcairnes26@outlook.com))

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