

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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As COVID advice is constantly changing, please check the Society's website for news and updates on activities: [www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk](http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk).

Summer is rapidly approaching and Sunday 19th June will see the return of our **Victorian Cricket Match**. Our hallowed Society will meet the "Gold Bats" of the P.G. Wodehouse Society at West Wycombe, where the match will be played to the Laws of 1895. Do come and support the teams! Bring your own seating and picnic lunch and, if the fancy takes you, attend in Victorian attire. The match will commence at 11.30 a.m. and is expected to conclude around 6:00 p.m., with breaks in between for lunch and tea. Our Captain, **Peter Horrocks**, is seeking players for our team and can be contacted at [peter@minuetter.com](mailto:peter@minuetter.com) For more information go to <https://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/event/might-i-trouble-you-for-a-match-cricket-vs-the-gold-bats-2/>

A new '**Sherlock Holmes Experience**' is set to open at **Knockhatch Adventure Park** in Hailsham. **Richard Doyle** (ACD's great nephew) will be opening the immersive experience and will also host a Q&A session. According to the press release, "This is a totally interactive and visually astonishing live walk through adventure. The experience has special effects, motion triggered events and a cast of characters from the world of Arthur Conan Doyle to help you solve the case." The grand opening is on Saturday 23 April. <https://knockhatch.com/play-indoors/the-sherlock-holmes-experience>

DePaul University in Chicago has chosen *A Celebration of Sherlock Holmes* as the theme of this year's **DePaul Pop Culture Conference**. Taking place on 7th May, featured speakers include **Arwel Wyn Jones** (production designer for *Sherlock*), **Tom Ue** (editor of *Fan Phenomena: Sherlock Holmes*), and **Ashley Polasek** (author of *Being Sherlock*). <https://popcultureconference.com/2022-a-celebration-of-sherlock-holmes>

**Nicholas Meyer** has been announced as the keynote speaker at **Jubilee@221B**. The conference, running 23 – 25 September, will celebrate the 50th anniversaries of the opening of the **Arthur Conan Doyle Collection** at the Toronto Public Library and the founding of the **Bootmakers of Toronto**. To enrol on the mailing list for updates and registration, send an e-mail request to [jubilee\\_registration@acdfriends.org](mailto:jubilee_registration@acdfriends.org)

The *Sherlock Holmes* electric locomotive ran on the Metropolitan Line in London for many years before it was removed from service. It has been fully restored and will be an attraction on the North Norfolk Railway at the Mixed Traction Gala on 10, 11 and 12 June. You can see details of all events on <https://www.nnrailway.co.uk/>

This year's series of *The Great British Menu* celebrated the BBC's centenary. Participating chefs competed to produce dishes based on iconic BBC television and radio programmes, with the winning dishes served at a gala dinner. Ritz London head chef **Spencer Metzger**, representing London and the south-east, had a double win with his main course inspired by *Pride and Prejudice* (1995) and his fish course, 'Be careful what you fish for', which paid tribute to **Sherlock Holmes**. Served on a dish shaped like a magnifying lens with hidden messages around the rim, it comprised brill, smoked beurre blanc, dulse, finger lime, chives, marinated grapes and sea vegetables. Metzger explained: "I used to love watching Sherlock Holmes and I still do. I wanted to create something smoky. I live not far from Baker Street anyway so it's quite fitting. I wanted to showcase real fish cookery on the bone and not muck about with the food."

*Sherlock the Musical* by Stefan van de Graaff and Denning Burton was performed in Canada in 2017. A new production has been filmed and uploaded to YouTube. [www.youtube.com/channel/UCGlo7-cOuNr\\_mn6CTc6R1Bg](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGlo7-cOuNr_mn6CTc6R1Bg)

News from numerous theatrical publications: "*Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes is set for the West End. With a creative team of director Rob Ashford (Parade, Shrek the Musical) alongside writing team Rachel Wagstaff and Duncan Abel, the show is billed as 'a new and deeply theatrical exploration' of the character. Famed creative Akram Khan has joined as choreographer.*" Ashford has commented that this will be "*a new, sweeping Sherlock Holmes with modern versions of the classic characters fighting hidden demons in a visceral, emotional, sensual thrill ride that could derail at any moment.*" More details on casting, creative team and theatre are expected soon. The play will be developed in London before West End and Broadway premieres.

John Nicholson and Steven Canny's hugely popular version of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* has now been produced and recorded by The Original Theatre Company and Octagon Theatre Bolton and will be streamed online from 14th April to 31st July. Standard tickets are £22.50 with subtitles and BSL options available. <https://bit.ly/OTOHoundPS>

**The Garden of Heroes and Villains** in Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire was begun in 1989 by the late publisher and philanthropist Felix Dennis. Originally intended as a private sculpture garden, upon his death it was bequeathed to the Heart of England Forest charity. The Garden now has a trail of over 50 bronze sculptures, including the life-size bronze sculpture by Irena Sedlecká of **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the spirit of Sherlock Holmes**. Open to the public for only a limited number of dates each year, there is a special fund-raising event being held on the evening of 21st July;

tickets and information at [www.tinyurl.com/2fpcahze](http://www.tinyurl.com/2fpcahze). Other opportunities to visit the Garden this summer include open days on 28th May, 2nd July & 20th August. <https://heartofenglandforest.org/garden-heroes-and-villains>

## Obituaries

**Edwin Norman Vidler** died on 23 March age 89. A member of our Society and a long-time *District Messenger* subscriber, he was very proud to be awarded an MBE for his services to accountancy. His niece informs us that the funeral service will be held on Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 1:00 pm with a reception afterwards at Greenacres, Epping Forest Burial Park, Kiln Road, North Weald, Epping, CM16 6AD

Stephan Arthur brings the sad news of the loss of another Society member: **Bryan Stone** died peacefully at his home in Switzerland on Saturday 5th March. He was in his eighties. Guy Marriott adds: "I first met Bryan through our shared interest in Swiss Railways, and he was an enthusiastic participant in the 2012 Swiss Pilgrimage. It was through the Society that he met author Johanna Rieke, who became his wife." Bryan and Johanna were regular attenders at the SHSL's Annual Dinners and other events.

**Edwin Van der Flaes** died in February. Born in Belgium, he emigrated to Canada in his teens and was an early member of the Bootmakers of Toronto, serving twice as the society's Meyers (president). He enjoyed travelling, sometimes great distances, to attend meetings of many other Sherlockian societies. Ed received his investiture of "Victor Trevor" from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1984. His wife of 44 years, Maureen Green, predeceased him in October 2006.

Scottish actor **John Stahl** died on 2 March age 69. He was a familiar face in many popular television series, but is probably best known as Lord Richard Karstark in *Game of Thrones* (2011). He appeared in *Murder Rooms* as Supt. Milford in 'The Kingdom of Bones' (2001) and as Victor Frankenstein's uncle Ewan in the National Theatre Live production of *Frankenstein* (2011), in which Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller alternated the roles of Victor and the Creature.

**Peter Bowles** died on 17 March age 85. Despite a long and varied career on stage and screen, he achieved his greatest popular success on mainstream TV as the debonair nouveau-riche tycoon Richard De Vere, paired with Penelope Keith as Audrey Fforbes-Hamilton in *To the Manor Born* (1979). He was also Major Sinclair Yeates in *The Irish R.M.* (1983) and Guthrie Featherstone Q.C. in *Rumpole of the Bailey* (1978). His final recurring role was as the Duke of Wellington in the period drama *Victoria* (2016). Some readers might remember the *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle* TV series of 1967, based on his non-Sherlockian writings, in which Peter Bowles appeared as Harvey Deacon in the episode 'Playing With Fire'. In 1968 he played Joseph Harrison to Peter Cushing's Holmes in the BBC TV production of *The Naval Treaty*.

**Maggie Fox** died on 21 March age 58, following a sudden accident. A Yorkshire-born actress, she had numerous roles on television, but became better known as co-artistic director of LipService with her comedy partner of 40 years, Sue Ryding. *The Guardian* described the duo as "the Laurel & Hardy of literary deconstruction". Their Brontë Sisters send-up, *Withering Looks*, won the Edinburgh Festival Critics' Award for Comedy and their popular Sherlock Holmes

interpretation, *Move Over Moriarty*, toured extensively for more than two decades. They were about to go on a nationwide tour with their newest show. Sue Ryding said: "We had planned a new digital version of *Château Ghoul* which we had already filmed, which will be shared with you later in the year in memory of Maggie." <https://www.lipservicetheatre.co.uk/>

**June Brown** died on 3 April age 95. Despite an extensive and highly respected career in film, television and theatre, she was best known as the inveterate gossip Dot Cotton in the TV soap *Eastenders*. She played Jack the Ripper's unfortunate victim, Annie Chapman, in *Murder by Decree* (1979). Brown was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2008 Birthday Honours for services to drama and to charity and promoted to OBE in the 2022 New Year Honours.

## Periodicals Received:

*The Baker Street Journal*, Winter 2021 (**The Baker Street Journal**, P.O. Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077-1934, USA; [email@bakerstreetjournal.com](mailto:email@bakerstreetjournal.com))

*The Bilge Pump – The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star*, March 2022 (Steve Mason; [mason.steve8080@gmail.com](mailto:mason.steve8080@gmail.com))

*Canadian Holmes*, Spring 2022 (**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))

*Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections*, February 2022 (Suite 111, Elmer L Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, 222 21st Avenue S., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455, USA)

*The Illustrious Clients News*, April 2022 (**The Illustrious Clients**, Steven T Doyle, 9 Calumet Court, Zionsville, Indiana 46077, USA; [IllustClients@gmail.com](mailto:IllustClients@gmail.com))

*Ineffable Twaddle*, April 2022 (**The Sound of the Baskervilles**, Terri Haugen; [terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com](mailto:terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com))

*The Moor*, April 2022 (**The Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden**, Anders Wiggstrom; [bhc@telia.com](mailto:bhc@telia.com))

*Report from the Unscrupulous Rascals*, February 2022 (The Sherlock Holmes Society of Southern Australia, Mark Chellew; [mchellew@gmail.com](mailto:mchellew@gmail.com))

*Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, March 2022 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; [blau7103@comcast.net](mailto:blau7103@comcast.net))

*Sherlockiana*, Nr. 1 2022 (**Sherlock Holmes Klubben I Danmark**; Sven Ranild, editor; [redaktion@sherlockholmesklubben.dk](mailto:redaktion@sherlockholmesklubben.dk))

*Timeline*, March 2022, (The Official Newsletter of the **Sherlockian Chronologist Guild**; Brad Keefauver [bkeefauver@gmail.com](mailto:bkeefauver@gmail.com))

*The Western Flyer*, Autumn 2022 (**The Sherlock Holmes Society of Western Australia**, Fred and Bethany Rutter; [camden.house@bigpond.com](mailto:camden.house@bigpond.com))

*The Whaling News*, April 2022 (**The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn**, St. Charles, MO; J Andrew Basford; [pcaimes26@outlook.com](mailto:pcaimes26@outlook.com))

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