

The astute will have noticed a few changes to the contact banner above. **Jean Upton** is stepping down from editing **The District Messenger**. **Paul Thomas Miller** is nervously taking the reins under her guidance. I'm sure you will all join me in thanking Jean for her service in producing such a consistently wonderful newsletter for the last six years.

The 2023 **Sherlock Holmes Society of London Christmas Card** has been launched. The wonderfully detailed and evocative illustration by **Mark Mázers** is available in packs of ten, at the remarkably reasonable price of £6.50 for UK delivery. The following link will take you to the Society's online emporium, where you can place your order: www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/product/christmas-card-2023/

The Society's 2023 **Film Evening**, *'Big in Japan'* will be held on Thursday 9th November at the National Liberal Club at 1, Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2HE. Our host, Matthew J. Elliott, will present Japanese subtitled depictions of Sherlock Holmes in the modern world. *'Sachiko's Moustache'* is an episode of the 2018 Japanese series *Miss Sherlock* and *The Hound of the Baskervilles* is a 2022 continuation of the show *Sherlock: Untold Stories*. For more details go to <https://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/event/society-film-evening-big-in-japan/>

London Trio organise a series of café concerts at the **Marylebone Theatre**. At their next event on Tuesday 28th November, pianist Yekaterina Lebedeva and violinist Aysen Ulucan will take the audience on a musical journey through the Victorian London of Charles Dickens and Sherlock Holmes. For atmosphere, the concert will take place on the stage set of the play *A Sherlock Carol*. An engaging talk, delivered by Yekaterina, will guide listeners through the intrigue and passions of the bygone era. Members of our Society can obtain discounted tickets at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/722423737847/?discount=London1>

It's also worth mentioning that *A Sherlock Carol* is returning to the **Marylebone Theatre** from 24th November to 7th January. For more information and

to book tickets go to [A Sherlock Carol at Marylebone Theatre](#)

The Beacon Society is sponsoring a contest for students to create their own Sherlock Holmes story. The 2023 **Nancy Springer Creative Writing Contest** is open to 7th to 12th grade students in the United States and Canada. www.beaconsociety.com/nancy-springer-creative-writing-contest.html

Carla Coupe has taken her Last Bow as Head-Light of **The Beacon Society**. **Rob Nunn** is the new Head-Light and **Anna Behrens** is the next Percy Phelps (secretary). <https://www.beaconsociety.com/>

Applications for the Ruth Rendell Short Story Competition 2024 are now open. InterAct Stroke Support hosts the **Ruth Rendell Short Story Competition** every two years to encourage new writing, with the winner awarded £1,000 as well as being commissioned to write four stories during the year. Entries are taken via their website: <https://www.interactstrokesupport.org/ssc>

The September edition (issue 66) of *Yours Retro* magazine contains an interesting article about the Rathbone films entitled **Sherlock Holmes' Strangest Cases**. <https://www.yoursretro.co.uk/>

Our own **Catherine Cooke** is one of the authors of the *BSJ Christmas Annual 2023*. The special, which is out soon, is devoted entirely to the legendary Sherlockian **John Bennett Shaw**. It is the most recent BSI publication about him since the BSI December 1990 issue. Catherine's article is: "Collecting Happiness - John Bennett Shaw's Basic Holmesian Library." It isn't too late to subscribe for this year in order to receive this special publication. <https://bakerstreetirregulars.com/2001/05/01/subscribe-bsj/>

After a five-year absence, the **Sherlock Holmes statue** was returned to **Picardy Place** in Edinburgh on 13th September 2023. Having undergone refurbishment, it is back to mark the birthplace of Arthur Conan Doyle.

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/13808/who-s-returned-to-picardy-place-it-s-elementary

The BBC has announced that this year's ghost story for Christmas is Arthur Conan Doyle's short story, *Lot No. 249*, adapted by **Mark Gatiss**. The programme has already completed its filming in Hertfordshire, and will air on BBC Two at Christmas. *Game of Thrones* actor **Kit Harrington** is in the lead role. www.radiotimes.com/tv/fantasy/mark-gatiss-ghost-story-conan-doyle-newsupdate

Accompanying the *Lot No. 249* adaptation will be a new three-part BBC Two series, *Killing Sherlock: Lucy Worsley on the Case of Conan Doyle*. According to the BBC - "Over the course of three episodes, historian and lifelong Sherlock Holmes fan **Lucy Worsley** investigates the extraordinary love-hate relationship between Holmes and Doyle, detective and author, in a unique parallel biography of Sherlock Holmes and the complex man who created him."

www.bbc.com/mediacentre/2023/killing-sherlock-lucy-worsley-on-the-case-of-conan-doyle

Residents of **Minstead** - the village where Arthur Conan Doyle and his second wife are buried - have launched **Operation Sherlock** in a bid to combat a series of break-ins in the area by masked gangs. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy9wxk0wd79o>

Former *Doctor Who* stars **Colin Baker** and **Terry Molloy** are reuniting for a new tour of their stage adaptation of iconic Sherlock Holmes story *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. The show will be returning to theatres in March 2024. Theatres and dates can be found at the Stageberry website: stageberry.com/shows/tours/43086-doctor-whos-colin-baker-and-the-archers-terry-molloy-to-lead-new-the-hound-of-the-baskervilles-tour.html

The Criterion Restaurant where Watson and Stamford discussed living arrangements, has reopened yet again as an Indian restaurant, The Masala Zone Piccadilly Circus. We are sorry to report that the commemorative plaque installed by the Inverness Capers has disappeared, with no indication as to its whereabouts.

New Publications:

KD Sherrinford writes to advise us that the third book in her **Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler Mystery** series was released on Amazon on 29th September 2023.

www.amazon.co.uk/Meet-Me-Milan-Sherlock-Mysteries/dp/B0CJSN1MXD

Alistair Duncan can be heard discussing his book about Canonical London locations - *Close To Holmes* - and his relationship with MX Publishing on episode 273 of **I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere**.

<https://www.ihearofsherlock.com/2023/09/episode-273-close-to-holmes.html>

Elizabeth Crowens informs us that her book *Hounds of the Hollywood Baskervilles* will be published on 5th March 2024. It is described as a humorous, soft-boiled detective story set at MGM Studios. www.elizabethcrowens.com/publication-announcement/

Paul Thomas Miller's new book of Canonical locations was released on 19th October. *Finding Sherlock Holmes* is a detailed look at every place in England mentioned in the 60 stories from Van Seddar's to Lauriston Gardens to Baskerville Hall. <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0CLH58BTT>

Otto Penzler reports that *Sherlock Holmes and the Telegram from Hell* is the title of the next novel from **Nicholas Meyer**. It is inspired by the Zimmermann telegram, intercepted by British intelligence in 1917, proposing an alliance between Germany and Mexico against the United States. Publication date is August 2024 from The Mysterious Press.

Periodicals Received:

The Beacon Society Quarterly Newsletter, Vol. 7, No. 3, October 2023 (**The Beacon Society**, Rob Nunn "Headlight"; Headlight_BeaconSociety@yahoo.com, www.beaconsociety.com)

The Cri Bar Crier, Vol. 29 No. 1, October 2023 (**Criterion Bar Association of Chicago**; franklin.saksena@gmail.com)

The Moor, October 2023 (**The Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden**, Anders Wiggstrom; bhc@telia.com)

Papers on the Sundial, October 2023 (**The Pleasant Places of Florida**, Jeff and Wanda Dow; ha10tot@verizon.net)

Report from the Unscrupulous Rascals, Vol. 19 No. 3, August 2023 (The Sherlock Holmes Society of Southern Australia, Mark Chellew; mchellew@gmail.com)

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press, September 2023 (Peter E Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, USA; blau7103@comcast.net)

Paul Thomas Miller