



THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

Founded as The Sherlock Holmes Society in 1934

CAPITAL, WATSON!

The London Mini-Festival Weekend

Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th May 2008

After the success of our previous London Weekends, the Society is putting on another long weekend of Sherlockian events in London. All members and their guests are cordially invited – we hope you will find something of interest. As always, we have done our best to keep costs to a minimum. Inevitably London, like all capital cities, is expensive. It is, however, where Holmes and Watson lived and worked and there is, therefore, absolutely nowhere like it!

Applications for the various events must be received by Saturday 10th May, together with the appropriate remittance, where applicable. All prices quoted are *per person*. We regret the numbers for some events are limited and will be on a *first come, first served* basis, so please apply early. Where a meal is specified, a vegetarian or fish alternative can be provided, provided they are ordered in advance. All prices are inclusive of room hire, service and VAT. All drinks are on a cash basis and must be paid for individually at the time. Dress at Society functions is usually smart-casual. In particular at the events at London clubs, gentlemen are asked to wear jackets and ties – trainers are definitely not allowed. This is a common requirement in London clubs and we have to abide by it.

PROGRAMME

Friday 23 May 2008

Annual General Meeting

The Society's AGM will be held at The **Savage Club**, housed in the premises of the National Liberal Club at 1, Whitehall Place, London, SW1, at 6.00 for 6.45pm. The National Liberal Club is located on the corner of Whitehall Place and the Victoria Embankment, not far from Embankment Underground Station, and also conveniently placed for Charing Cross main line station. It is usually possible to find a parking space in the vicinity at this time in the evening – although you may have to pay the congestion charge. <http://www.savageclub.com/>

Members and their guests may opt to attend the meeting only at no charge, or to dine beforehand at a cost of £31.00 per head. This includes VAT and service but not drinks, which must be paid for on the day. For those who choose to dine, the meal will comprise Roast Loin of Pork with Apple Sauce, followed by Greek Yoghurt Terrine with Honey and Almonds, Coffee and Mints. A vegetarian or fish alternative main course may be ordered in advance – please specify if you want this on the application form.

A cash bar will be open in the Savage Club Room on the ground floor of the building from 6.00pm. After the meeting, members may use the National Liberal Club bar. Dinner will be served promptly at 6.45pm in the David Lloyd George Room on the first floor and will be followed by the AGM, papers for which are enclosed, from around 8pm. We anticipate that the meeting will finish around 9.45pm, though many members stay on to chat.

After the formal business of the evening we will continue our tradition of adapting well-known television and radio shows for our own purposes. Having shamelessly adapted "University Challenge", "Mastermind" and "Have I Got News for You", the Society now turns to that long-running BBC radio favourite "Just A Minute", devised by the late Ian Messiter.

In our version, Chairman Roger Johnson will attempt to keep control over a panel of four Sherlockians, who will each endeavour to talk on a subject for sixty seconds without hesitation, repetition or deviation. The other panellists may challenge the speaker at any time: a correct challenge wins a point, and the challenger takes over the subject. An incorrect challenge means a point for the speaker, though a clever or funny challenge may earn a bonus point for the challenger.

- **Meet at the Savage Club, 1 Whitehall Place, London SW1 from 6pm onwards:
nearest tube Embankment**
- **Charge for those opting to dine beforehand: £31.00 US\$62.00**

Saturday 24 May 2008

London Duck Tour

A unique opportunity – the Society has commissioned a special London Duck Tour, visiting places of Sherlockian interest as well as the usual London sights. This tour is not available to the general public. Not only will we have a live guided tour of the City of Westminster by road, we will also take a trip along the river, without leaving our seats. We will literally be driven from the road straight into the Thames. There will be an entertaining, action packed commentary by Duck Tour guides, pointing out Sherlockian locations, providing an alternative view of London's history, plus fascinating facts and figures about the DUKW vehicles themselves.

The name Duck Tours is drawn from the vehicles themselves - they are the amphibious DUKWs used to take the troops ashore for the D-Day landings. The name DUKW is an acronym.

- **D** = First year of production code "D" is for 1942
- **U** = Body style "U" utility truck (amphibious)
- **K** = Front wheel drive
- **W** = Two rear driving wheels (tandem axle)

More than 21,000 'DUKWS' were built to take the troops ashore and to carry supplies from ships to points on land. Without them, supplies would have to be loaded from the large ships into smaller boats. The boats would have to be unloaded at the shore and the cargo reloaded into trucks, which would carry the cargo to the supply depots. The DUKW saved time by being able to be loaded at sea and drive up on land directly to where the supplies were needed. DUKWs were mostly used in WWII and the Korean War. The invention of the helicopter diminished their usefulness as a supply vehicle.

London Duck Tours' DUKWS were built in the USA by General Motors and started life in the mid 1940s as military ship to shore transports. They remained in service with the British and other armies into the 1970s. Five have been completely rebuilt to meet the stringent safety regulations set by the D.E.T.R. and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (M.C.A). The vehicles have been extensively refurbished and fitted with the latest environmentally friendly 4.0L diesel engines, seating for 30 passengers, a public address system and regulatory safety equipment. Today's vehicles bear little resemblance to their military predecessors in their eye catching yellow livery.

A day not to be missed.....!

- **Meet at 2.15pm at Embankment Underground Station, river side, for prompt departure at 2.30pm. We should return to Embankment Station by 4.15pm.**
- **Charge: £25.00 US\$50.00**
- **Please note that this event is limited to 30 or 60, depending on numbers booking**
- **PLACES WILL BE ALLOCATED STRICTLY IN ORDER OF BOOKING – EARLY APPLICATION IS ADVISED**

Saturday 24 May 2008

An Evening of Victorian Music Hall

A charity evening organised by C.A. Milverton in aid of the Innocent Victims of Violent Crime. At The Old Doctor Butler's Head, 2 Masons Avenue, Moorgate London EC2, commencing at 7.30 pm. Our Chairman will be the infamous Mr. Charles Augustus Milverton ("the worst man in London"), formerly of Appledore Towers, with **Mr. Robert Meadwell**, the celebrated music hall artiste with many TV and film appearances to his credit, supported by members of the Society. A two-course dinner of steak and kidney pudding (alternatives: vegetarian lasagna or fish) followed by apple crumble and custard will be included in the price and song-sheets will be available. We have exclusive use of The Old Doctor Butler's Head, a traditional English pub in the heart of the City of London. Originally established in 1610 the present building dates from after the Great Fire of 1666. Dr. Watson may well have trained in Dr. Butler's tradition. Dr Butler was a specialist in nervous disorders who's 'miracle cures' included holding consultation on London Bridge during which the unfortunate client would be dropped through a trapdoor into the torrent below. For epilepsy he would fire a brace of pistols near his unsuspecting patient, to scare the epilepsy from them, or in cases of the plague,

plunge the poor soul into cold water. So highly was he thus considered, despite his lack of qualifications that he was appointed court physician to King James 1. He also developed medicinal ale for gastric ailments, which was available only from taverns which displayed Dr. Butler's head on their signs; this led to his acquiring a number of ale houses. Of these, The Old Dr. Butler's Head is the last remaining. It is has recently been named "Pub of the Year, 2008" by Shepherd Neame's real ales.

- **Meet at the Old Dr. Butler's Head, 2 Mason's Avenue, Moorgate, London EC2. Bar opens at 6.30pm: music hall at 7.30 pm: nearest tube Bank.**
- **Charge: £25.00 / US\$ 50.00 to include two-course meal with vegetarian/fish option.**
- **Please note, numbers are limited to 70.**

Sunday 25 May 2008

The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes

A dramatic finale...a thrilling comeback!

The World's Greatest Detective refuses to leave the stage!

A first in the Society's history: we've hired the Jermyn Street Theatre for a performance of David Stuart Davies' new play The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes, which was premiered in Guildford in February. A member of the London Society, David is well known as the former editor of The Sherlock Holmes Gazette and has created a wryly humorous tale of murder, mystery and the occult. Arthur Conan Doyle tires of his famous sleuth and uses arch villain Moriarty to dispose of him. But as raising the spirits of the dead becomes an obsession in Doyle's own life, so his fictional creations return to thrill, intrigue and dazzle us.

This one-man show stars Roger Llewellyn (Royal Shakespeare Company) and will be touring throughout the UK before a programmed world tour. Take this opportunity to catch it first! A number of posters and fliers will be available for those attending the performance and you will have a chance to get yours signed by the author and cast.

- **Location: 16b Jermyn Street, London, SW1Y 6ST. Nearest tubes: Green Park or Piccadilly.**
- **Please note that there are quite steep steps down to this basement theatre space.**
- **Charge: £15. 00 / US\$ 30.00**
- **Numbers are limited to 70.**

Not included in the ticket price, a number of us will have a pre-theatre supper at around 6.00 p.m. at Galileo's Locanda Toscana restaurant, located at 71 Haymarket, Piccadilly, London SW1Y 4RW, which is 5 minutes walk from Jermyn Street. The pre-theatre menu offers two courses for £10.95, 3 courses £13.95, plus 12.5% service charge.