The DISTRICT MESSENGER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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Happy New Year, everybody! With plenty of Society events planned, and the release of Guy Ritchie's new series coming up, 2026 promises to be a good year for Sherlockians. I am personally hoping for a strong year of creativity and literary inspiration.

Speaking of ***Young Sherlock***, there has been a plethora of news. Official images from set have been released: https://nerdist.com/article/young-sherlock-first-images-of-holmes-moriarty-origin-story-series/
The release date for the series has been confirmed for March: https://www.imdb.com/news/ni65622107/?ref_=nmnw_art_perm
And a trailer has been released: https://variety.com/2025/tv/news/young-sherlock-trailer-guy-ritchie-prime-video-mystery-1236611555/

The **Eille Norwood** Holmes films restored by the **BFI** have been touring cinemas nationwide. There are still some dates remaining in January, February and March. The full list is available here: https://www.bfi.org.uk/bfi-film-releases/silent-sherlock-three-classic-cases

The BBC has compiled a list of the 10 greatest murder mysteries. See if you agree: https://www.bbc.co.uk/culture/article/20251210-10-of-the-greatest-murder-mysteries-ever

In turn, the BFI has compiled a list of 10 great Holmes films and TV adaptations, from Rathbone to Elementary: https://www.bfi.org.uk/lists/10-great-sherlock-holmes-films-tv-adaptations

I found this article very interesting. It considers whether too many Holmes adaptations have tried to do new things with the character and the stories, and whether this is making us fatigued. You can read it here: https://precincttv.com/too-many-sherlock-holmes-tv-shows-harm-character

Sherlock Holmes and the Sting of the Scorpion sees Holmes tasked with finding the 'Star of San Martin', after witnessing a murder. His investigation leads him to an Oxford professor, Victorian London's finest art dealers and jewellers and even The Prospect of Whitby, an inn by the Thames where pirates once held court. The play weaves together *Wisteria Lodge* and *The Copper Beeches* to create a new, mysterious plot to be investigated. It will be at Queen's Hall, Hexham, on 21st May: https://www.queenshall.co.uk/whats-on/sherlock-holmes-and-the-sting-of-the-scorpion
And at Arts Centre Washington on 4th June: https://www.sunderlandculture.org.uk/whats-on/sherlock-holmes-and-the-sting-of-the-scorpion/

Sadly, **The Sherlock Escape Room** in London has closed down. This was first reported by Joanna on *I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere*, and her post contains a link to the official website, where there is now an announcement of the news: https://www.ihearofsherlock.com/2025/12/the-sherlock-escape-room-appears-to.html

A new series called ***Blind Sherlock*** will be coming to Netflix on 23rd January. It focusses on a blind man working for the Dutch police in their wire-tapping unit, and is based on a true story. You can find out more here: https://www.whats-on-netflix.com/news/netflix-sets-january-premiere-for-blind-sherlock-dutch-crime-series-inspired-by-a-real-blind-police-investigator/

This Holmes-themed letterbox gift hamper is a sweet idea: https://www.etsy.com/listing/838007182/a-little-sherlock-tea-tection-afternoon

The court case drama surrounding the family of the owner of the Sherlock Holmes Museum continues: https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/home-news/sherlock-holmes-museum-john-aidiniantz-b2885253.html

In more cheering news, **Simpsons in the Strand** will be reopening in February. You can find out more about the new setup on their website: https://www.simpsonsinthestrand.co.uk/

For fans of *Peanuts*, there are some cute Snoopy patches available on Etsy: https://www.etsy.com/listing/1436442623/snoopy-ninja-snoopy-sherlock-holmes-iron?variation0=5694738619

The much acclaimed **Don't Go Into The Cellar** will be staging their production of ***The Hound of the Baskervilles*** at Skipton Town Hall on 10th April: https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/skipton-town-hall/sherlock-holmes-hound-of-the-baskervilles/2026-04-10/d-wpzqrnimzvmwm

Granada fans can get their hands on a print of the Reichenbach Falls picture seen above the fireplace in the series: https://www.etsy.com/listing/1166091910/reichenbach-falls-art-print-from-the

Sherlock Holmes: The Death and The Life, written by **David Stuart Davies**, will be performed at Phoenix Arts, Bordon, on 19th February: https://www.phoenixarts.co.uk/whats-on/events/sherlock-holmes-death-and-life-2026-02-19

You can get a Holmes colouring page from this free website: https://www.awesomefreecoloringpages.com/people/sherlock-holmes/

Reel Cinema, Morecambe, will be screening ***Young Sherlock Holmes*** on 30th January as part of the **Bay International Film Festival**. You can find out more on their website, where you can also view information about the other festival events: https://www.tickettailor.com/events/thebayinternationalfilmfestival/1999448

An interesting art print of a cross-section of Holmes's head is available on Etsy: https://www.etsy.com/listing/539225211/sherlock-holmes-a-cross-section-221b

Sherlock Holmes & the House of Baskerville, a production by **Pantaloons Theatre Company**, will be performed at Stansted Park, Havant, on 5th August: https://www.hampshireattractions.co.uk/events/outdoor-theatre-sherlock-holmes-the-house-of-baskerville/

David Douglas has published a short story in honour of Holmes's birthday. You can read it on his blog here: https://carpevelo.blogspot.com/2026/01/the-unsolved-mystery-short-story.html?m=0

Obituaries:

Society member Martin (Ken) McQuage passed away on 4th September 2025. He was a member not just of the SHSL, but also the BSI. He had been suffering from a prolonged illness, and is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary.

Trading Post:

Society member **Thomas Kern** is seeking copies of the Sherlock Holmes Journal no. 22, 25 – 30, and 32 to complete his collection. If anyone can help him with this, please contact him on tomcore67@yahoo.de

Society News:

Ashley Mayo has updated the Scrapbook to include articles from the Winter 2025 Journal. You can access this great resource from our website at https://sherlock-holmes.org.uk/scrapbook/

Editor's Alternative Reading Recommendation:

My pick for this month is an atmospheric tale with supernatural elements. Holmes and Watson investigate a reputedly haunted house in the middle of a storm. You can read it here: https://archiveofourown.org/works/75476786

Books of Interest:

Hiromichi Kasho has published a new story titled ***The Adventure of the Future-Gazing Séance Society*** online. Set in late-Victorian London, Holmes and Watson are consulted by a young ornamental cabinet-maker named Joseph Pegg. Having only recently joined a gentleman's club, Pegg has begun receiving astonishingly strange letters from a group calling itself *The Future-Gazing Science Society*, which claims to have perfected the science of predicting the future. Even more unsettlingly, their predictions appear to be coming true—one after another—until Holmes decides to take up the matter himself. You can read it here: https://note.com/preview/n992dd44acf0b?prev_access_key=8afd0e237dda1146bd29a860fcf54762

Periodicals Received:

The Whaling News, December 2025 and January 2026 (J Andrew (Pilot Whale); https://whalingnews.wordpress.com/)

The Bilge Pump, Vol. 13, No. 12 December 2025 (Steve Mason; https://www.dfw-sherlock.org/)

Papers On the Sundial, January 2026 (Wanda Dow; ha10tot@verizon.net)

Scuttlebutt from the Spermacetti Press, December 2025 (Peter Blau; https://redcircledc.org/index.php?id=39)

The Cri Bar Crier, January 2026, Volume 31, No. 2 (**Newsletter of the Criterion Bar Association of Chicago**, Ruth Goehmann; rjgoehmann@aol.com)

Timelines, December 2025 (Brad Keefauver; bkeefauver@gmail.com)

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