The District Messenger

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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Greetings, lovely readers. I apologise for the long delay in getting this new edition of the DM out to you. I'm afraid the executives have been dysfunctioning. There is plenty happening in the Sherlockian world to report on, so let's get down to it.

The major headline at the moment is that **Guy Ritchie**'s new series ***Young Sherlock*** is now streaming on Amazon Prime Video and by all accounts doing rather well. I haven't personally been able to watch as I don't have a Prime subscription any more, but I have heard good things. Here is a selection of reviews available online:
https://www.elle.com/uk/life-and-culture/culture/a70588289/young-sherlock-cast-release-schedule/
https://uk.news.yahoo.com/sherlock-holmes-show-set-oxford-184126204.html
https://www.ign.com/articles/young-sherlock-amazon-prime-video-review

Apparently there is a market for Holmes-themed shoes. Who knew?
https://sherlockholmes.com/collections/footwear?srsltid=AfmBOorXm6GG9qP1oHYK4IMPkwtYI7vvESPdACoA0r5fvQz4DO3-TqIB

If comics are your speed, this eBook of ***Sherlock Holmes in the Final Curtain*** might be of interest: https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/sherlock-holmes-in-the-final-curtain-graphic-ebooks/1103126485

This article presents an overview of some of the comedic interpretations of Holmes and Watson: https://t2conline.com/holmes-and-watson-a-look-at-the-comedic-adaptions-of-sherlock-holmes/

There are always nice vinyl stickers available on Etsy. Here is a Holmes silhouette one: https://www.etsy.com/listing/1811694806/sherlock-holmes-inspired-silhouette-die
And here is a BBC Sherlock one: https://www.etsy.com/listing/1811955638/sherlock-holmes-inspired-silhouette-the

David Douglas has written a short story in honour of Holmes's birthday in January. It is titled ***The Unsolved Mystery*** and sees Holmes and Watson musing on death and the future. You can read it on his blog here: https://carpevelo.blogspot.com/2026/01/the-unsolved-mystery-short-story.html?m=0

A beautiful collector's edition of ***The Return of Sherlock Holmes*** is available featuring cover art from artist **Laci Fowler**. You can get it here: https://www.pagelina.com/product/sherlock-holmes-the-return-painted-editions/

Crushed in Time is an upcoming game for PC and mobile which sees Holmes and Watson solving a mystery in the development of the game itself: https://www.pocketgamer.com/crushed-in-time/gameplay-trailer/

As a Whovian as well as a Sherlockian, it pleases me greatly that **Tom Baker** and **John Leeson** have reunited to star as Holmes and Watson in the audio drama ***Sir Sherlock: The Red Letter Day***. Set to be released this month, the drama sees Holmes finally accept a knighthood in 1924. You can find further information and the link to the Kickstarter campaign where further orders can, I believe, be processed at https://www.radiotimes.com/audio/tom-baker-sherlock-holmes-audio-newsupdate/

Want a fun gift for a not-so-little child in your life? This set of puzzle games for children aged 9+ might be of interest: https://www.wickeduncle.co.uk/childrens-presents/sherlock-holmes-detective-toolkit

Dr Watson - The Final Letter is a three-act play written by **Janet Smith**. It is May 1891. Dr John Watson returns distraught from the village of Meiringen, where at the nearby Reichenbach Falls his great friend Sherlock Holmes has fallen to his death, taking with him his arch enemy, the evil Professor Moriarty. To gain time while the police round up the remainder of Moriarty's criminal network, Watson must pretend that Sherlock has survived, even to the extent of taking on a new case himself. But if Sherlock is being kept alive behind the scenes, could not the same be true of Moriarty? The script is available to read for free online, or can be purchased and downloaded for a small fee. https://scriptsforstage.co.uk/wp/product/watson/#tab-description/

Simpson's in the Stand is re-opening on 30th March. https://www.simpsonsinthestrand.co.uk/

The play ***Sherlock Holmes*** will be on at Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park from 13th May to 6th June. London, 1890, a city rapidly expanding, devouring all in its path. Fresh off the success of his first big case, Sherlock Holmes misuses his time, until an unknown woman and a mysterious jewel arrive at 221b Baker Street. As the chase begins, and with lives on the line, can Holmes and Watson pull back the curtain on the big show and reveal the mastermind behind this deadly conspiracy. https://www.whatsonstage.com/shows/london-theatre/west-end-theatre/sherlock-holmes_1713739/

Issue 24 of ***Sherlock Holmes Magazine*** is out. The front cover feature is about Young Sherlock, but it also features a short story by Margie Deck, a look at Moriarty in comics, and a look at Watson's Wandering Wound. https://www.sherlockholmesmag.co.uk/product-page/issue-24

BBC Radio 4 programme ***The Long View*** explored the story of the Cottingley Fairies as a parallel to the deep fakes we now see increasingly online in this episode on 3rd March: https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002s4cv

The University of Chichester, in partnership with **Portsmouth Museums** and **Portsmouth Libraries and Archives**, is offering a 4-year funded PhD project studying the Lancelyn Green Collection. I am not jealous *at all*! You can find out more here: https://www.chi.ac.uk/news/university-awarded-funding-for-

sherlock-holmes-research-project-in-partnership-with-portsmouth-museums/

The ***SIGN radio play on stage***, starring **Colin Baker** and **Terry Molloy**, will be at the Core Theatre, Solihull, on 23rd April: https://visitsolihull.co.uk/event/sherlock-holmes-the-sign-of-four-a-radio-play-live-on-stage/

Catherine Cooke will be giving a presentation on the Borough of St Marylebone Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at ***The Festival of Britain Society Spring Get-Together***. This will be held on 28th March at the Royal Festival Hall Sunley Suite, which is on the first floor (right hand side of the building as you look from the front) from 10.15am to about 1.30pm. There is no charge, they have only asked for anyone interested to email Derek Smith at dereksmith@medwaypier.co.uk so he can ensure that there is enough tea / coffee / seats etc.

Mare of the Night, a Sherlockian horror movie, is on Prime Video: https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/video/detail/B0GLPP3HS4/

Printable decorative Holmes map available on Etsy: https://www.etsy.com/listing/4296551402/the-sherlock-holmes-mystery-map-digital

Sherlock Holmes: Portraits of Guilt is a special life drawing event taking place at Elysium Gallery & Bar, Swansea, on 25th March. Actors from Swansea Little Theatre will appear in full period costume to pose for time drawing exercises. At the end of the event, Holmes will appear to lead analysis of the drawings to determine who the killer is. You can find further information and book at: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sherlock-holmes-portraits-of-guilt-swansea-illustrators-club-tickets-1984610223603

The Jeremy Brett Sherlock Holmes Podcast will be holding their third convention on 19th September in Manchester. They will have panels, screenings, prop displays, merch, and autograph and photo opportunities, plus plenty of surprises. You can find more information and book tickets at https://www.tickettailor.com/events/thejeremybrettsherlockholmespodcast/1921947

Obituaries:

Dr John Montgomery, a member of the Society for over thirty years, passed away on 25th September 2024. He was first listed as a member of the Society in 1988, and his name was still there in the last *accessible* membership list, in 2016, by which time his wife Lanalee had also joined. They appear in photos of the Statue Festival (1999), and the Golden Anniversary Cruise (2001). In 1992, John gave a talk to the Society on *Holmes in Tibet*, the text of which he adapted for an article in that year's Summer issue of the SHJ. This was his only such contribution to the Journal, but in 2001 his book *The Transcendent Holmes* was published by Calabash Press, with an introduction by Nicholas Utechin; it was very favourably reviewed in the SHJ by Richard Lancelyn Green.

Society News:

Riverside Studios and The Sherlock Holmes Society Of London proudly present ***Sherlock Showcase***. Join us at the legendary Hammersmith Studios as we celebrate the life and work of Holmes and Watson with writers, a live performance, specially composed music and conversations with writers and actors. Watch Jeremy Brett's *The Naval Treaty* on the big screen, see cast and crew reunite live on stage for special Q&As, and attend autograph and photo studio sessions. Have a browse around the Sherlock Holmes vendor's market. Confirmed special guests: SIR CHRISTOPHER FRAYLING (Broadcaster and writer) BONNIE MAC BIRD (Author of the hugely successful Harper Collins Sherlock Holmes Range) ANDY LANE (Author of *Young Sherlock* and inspiration for Young Sherlock Amazon Prime) The Jeremy Brett Sherlock Holmes Podcast GRANADA TV's *The Naval Treaty* Sherlock Holmes cast and production staff. Tickets on sale via Riverside Studios website.

As part of the celebrations for the Society's 75th anniversary, we are holding a short story competition for 11-16 year olds. Stories should be 1,500 - 2,000 words long and will be judged on scholarship, originality, and how engaging the writing is. There will be a cash prize for the top 3 entries. The top ten shortlisted stories will be published in a book, and the winning story will be specially illustrated. The deadline for entries is 15th April. We would be very grateful if you would consider sharing this opportunity with any young people you know who enjoy creative writing, or any schools who could promote it. You can find out more on our website: https://sherlock-holmes.org.uk/75-story/

Editor's Alternative Reading Recommendation:

A bit of a heavy one this time. This piece tells of Watson finding out a truth of Holmes's nature and almost destroying him. Trigger warning for period-typical homophobia. You can read it here: https://archiveofourown.org/works/81204971

Books of Interest:

The 10th book from **The Crew of the Barque Lone Star** scion is now out. Titled ***Holmes Rejected***, it features essays and pastiches from 31 authors.

A Study in Secrets by Jeffrey Siger features former intelligence services operative Michael A, who has a distinctly Holmes-esque air about him. The novel opens with the reclusive Michael looking out of the window of his elegant New York townhouse, number 221. His only companion is his housekeeper, Mrs Baker. For weeks he has kept watch on a young girl who sits in the park every morning at dawn. One day she vanishes, and Michae is convinced that she is in danger. Time to get back out into the big bad world and use all the tricks of his former trade if Michael is to help his new friend.

Periodicals Received:

Timelines, January/February 2026 (Brad Keefauver; bkeefauver@gmail.com)

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

Scuttlebutt from the Spermacetti Press, February 2026 (Peter Blau; https://redcircledc.org/index.php?id=39)

The Bilge Pump, Vol. 14, No. 03 March 2026 (Steve Mason; https://www.dfw-sherlock.org/)

The Whaling News, March 2026 (J Andrew (Pilot Whale); https://whalingnews.wordpress.com/)

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