The DISTRICT MESSENGER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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Hello! I'm fresh back from *Sherlock Showcase*, having had an exhausting but brilliant time. All the sessions in the screen were fascinating. I particularly enjoyed watching Granada's Naval Treaty with everyone else and getting to hear from David and Alison about what the production was like. The vendors' market was lively too, with lots of great conversations and catch ups. I also now live in a world in which I have been winked at by Nick Briggs, voice of the Daleks. Truly something that will live rent free in mind for a long time!

I reported the news that ***BrettCon*** will be coming back for another year in the previous edition. The team have kindly set up a discount for our subscribers, which will remain valid until 13th June. The code is ComeAtOnce

The **Pantaloons** production of ***The Hound of the Baskervilles*** will be at the American Museum, Bath, on 17th July. For details and to book, head to the museum website at https://www.americanmuseum.org/whats-on/sherlock-holmes

The **Sociedad Literaria Sherlock Holmes** in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain, have announced two upcoming cultural events. *From Baker Street to Jerez* is an exhibition of books, illustrations, memorabilia, and historical material celebrating Holmes and his enduring cultural legacy. It is currently open at the University of Cádiz Library, Jerez campus, until 28th September. On 5th – 6th June, the city will host the *Victorian Jerez Festival*, featuring lectures, exhibitions, literary activities and historical recreations, with Holmes and the Victorian era playing a prominent roles in the programme.

A comedy Holmes play is coming up in various theatres across the Netherlands in November. Holmes and Watson investigate the death of a famous woman under suspicious circumstances. For further information and to book, head to https://www.theater.nl/sherlock-holmes

The Friends of the **Arthur Conan Doyle Collection** will present the 2026 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture on 24th October, at the Toronto Reference Library. The speaker is **Andrew Finkel**, who will deliver *The Sultan and the Detective: Sherlock Holmes's Curious Adventures in the Ottoman Empire*. The lecture is in person only and is free to the public. More details and updates are available at http://www.acdfriends.org/events.html

Baker Street in Prague is an interactive exhibit coming to the Czech capital, opening in the Bílá Labuť Gallery on 17th June. It will remain open until the end of January, bringing the world of our favourite detective to life. Further information at https://www.expats.cz/czech-news/article/elementary-my-dear-watson-sherlock-holmes-exhibit-to-open-in-prague

The Gazette has given a strong review to **Blackeyed Theatre**'s ***Sherlock Holmes: The Hunt for Moriarty***. They praise its sharp pacing, atmospheric pstaging, and compelling performances. You can read the full review at https://www.gazette-news.co.uk/news/26052029.review-sherlock-holmes-hunt-moriarty-mercury/

Film Masters is shortly to release a documentary on the early films of Sherlock Holmes, ***Elementary Cinema – The Early Films of Sherlock Holmes***. It is currently available for pre-order, to be released on 11th August. Available at https://www.blu-ray.com/movies/Elementary-Cinema-The-Early-Films-of-Sherlock-Holmes-Blu-ray/412288/

A new Holmes-themed game show is in the works, designed to test contestants' deduction skills through puzzles, clues, and mystery-solving challenges inspired by the Great Detective. The series aims to blend classic Holmesian logic with modern competition show energy, putting players' observational abilities to the test. Find out more at https://www.msn.com/en-us/entertainment/tv/new-sherlock-holmes-game-show-will-put-contestants-detective-skills-to-the-test/ar-AA1JEe7h

221B Magazine reports that filming has begun on ***The Death of Sherlock Holmes***, a new project. While world mourned the 'death' of Sherlock Holmes at the Reichenbach Falls, the detective himself was embarking on a journey that ACD never committed to paper. This upcoming drama fills in that three-year void. Read the article at https://221bmag.com/the-death-of-sherlock-holmes-starts-production/

Arts Theatre Cronulla (Australia) presents a new Holmes mystery, ***Moriarty – A New Sherlock Holmes Adventure***. Running until 12th June, the play follows Holmes and Watson as a case of stolen royal letters spirals into an international web of spies, blackmail and their ultimate clash with Professor Moriarty. Find out more at https://www.artstheatrecronulla.com.au/

The **Nunkie Theatre Company** has an upcoming series of shows called ***Hide Watson!*** which will be at a series of locations throughout July. It is a solo storytelling show, featuring two Holmes stories – DYIN and CREE. It will be at
The Rondo Theatre, Bath, on 10th July https://www.ticketsource.com/rondotheatre/hide-watson-two-adventures-by-sir-arthur-conan-doyle/e-vrmmyl
Theatre@41, York, on 12th July https://tickets.41monkgate.co.uk/events/a71c4ab0-61f3-42b7-a3e0-bd4b2ab06274/booking
The Leeds Library on 16th July https://www.theleedslibrary.org.uk/
And The Lit & Phil, Newcastle, on 17th July https://www.litandphil.org.uk/event/hide-watson-two-adventures-by-sir-arthur-conan-doyle-performed-by-robert-lloyd-parry/

Issue 25 of **Sherlock Holmes Magazine** is out now. It includes a big feature on *The Great Mouse Detective* for its 40th birthday, a list of the top 25 Moriarty portrayals, and a tribute to David Burke. Of particular interest to our subscribers will be a feature by Roger Johnson and Jean Upton, telling the story of the Society in honour of the 75th anniversary. You can get your copy here https://www.sherlockholmesmag.co.uk/product-page/issue-25

Society News:

The Society's 75th Anniversary book is now available to purchase on our website. The 78-page hard cover volume is edited by Ashley Mayo and contains all sorts of treasures from Society history. You can order your copy here https://sherlock-holmes.org.uk/product/the-sherlock-holmes-society-of-london-75th-anniversary-a-celebration/

Obituaries:

David Burke, celebrated for playing Dr Watson opposite Jeremy Brett in the Granada series, has died at the age of 91. He was greatly admired for bringing Watson's capability and intelligence to the screen, but had to leave the series to spend more time with his family. His is survived by his wife Anna and son Tom, and will be sorely missed by many people.

Editor's Alternative Reading Recommendation:

This month I'm going to share with you a very silly thing I wrote last year. Those of you who were born or had young children in the early 90s might remember the Children's BBC series *Playdays*. In this story, I gave Holmes the singular honour of meeting Poppy the cat (and Rog). You can read it here https://archiveofourown.org/works/68529096/chapters/177407236

Books of Interest:

Sherlock Holmes and John Watson, The Great Hiatus ad Afterwards by **Alfredo Hamill** is a new collection of six original stories, exploring what truly transpired between Holmes's disappearance at the Reichenbach Falls and his reappearance on the eve of 2nd August 1914. It is available from Amazon, both on Kindle and in paperback.

Periodicals Received:

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

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

Timelines, May 2026 (Brad Keefauver; bkeefauver@gmail.com)

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

The Bilge Pump, Vol. 14, No. 05 May 2026 (Steve Mason; https://www.dfw-sherlock.org/)

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