The DISTRICT MESSENGER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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Welcome to the July edition of the DM. I hope you're all coping okay with the seemingly endless string of heatwaves we've been enduring. Grab yourself a cool drink and settle down for the latest news.

An interview with the Society's own **Mark Jones** is currently available on BBC Sounds, exploring Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's brief stay in Sheffield and its influence on his later writing. The programme highlights the city's industrial character, its sharp-eyed inhabitants, and the contrasting landscapes of the Peak District, all of which left a lasting impression on the young medical student who would go on to create Sherlock Holmes. You can listen on Sounds here: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0nxlvs6

The official website for **No Place Like Holmes** hosts an ***A-Z List of Sherlock Holmes Performers, 1891-2024***, compiled by the truly insanely dedicated and vigilant **Howard Ostrom**. This is a comprehensive database of more than 10,000 Sherlock Holmes performers, accompanied by over 25,000 photographs. The collection includes the famous, the forgotten, and the obscure, offering an unparalleled reference resource for researchers and enthusiasts. You can access it here: https://www.nplh.co.uk/a-z-index.html

UK-based readers may be aware that **The Howe Library** in Hanover, New Hampshire, hosts a *Sherlock Holmes Club* featuring huest speakers on Sherlockian topics. Meetings are held in person, hybrid, or via Zoom. Their programme of events is accessible at https://thehowe.org/programs/sherlock-holmes-club/

An interesting sounding new comedy called ***Murdering Sherlock*** will be performed at Bingley Arts Centre on 31st March 2027. The play sees ACD attempt to continue his writing while being interrupted by figures from his life and imagination. It examines Doyle's creative struggles, the pressure to revive Holmes, and the blurred boundary between author and creator. For more information and to book, head to https://www.bingleyartscentre.co.uk/events/murdering-sherlock

This article gives a detailed examination of Watson's wardrobe across major screen adaptations, highlighting how clothing choices reflect his practicality, military background, and understated character: https://www.gloomba.com/en/what-does-john-watson-wear/

A new tv project is coming up centred on **Professor Moriarty**. This article outlines the concept, tone, and relationship to the Holmes canon: https://www.cbr.com/new-moriarty-series-sherlock-holmes-tv-event/

This article gives a brief summary of comments **Steven Moffat** has made on potential future developments for ***BBC Sherlock***: https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/national/uk-today/26272820.sherlock-creator-hints-bbc-shows-future-update-fans/

The creators of ***Sherlock Holmes and the Empire Builders*** will be appearing as part of an event at the Cartoon Museum in London on 13th August. You can find out more here: https://tripwiremagazine.co.uk/headlines/pop-along-and-see-sherlock-holmes-and-the-empire-builders-co-creator-joel-meadows-and-holmes-cover-artist-frazer-irving-at-londons-cartoon-museum-in-aug/

Innsmouth Crown Productions will be presenting their production ***Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Innsmouth Crown*** at the Edinburgh Fringe 24th – 29th August. Whilst clearing out her mother's belongings from her care home, Kelly discovers a hidden family secret – her grandfather was Dr John Watson. As she digs further, Kelly uncovers the truth of the untold final case of Sherlock Holmes. For more info and to book, head to https://www.edfringe.com/tickets/whats-on/sherlock-holmes-the-adventure-of-the-innsmouth-crown

Sherlock & Pages in Frome will be holding a book club event on 9th November. The aim of the game is just to turn up and read together in silence. Living the dream, baby! You can secure a place (for free) here: https://www.discoverfrome.co.uk/event/sherlock-pages-book-club/2026-11-09/

This article includes a video and excellent pictures of Society members at the Reichenbach Falls: https://apnews.com/article/sherlock-holmes-day-arthur-conan-doyle-a588a0e80e44350dfd9324ade418c8e6

Johanna Draper Carlson takes a look at the *Sherlock* fancomic ***The Science of Affection***, which is now available in paperback and pdf formats: https://comicsworthreading.com/2026/07/21/the-science-of-affection/

This article takes a look at the upcoming Sky series ***The Death of Sherlock Holmes***. The series is set to be for an adult-only audience, and will explore Holmes's life during the Great Hiatus. Find out more here: https://collider.com/death-of-sherlock-holmes-brand-new-series-sky-tv-2027/

A comedy production of ***The Hound of the Baskervilles***will be performed at the Torch Theatre, Milford Haven, from 7th – 17th October. For further information and to book, head to https://www.torchtheatre.co.uk/events/the-hound-of-the-baskervilles/

In honour of the 40th birthday of ***The Great Mouse Detective***, this article takes a look at other animated detectives: https://www.cartoonbrew.com/cartoon-study/animations-greatest-detectives-264996.html

Riverside Studios, who hosted our *Sherlock Showcase* event in May, will be holding a celebration of Miss Marple on 27th September. There will be a screening of the final portrayal of Marple by Joan Hickson, ***The Mirror Crack'd from Side to Side***, followed by a Q&A with various guests involved in that production. You can find out more information and book by going to https://riversidestudios.co.uk/whats-on/uN1-miss-marple-the-mirror-crackd-from-side-to-side-special-guests/

Trading Post:

Society member **Roger Downs** wants to gauge in a genuine first edition of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (George Newnes, 1892) – with the errors (cocaine and Violent Hunter) on pages 133 and 317 respectively. The book is clean internally but the floral end papers are faded and the binding is somewhat loose and the spine a little rubbed. If anyone is interested, please contact Roger at rogadowns1815@hotmail.com

Obituaries:

It is with great sadness that the Society has learned of the recent death of one of its longest-serving members, **Dr Auberon Redfearn**. Auberon was distinguished as one of the Society's Honorary Members, and many will know him through his original and amusing "It seems to me …" articles in the *Sherlock Holmes Journal* over many years. The Society is soon to publish his collected works, a fitting memorial to him. A full appreciation of Auberon will appear in the forthcoming winter edition of the Journal.

Editor's Alternative Reading Recommendation:

This month I'm recommending a short piece which illustrates how easily Holmes accommodates Watson's disability. You can read it here: https://archiveofourown.org/chapters/238129521

Periodicals Received:

The Bilge Pump, Vol. 14, No. 07 July 2026 (Steve Mason; https://www.dfw-sherlock.org/)

The Quarterly Newsletter, *The Beacon Society*, Vol. 10, No. 1 July 2026 (Steve Mason; https://www.dfw-sherlock.org/)

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

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

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

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