

Ineffable Twaddle

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE SOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

A SCION SOCIETY OF THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS SINCE MARCH 31, 1980
SERVING THE GREATER PUGET SOUND REGION OF WESTERN WASHINGTON

June, 2026



IN MEMORIUM: DAVID BURKE (1934-2026) by Kris Hambrick

Once again, having already provided a column about "The Final Problem" (see the July 2020 issue of Twaddle), I'm going to indulge myself by going off-script and talking about the one and only David Burke. I don't think it's too much to say that Burke 'rescued' the good doctor from a stereotype that had plagued him for decades, long before Jude Law and Martin Freeman lent their own interpretation.

When I say that, I mean no disrespect to Nigel Bruce, whom I love and was probably the best hang of the bunch. But it's true that Bruce's somewhat bumbling Watson colored perceptions for generations. When David Burke was cast opposite Jeremy Brett in 1984, however, he maintained Bruce's warmth and loyalty and added a pawky intelligence.

Born in Liverpool, like many youngsters he shocked his parents by preferring theater to a more steady profession. But unlike many bitten by the bug, Burke worked steadily for his entire life in film, television, and theater, and remained married to the same woman, actress Anna Calder Marshall, who survives him along with their son, Tom. His list of appearances is a catalog of British television: the 1965 Sherlock Holmes, The Avengers, Coronation Street, Z Cars, Dixon of Dock Green. But when he was first choice to play

Watson for Michael Cox's proposed series, he was reluctant. "How to play the role of a man who is perhaps the most ordinary character in English literature?" he asked his wife. To which she replied, "Watson is your perfect portrait!" She added that "it takes an extraordinary man to play an ordinary man."

While his relationship with Brett and his portrayal of Watson greatly aided the success of the program, it could not last. He and his wife had a three year old son, and they had jointly been offered a stint at the Royal Shakespeare Company, meaning the young family could stay together rather than him running off to Manchester all the time. Further, he felt he'd exhausted the number of ways he could express amazement at Holmes' powers, a feeling I understand as an actor but do not share as an audience member.

But he left the show, and Brett in good hands—he hand-picked Edward Hardwicke as his successor and went on to a long and varied career, which is about the best outcome any performer can ask. He got the best of both worlds—he redefined a character he thought to be unplayable, and he went on to explore hundreds of characters and act with friends and family. He was 91 when he passed away on May 10, 2026.

Upcoming Events & Gatherings:

June 21, The
Final Problem
(Zoom)

July 12, Dr. John
H. Watson Picnic
(In-person,
Seahurst Park,
Burien)

July 19, The
Boscombe
Valley Mystery
(Zoom)

August 16, The
Reigate Squires
(In-person)

September 20,
The Solitary
Cyclist (Zoom)



The 2026 Sound of the Baskervilles Wreath Throw

By Margaret Nelson

Ten SOB's met at the Tumwater Falls near Olympia on Saturday, May 2; Shannon, Kashena, Alexander, David and Maffie, Steven, Allen and Margaret, John and Hannah were there to represent the group. This is the location where we traditionally have met for decades to gather, walk downstream along the Tumwater to a series of sharp waterfalls and throw a biodegradable wreath into the water, to commemorate the final meeting of Holmes and Moriarty at Reichenbach Falls in Switzerland. A new, wide stone viewing terrace was built there in 2019 which makes an ideal meeting spot with a wonderful view of the Falls. The weather was fair and warm. Several members dressed in picturesque Victorian/ Edwardian garb which made it quite a festive occasion.



SOB Vice-president Kashena made a short speech about the society and noted members who no longer are with us; then we had a toast to them and people walked downstream to the first bridge from which David Rafferty threw the wreath in to the water.

Traditionally we would then return to the parking lot and go to the adjacent River Falls Restaurant for lunch. Sadly, it has been closed during the covid epidemic, so we drove to Bar C'est L'eau (Translated to "It's the Water", the slogan for the Olympia Brewing Company which was located at the Tumwater Falls) in Tumwater where we were seated together at a series of tables. The menu was fun and we sat there for some time enjoying the good company. I hope that we will be able to do this again next year!

The Final Problem

June 21, 2026

On Sunday, June 21st, we will gather via Zoom to discuss "The Final Problem," the story that first introduced us to Professor Moriarty, and seemed to be the end for our hero, Sherlock Holmes! Please note: This meeting was originally listed as an in-person event, but will occurring online instead. We hope you will join us from 12:30pm-3:30pm to discuss this exciting adventure!

Dr. John H. Watson Picnic

July 12, 2026

It's time to gather and celebrate the 29th occasion of the (nearly) annual John H. Watson Picnic! We will be having a potluck gathering in-person at Seahurst Park in Burien, WA. We hope you will join us for sun, fun, and games (no skill required)! Here are the details:

- Date: **Sunday, July 12th**
- Time: **9:00am-3:00pm**
- **Seahurst Park in Burien, WA**
- We will be convening at the Sea Star Shelter (this is the south shelter, with three long tables and a BBQ grill, located near the beach.



Sherlock Holmes Throughout the Year: June

By Margaret Nelson

This month I found a new source which tried to separate which stories occurred in which months:

<https://www.sutori.com/en/story/sherlock-holmes-timeline-2LerYrxLkqeExmzMffNps3F9>.

June is always a busy month in London with rain and fog replaced by summer weather. June 20, 1887, was the date that Queen Victoria celebrated her Golden Jubilee of fifty years on the throne and until recently, Queen Elizabeth's official birthday was celebrated in June to allow for dry parades.

In *The Boscombe Valley Mystery* (1891), Holmes tells Watson , "On June 3rd, that is on Monday last, McCarthy left his house at Hatherley about three in the afternoon and walked down to the Boscombe Pool, which is a small lake formed by the spreading out of the stream which runs down the Boscombe Valley."

Watson narrates in *The Man with the Twisted Lip* (1891), "One night-it was in June, '89-there came a ring to my bell, about the hour when a man gives his first yawn and glances at the clock. I sat up in my chair, and my wife laid her needle-work down in her lap and made a little face of disappointment,

"A patient! Said she. "You'll have to go out."

In *The Stockbroker's Clerk* (1893), Watson tells us, "I was surprised, therefore when one morning in June as I sat reading the *British Medical Journal* after breakfast, I heard a ring at the bell, followed by the high, somewhat strident tones of my old companion's voice."

The Three Garridebs (1925) is also a June story. According to Watson, "I remember

the date very well, for it was in the same month that Holmes refused a knighthood for services which may perhaps some day be described. I only refer to the matter in passing, for in my position of partner and confidant I am obliged to be particularly careful to avoid any indiscretion. I repeat, however, that this enables me to fix the date, which was the latter end of June, 1902, shortly after the conclusion of the South African War."

Two other of the stories which may be set in June with references to the weather, but no month listed include these. In *The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone* (1921) Watson's story reads, "It was seven in the evening of **a lovely summer's day**." While in *The Greek Interpreter* (1893)) Watson tell us, "It was after tea on **a summer evening**..." so possibly in June. Later when Holmes and Watson go to Mycroft's club the older brother comments, "I am glad to meet you, sir," said he, putting out a broad, fat hand like the flipper of a seal. "I hear of Sherlock everywhere since you became his chronicler. By the way, Sherlock, I expected to see you round last week to consult me over that **Manor House** case. I thought you might be a little out of your depth." So, the **Manor House** case may be one still to be published.

For the past twelve months I have listed Sherlock Holmes stories that were set in the current month. The years' worth of stories is done! Thank you to everyone who let me know they enjoyed thinking about what Sherlock was doing in a particular month; I did too. What will you send into the **Twaddle** for the rest of us to enjoy?

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know!



From Sheldon Goldfarb & Jean Marie Zubia:

Jean Marie Zubia, a member of the Stormy Petrels, and a Washington local, was interviewed in this article sent to Margaret Nelson by Sheldon Goldfarb:

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20260505-sherlock-holmes-fans-recreate-fateful-duel-at-swiss-falls>. She participated in the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's 2026 trip to Reichenbach Falls in Switzerland. The group wears Victorian costumes and reenacts the last conflict of Holmes and Moriarty. Jean Marie Zubia portrayed Laura Lyens at the event!



From Terri Haugen:

Exciting news from SOB Patricia O'Neil, who shares:

"Just wanted to let you know that [May's] issue of The Inner Circle Writers' Group Magazine features my 'Interview with John H. Watson, MD.' In it, as P.A. O'Neil, I interview the good doctor about his views on how to write a mystery (criminal and horror), and we get into his backstory for publishing stories about his friend, Sherlock Holmes."

Congratulations on this publication, Patt!



From Peter Blau's Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press:

- 221B Con will be held at the Atlanta Airport Marriott on Apr. 9-11, 2027. You can read about this year's event in Watson's Journal, and register for the upcoming convention, at www.221bcon.com/watsons-journal.
- The second season of the CBS-TV series "Watson" (starring Morris Chestnut in the title role) will be its last, as it wasn't renewed. However, the series showrunner gave some details on what might have happened in a third season in this interview: www.tinyurl.com/2ja9vkxf
- We all know Sherlock Holmes has been portrayed many times by many actors, but what about his creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle? Alexis Barquin's "Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia" includes a page devoted to 85 (!) people who have performed as Conan Doyle, in various media here: www.tinyurl.com/4rnjdu5d.

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know, Continued!



From Terri Haugen:

There's a new addition to Laurie R. King's Mary Russell series! Her newest novel, *Knave of Diamonds* is available in paperback from Penguin Random House. In it, Mary is drawn into a mystery involving her uncle Jake, and his estrangement from their family.

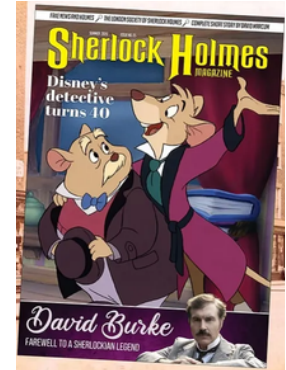
From George Lenes:

I'm sure we've all dreamed of being able to recreate 221B in our own sitting room, but George Lenes shared this much more manageable Lego book nook version! "*The two building fronts of Baker Street close and create a book. Inside there are figurines of Sherlock, Watson, Irene Adler, Moriarty (behind the hidden door) and a newspaper kid. There are drawings of Reichenbach Falls, map of London, a full library behind the rotunda and so much more. It was a blast to assemble... only 1,359 pieces!*"



From Lauren Messenger:

Yes, I'm here with some Doctor Who-adjacent Sherlock Holmes content. AUK Studios successfully Kickstarted their audio production of *Sir Sherlock: The Red Letter Day*. This audio drama features Tom Baker (best known to some as the 4th Doctor), as Sherlock Holmes, and John Leeson (best known to some as the voice of K-9), as Dr. Watson. This won't be Tom Baker first time portraying Sherlock Holmes. He also played the character in a 1982 television adaptation of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, as well as having portrayed him on stage. You can read an article about the audio project here: <https://www.comicbooknews.co.uk/article/the-red-letter-day-tom-baker-mbe-leads-a-new-sir-sherlock-adventure.html>



From Dr. Holly Turner's District Messenger:

- If you have an interest in early portrayals of Sherlock Holmes on screen, this upcoming documentary due for release on 11th August 11th may be of interest to you. Check it out here: <https://www.blurray.com/movies/Elementary-Cinema-The-Early-Films-of-Sherlock-Holmes-Blu-ray/412288/>
- Can you believe *The Great Mouse Detective* is 40? Read about that, as well as a feature by Roger Johnson and Jean Upton, telling the story of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London in honor of its 75th anniversary, in Issue 25 of Sherlock Holmes Magazine. Get a copy here: <https://www.sherlockholmesmag.co.uk/product-page/issue-25>



Ineffable Twaddle: A Monthly Publication of The Sound of the Baskervilles

The Sound of the Baskervilles is a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars, serving the greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, U.S.A., and has met monthly since March 31, 1980.

\$25 per year brings Members the monthly newsletter "Ineffable Twaddle", a copy of Beaten's Christmas Annual, and the incalculable benefits of association with a group of certifiable Holmes aficionados.

Meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of each month. Location of the meetings may vary. Traditional events scheduled through the year may include: "The Master's Dinner" celebrating Holmes' birthday, "The Annual Wreath Throw" commemorating Holmes' loss at Reichenbach Falls (May), "The Dr. John H. Watson Picnic" (July), and "The Will Crakes Memorial Jollification" (December).

Other activities—films, teas, plays and gaming events—are as announced.

To join, send your check for dues—\$25 for individuals, \$35 for families (U.S. funds only)—to the address shown below:

Direct correspondence to:

6710 – 51st Street Court West, University Place, WA 98467-2287

Phone: 253-460-2753 (Landline)

Email: david@soundofthebaskervilles.com



Thank you for reading!

President	David Haugen, PFL	david@soundofthebaskervilles.com
Vice President	Kashena Konecki	VP@soundofthebaskervilles.com
Treasurer	Melinda Michaelson	sobtreasurer1980@gmail.com
Interim Editor	Lauren Messenger	laurenmessenger.museums@gmail.com
Editor Emeritus	Terri Haugen	terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com
Board Member Emeritus	Al Nelson	boardem@soundofthebaskervilles.com
Program Manager	Sondra "Sunny" Even	sondraeven43@gmail.com
Webmaster	Shannon Wallace	webmaster@soundofthebaskervilles.com
Librarian	Chris "Bear" Berwald	SOB-Library@cberwald.com
Social Media Administrator	Naching T. Kassa	nachingkassa@outlook.com
Sunshine Committee	Pat McIntosh	magnoliamci@centurylink.net
