

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

August, 2026

Sir Sherlock: Oops, All Doctor Who?

by Lauren Messenger

Well, almost.

Let me back up, and introduce *Sir Sherlock* first. *Sir Sherlock: The Red Letter Day* was the first story of a full-cast series of audio dramas by AUK Studios. The series is being kickstarter funded, and the first two stories of the series have already met their goal. (Warning: some spoilers ahead!)

The Red Letter Day takes place in 1924. Sherlock Holmes, retired to Sussex to keep bees, has been drawn back to London in order to accept a knighthood.

It doesn't take long for the reunited Holmes and Watson to get drawn into a mystery: a letter on red paper points them to Cleopatra's Needle. Two bodies have been found there in two weeks. Holmes and Watson investigate, meeting with Lestrade, now a Lord, and his granddaughter, Emily Lestrade, a police sergeant. They learn that the two men found at the needle were archaeologists, murdered and then posed by with scarab amulets clutched in their hands.

Holmes is feeling out of place in a London that has changed and moved forward, while he has not. (Watson takes a female police officer in stride, whereas Holmes is seriously thrown, and continues to question her presence until he finds out she is Lestrade's granddaughter, at which point he seems to

accept her.) Holmes worries that his investigative skills are rusty and that he is unneeded. Watson talks him around to considering that as much hasn't changed in London, as has changed, and that he doesn't need to abandon either part of his life—he can be a part-time beekeeper *and* a part-time consulting detective.

Holmes and Watson narrow in on the murderer, but Watson runs into a rival private detective, Norton, at the scene of the final confrontation. Norton has been one step ahead of Holmes and Watson all along, as if following them. Or, he points out, as if *they* are following *him*! The murderous archaeologist is caught, and Holmes and Watson return to 221b, finding it restored to the state they remembered it in from their glory days. Another red letter awaits, revealing the identity of the sender of the letters, Irene Adler, who had set them in the path of the mystery so they would look out for her son, the same Norton they met earlier.

Now, about that Doctor Who connection. In *Sir Sherlock*, Sherlock Holmes is played by Tom Baker, the Fourth Doctor himself. Baker also played the role of Sherlock Holmes in a BBC production of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* in 1982. Dr. Watson is played by the wonderful John Leeson, the voice of the Doctor's robot



Meetings & Events:

August 16, The
Reigate Squires
(In-person)

September 20,
The Solitary
Cyclist (Zoom)

October 18, The
Mazarin Stone
(In-person)

November 15,
The Crooked
Man (Zoom)

December 20,
The Blue
Carbuncle (In-
person)

Sir Sherlock: Oops, All Doctor Who, continued

by Lauren Messenger

dog, K-9 (among other roles!). Conrad Westmaas (Professor Bellchamber) plays the Eighth Doctor's alien companion C'rizz in Big Finish's *Doctor Who* audio dramas. Cast member Nicholas Rowe (Norton) is another Big Finish *Doctor Who* alumni, as is *Sir Sherlock* writer, Gary Hopkins. (Hopkins also wrote for the Granada *Sherlock Holmes* series!) Wink Taylor (Professor Digby) has been in more *Doctor Who* fan films than I can shake a stick at! Director Barnaby Eaton-Jones also directed the audio docudrama *Me & Him & WHO*, about *Doctor Who* producer John Nathan-Turner and his partner Gary Downie. The only people in the production without a *Doctor Who* connection seem to be Katy Ashworth (Emily Lestrade), Norman Eshley (Lord Lestrade), Ian Kubiak (Cabbie) (for whom this seems to be a debut), and the sound designer and editor, Joseph Fox, who I couldn't find additional information on. This Sherlockian production is very Whovian, and it shows in the ease of the cast with one another, Baker and Leeson especially, as well as in the tone of the writing. The writer knows which actor he's writing for, and consequently gives this Holmes more jokes and quips than I'd prefer. After one particularly wince-worthy one, Baker's Holmes even lampshades it,

saying, "Forgive me, my sense of humor has grown more childish in my old age." It was hard for me to hear Tom Baker as anyone other than Tom Baker, at first, but I did eventually settle in and start to hear him as... a particular version of Sherlock Holmes. Not quite the one I find on the page when I read the stories, but one I could accept as existing within the world that *Sir Sherlock* builds, goofy as it sometimes is. John Leeson's Dr. Watson helped. He played it perfectly straight, even when faced with a Holmes dramatically lamenting, "But the bees, Watson! Who would look after the bees?!" Leeson and Baker's long-standing friendship came across, as well, with Baker's Holmes poking fun at his friend, and Leeson's Watson in turns apologizing for his friend's rudeness and offering Holmes encouragement.

Is this a perfect adaptation? No, not hardly. I found myself shaking my head in fond exasperation more than once, as I listened. But it's a fun ride, anyway, and I suppose I'm the target audience—a fan of both Sherlock Holmes and *Doctor Who*! I'm looking forward to *Sir Sherlock*, Doctor Watson, Sergeant Lestrade, and Mr. Norton's next adventure together.





Get An Original “Study in Scarlet” by Margaret Nelson

Bignell Wood, a house in Brook, Hampshire, England was once owned by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and is listed for sale in the June 3, 2026 issue of *Country Life*.

It is located in the New Forest and was first seen by Doyle when he was researching “The White Company” in the area. The property, currently on six acres, was just a Saxon barn and two cottages when Doyle bought it. He hired a local architect to create the current house which now has eight reception rooms, seven/eight bedrooms, various household utility rooms, four bathrooms, a stable and various outbuildings.

Doyle made it a birthday present for his wife Jean; they lived there from 1924 until 1930, using it as a get-away from their main house at Crowborough, East Sussex.

Allegedly, it was there, in the red drawing room that he wrote “The Adventure of the Retired Colourman” (1827) and for about 3.3 million pounds, you too can buy the house with a “study in scarlet”!



The Adventure of the Reigate Squires

August 16, 2026

On Sunday, August 16th, we will gather at the Magnolia Library to discuss “The Adventure of the Reigate Squires,” a story of burglary, legal disputes, blackmail, and handwriting analysis! Alexander Snow will be leading the discussion of the story from 12:30pm-3:00pm!

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know!

Terri Haugen Shares a Message From Steve Mason:

Steve says: *"The Beacon Society... is excited to provide you with the 20th issue of a Sherlock Holmes gazette for younger Sherlockians. We are asking you to share Sherlock's Spotlight with children, grandchildren, students you may know (and of course their parents), as well as other society members, teachers, and anyone else you believe would enjoy the gazette or be able to share with younger Sherlockians. Additionally, Sherlockians who would like to help us in this effort are welcome to provide us with stories, articles, artwork, etc., which is age-appropriate, for use in future issues... Anyone who would like to receive the gazette...can send an email to mason.steve8080@gmail.com to be added to the list. Any younger Sherlockian under 18 will have to provide a parent/guardian email who will also receive the emailings."*

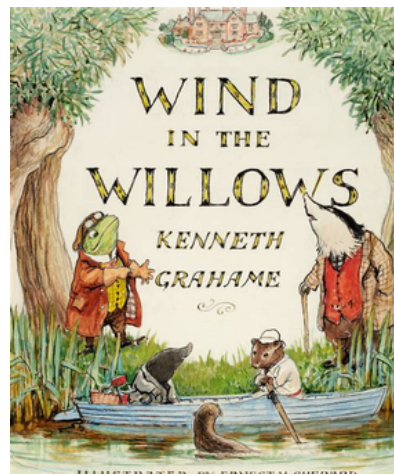


From Peter Blau's Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press:

- When I (your Editor, Lauren) attended Latitude Theatre's production of *A Klingon Christmas Carol* in December, I learned that the PNW has one of the highest percentages of fluent Klingon language speakers in the world (I am not among them, and was grateful for the subtitles in the play!). So, when I saw this news item from Peter Blau, I knew I had to include it here! Klingon language versions of *A Scandal in Bohemia* and *The Red-Headed League* (Saarbrücken: Egypt Verlag; 2025) are now available at Amazon (\$11.90 each). They've been translated by Andrew D. Miller, and feature Klingon and English on facing pages. Check out the sample pages here: www.egpyt.de
- A Holmesian-themed pub called Dear Watson has opened in Prague: www.tinyurl.com/b9bsf9nj



- Here's a publication I'd never heard of! Peter Blau shared that the 2026 issue of the Baker Street Almanac has been published. The almanac contains news of Sherlockian and Doylean activity in 2025, scholarship, and articles, and interesting extra material for subscribers to the print edition. In 2026, an intriguing bonus is a booklet about the Sherlockian aspects Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*! You can subscribe and read some content from previous Almanacs is online for free here: www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/bsa.html
- A crossover that would have made the internet explode: The Doctor (Matt Smith) and Sherlock Holmes (Benedict Cumberbatch) almost met, in a "Comic Relief" segment, but it was not to be. Stephen Moffat talked about it on "The Whoniverse Show" at YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=di90VuXaITM (at 26:30).



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

From Dr. Holly Turner's District Messenger:

- Did you know that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote a play based on the Utah sections of STUD? The manuscript for the unpublished *Angels of Darkness* is now held at Toronto Reference Library. Watson is the main character, and Holmes does not feature at all. The manuscript has been digitized and can be viewed [here](#).

- Dr. Turner points us to an interesting interview with Mark Jones, exploring Conan Doyle's brief stay in Sheffield and its influence on his later writing. The radio program is available here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0nxlvs6>
- A new fold-out guide, *Into the Fog: Sherlock Holmes' London*, covers over 40 locations, from villains' lairs to 221B Baker St. Available here: <https://www.herblester.com/products/into-the-fog-sherlock-holmes-london>

From David Haugen:

Many happy returns to Benedict Cumberbatch! [Read about some of his most famous roles.](#)

From Dwight Holmes:

Dwight Holmes shared the following Sherlockian cartoon with us:



A Stunning Photo From Larry A. Raisch:

"The train station in this image is a real place, though lacking actual tracks! I took this picture of it on a misty day several years ago. Some tweaks in Photoshop made it into a nighttime scene which I thought conveyed a certain 'noir' atmosphere.

Recently, AI features have been added to Photoshop and I used them to add a steam train and a mysterious figure wearing a deerstalker.

Call it 'Sherlock Holmes visits Snohomish'?"



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.

For details on how to join, visit <https://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/join/>. Annual dues are \$25 for individuals, \$35 for families (U.S. funds only).

You can contact us at:

<https://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/contact/>



Thank you for reading!

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