



**A special invitation to a**

*Crime Writers' Literary Lunch*

Andrew  
Lycett  
Frances

Fyfield



Leading Conan Doyle  
Biographer



Best selling  
Crime Writer

**Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup> from 1pm**  
**at**  
**The Sherlock Holmes Hotel,**  
**Baker Street**

Hot on the heels of the highly acclaimed Guy Richie film **Sherlock Holmes**, we are delighted to welcome two prominent literary figures to our first literary lunch, both connected in one way or another to the world of crime and detection. Andrew Lycett has a special connection with Holmes in that he has written one of the most highly acclaimed biographies on his creator Arthur Conan Doyle, whilst Frances Fyfield previously worked extensively with the Crime Prosecution Service and is fast becoming one of Britain's best know crime writers having won two prestigious awards.

Do try to join us at the very comfortable 4 star Park Plaza Sherlock Holmes Hotel in Baker Street for what promises to be a fascinating and informative afternoon. We start at 1pm with a drinks reception which is followed by an excellent 3 course buffet lunch with wine and soft drinks. We will then hear from our two celebrated writers who are bound to have differing takes on the world of detection and crime writing. Our authors will then be happy to meet our guests and sign books.

Cont/-

Sherlock Holmes might have been the epitome of cool reason, but the real life creator was very different, a man of deep emotion, complex motivation and prodigious motivation. In his groundbreaking biography **Conan Doyle: The Man Who Created Sherlock Holmes** acclaimed biographer **Andrew Lycett** gives the most comprehensive and revealing portrait yet of the writer behind the Baker Street sleuth. It is in a fact a brilliant piece of detective work that Holmes would have been proud of. Lycett’s other noteworthy biographies include the lives of Dylan Thomas, Rudyard Kipling and Ian Fleming.

Lycett was granted unique access to the private Richard Lancelyn Green collection of Conan Doyle letters and documents which gave him plenty of fascinating new material to work with.

Today, Andrew Lycett will talk to us about the material he uncovered while researching his biography- how he became fascinated with Conan Doyle’s preoccupation with the occult shedding new light on his horror and occult stories, historical romances, factual histories and spiritualist tracts. Lycett deals with the writer’s obsession with the cult of psychic phenomena which took in everything from table rapping to disembodied voices. Yet for the most part Lycett’s biography focuses on his work rather than his wacky beliefs. He unravels Doyle’s troubled internal life where inner conflict was a constant feature. Plagued by an alcoholic father and stirred on by a domineering mother, Conan Doyle fell into a placid marriage which was rudely interrupted when he fell passionately in love with another woman.

Lycett’s training as a doctor and work as a GP in Portsmouth steeped him in the same scientific reasoning as Sherlock Holmes but otherwise the similarities are few. Andrew Lycett was educated at Charterhouse and Christ Church, Oxford, where he read modern History. As a foreign reporter he specialised in Africa and the Middle East.



Our second guest speaker needs little introduction. Those with a passion for murder mysteries will be well acquainted with the works of **Frances Fyfield**. Her output of very British suspense novels is considerable. She is a criminal lawyer, a trade she has used to huge success in many of her novels. Her vast experience with the devious minded lends Fyfield’s narratives an incredible believability. Hot on the heels of the critically acclaimed **Blood from Stone**, is her latest novel ‘ **Cold to the Touch** (Little Brown). She has won several awards including the Silver Dagger and was chosen from a formidable shortlist to win the much coveted Duncan Lawrie Dagger for 2008 with Blood from Stone. “I learnt about murder at second hand although the law and its ramifications still haunt me and inform many of my novels”.says Frances.

Frances is also a short story writer for magazines and radio, sometime Radio 4 contributor, (Front Row, Quote Unquote, Night Waves) and presenter of Tales from The Stave. She lives mostly in London, with long intervals in Norfolk and Deal “all inspiring places.”

**Cost: £62.50 (members) £72.50 (guests)**

RSVP



*Please detach & return*

**REPLY SLIP**

**The Living Literature Society, Clarendon House, Shenley Road, Elstree, Herts WD6 1AG  
Tel 01727 825 939**

*I attach my cheque for £.....in favour of Lamb B D (LLS) (please note payee)*

*Please reserve.....places for the Crime Writers’ Literary Lunch at the Sherlock Holmes Hotel, Baker Street 1pm. on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February. ...*

*Name.....*

*Address.....*

*Tel.....Email.....*