



FIFTY SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY

1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. Annual General Meeting 2023

The 55th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Sunday 2nd April 2023 at the Holiday Inn Oxford.

A quorum of Members attended the meeting.

At the AGM the following Trustees (Office Bearers) were confirmed:

President:	Dr Chris Duffin
Vice-President:	Professor Mark Nesbitt
Hon. Treasurer:	Ms Selina Hurley
Hon. Secretary:	Mr Roy Allcorn

The 2022 Annual Accounts were agreed unanimously by those Members attending the meeting.

2. Meetings of Committee

The Committee met three times during the year (6th February, 15th May and 16th October), all these meetings continued to be held on-line:

Name	Comments
Mr R T Allcorn	
Dr S C Anderson	
Dr J Crellin	
Dr C Duffin	
Ms A Heath	New committee member 2023
Ms B Hudson	
Ms S Hurley	
Dr M H Jepson	
Mr M Johnson	
Prof M Nesbitt	
Ms C Walker	
Ms K Walker	New committee member 2023

Committee membership changes in 2023: John Betts and Deborah Bishop left the committee during the year, Abigail Heath attended her first committee meeting in May, and Kim Walker rejoined the committee in October.

3. Membership

Total membership (including 3 Honorary Members) at 31st December was 142.

Movements in the year having been as follows:

New members: 19 / Resigned or deleted: 14

4. Meetings/Events

No in-person committee meetings were organised during 2023 as it had been decided to continue to meet online. No Summer annual visit was arranged due to lack of interest.

On-line Lecture Programme

Our successful series of free on-line discussions and talks continued in 2023. Bookings and ticketing were again administered using the Eventbrite system.

We arranged these talks:

Monday 23 January 2023: "Dioscorides' Botanical Legacy in the Medieval Mediterranean: Critical Practices of Botanical Illustration" by Dr Andrew P. Griebeler, Princeton University.

Monday 27 February 2023: "Perfumery and pharmacy: The Greek and Roman history of a match made in heaven" by Prof. Laurence Totelin, University of Cardiff.

Monday 6 March 2023: "The herbal materia medica in Greek texts – a botanical and pharmacognostic perspective".by Dr Andreas Lardos, Institute of Chemistry and Biotechnology, ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences.

Monday 24 April 2023: "Shifting from medicine to botany: the hidden history of 16th century herbaria" by Dr Anastasia Stefanaki, Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden.

Monday 15 May 2023: "Synthesizing hope: 20th century drug discovery in South Africa" by Prof. Anne Pollock, Kings College.

Monday 19 June 2023: "From plant to drug: The quest for an Indian Pharmacopeia" by Dr Nandini Bhattacharya, University of Houston.

The next series planned for the Autumn could not be arranged in time and so a new series was scheduled for the new year.

5. Annual Spring Conference March 2022

There were 31 participants overall including 22 BSHP members. Delegates had travelled from Portugal, Italy, France, Germany and the USA to join the event, perhaps our most international yet. The conference theme was Training, Learning and Education.

A pre-conference visit to the Oxford University Museum of Natural History and the adjacent Pitt-Rivers Museum was led by Chris Duffin. The 16 attendees discovered the pioneering geological work of Oxford don, William Buckland

(1784-1856), learned how to classify dinosaurs and browsed through medical amulets, surgical instruments and items of materia medica from around the world.

Friday's dinner was followed by a talk by Stephen A. Harris (Druce Curator of Oxford University Herbaria) on 'George Claridge Druce'.

The following short papers were given on the Saturday morning:

- Chris Duffin *The Stag as a source of materia medica*
- Jelena Manojilovic *Adam Lonicerus's Kreuterbuch as functional cultural heritage*
- Matteo Sartori *'Balsam de Chili' and Drimys winteri. Entangled Histories of British Pharmacy*
- Maria do Sameiro Barroso *Medicine and Magic in a recipe of Aspasia*
- Florian Eidam-Weber *Teaching at the Institute of the History of Pharmacy and Medicine at Phillips University Marburg, Germany – its past, present & future*

The Saturday afternoon visit was to the History of Science Museum where we were treated to a guided tour concentrating on Nobel laureates, different inventions designed to measure time, and a chance to view a range of medical and pharmaceutical items. Following the Saturday evening Briony and Matthew presented delegates with a range of pharmaceutical objects borrowed from the RPS Museum and Society of Apothecaries, and delegates enjoyed identifying them and sharing exactly how to use them.

Sunday's proceedings began with the Annual General Meeting. This was followed by short talks:

- Gabriel Lake Carter *'The Pharmacy Image': Advertising and the Business Education of Pharmacists, 1900-1975*
- Carolyn Collins *'The best morning tonic': Citrus aurantium from pharmacy jar to marmalade pot; looking at the therapeutic value of the Seville Orange*
- Manon Auffret *From medieval apothecaries to the Faculty of Pharmacy of Rennes: a short history of pharmaceutical education in Brittany*

Following a short break, Professor Roisin O'Hare gave the final lecture of the conference to mark the centenary of the Guild of Hospital Pharmacists - *Concocting lotions, prescribing potions and all kinds of crazy notions! Evolution of the practice of the hospital pharmacist from 1923 to 2023.*

It was wonderful to enjoy the company of members and non-members alike, and to be treated to a wide range of lecture topics from a suite of clearly accomplished international researchers at this very successful conference.

7. Pharmaceutical Historian

Four issues of the *Pharmaceutical Historian: An International Journal for the History of Pharmacy* (Vol. 53, Nos. 1,2,3,4) were published during the year dated March, June, September and December. Stuart Anderson continued with the editorship continuing the current arrangement to publish the journal

on-line (with Ingenta) and thus internationally with the International Society for the History of Pharmacy (ISHP). Printed copies continued to be produced and sent to all members who wanted them in that format. Those members resident overseas are all sent pdf copies by email.

8. BSHP Gazette

Four issues of the Gazette, our quarterly newsletter, were produced and mailed out to coincide with mailing the four issues of the *Pharmaceutical Historian*. This continued to fulfil the aim of having four pages of news, updates, details of events past and forthcoming and other information including, where relevant, a selection of photographs reproduced in full colour.

9. BSHP Website (www.bsHP.org) and Social Media

Our website was kept updated especially with regards to forthcoming virtual events.

Many new membership applications were received via the web-based form and paid for using the associated on-line PayPal payment system.

The number of our followers on Facebook and Twitter continues to grow and is now an important means of keeping everyone interested in us bang up to date.

10. Awards – Peter Homan Small Grant Scheme

This scheme was launched in early 2023. It invites applications at any time of year, with closing dates set at 31st May and 30th November. Applications are considered by a team of four members of the BSHP Committee, consisting of individuals with curatorial and research experience.

At its meeting on 14th June 2023 the Panel considered the five applications received. The winners were:

- A request to support an Apothecary Expansion Project at the National Emergency Services Museum in Sheffield. Funding would be used to assist with costs of producing new interpretation boards, 'smell pots', and printed postcards. Grant criteria met: Improving a pharmacy display. Outcome: Grant of £400 made.
- A request to support pharmaceutical aspects of the development of a Creativity Gallery at the National Civil War Centre at Newark Museum. Funding to be used to assist with costs of obtaining the loan of pharmaceutical items from the collections of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and the Royal Society. Grant criteria met: Improving a pharmacy display. Outcome: Grant of £100 made.

There were no applications for the period to the end of November.

11. Appreciations

The Committee wishes to put on record its thanks to Catherine Walker at the Museum of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society for her help and support.

We are also indebted to Association Enterprises for continuing to undertake various Secretariat and office-based duties for the Society.

