



BSHP Gazette

The Newsletter of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy

December 2020

Number 15

Seasonal Greetings from Chris Duffin, our new President

Usually in line with our normal tradition and as your President, I would be writing to confirm a successful year with a full diary of BSHP activities. This year, however, has presented unique challenges to the pharmaceutical profession, societies like our own and, of course, individual members. Committee members have been successfully getting to grips with unfamiliar technology for their meetings, and we are grateful to those adventurous souls who zoomed in to join us for the AGM. We have recently investigated how to deliver a programme of BSHP events for 2021 and you can see the first fruits of this work in this newsletter. By doing this we hope that we can turn the current challenges into new opportunities for diversification.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for their support and continued work on behalf of the Society, and to tender my very best wishes to all BSHP members and their families for Christmas and the New Year, which I hope brings renewed peace and wellbeing.

Editorial

In this quarter's newsletter we have a summary of the key changes arising from the Society's recent AGM, and information about an exciting programme of virtual meetings which have replaced our usual evening meetings and annual conference which both remain impossible to hold due to current restrictions. We also have a small quiz for you on page 3.

E-mails

We are investigating an e-mailing service called JiscMail which is the only mailing service dedicated solely to supporting conversations and collaborations that further UK education and research. If you are interested in joining this please email Chris Duffin using president@bshp.org. Those who already receive emails from us will be asked if they want to be added to this or if not to advise us if they wish to opt out. We have learnt that we need to communicate some types of information differently and more speedily in future. More details about JiscMail can be found here: www.jisc.ac.uk/jiscmail

Pharmaceutical Historian - Volume 50 No.4.

With this latest mailing you are receiving the December 2020 issue of our flagship international journal for the History of Pharmacy. This quarter the printed issue you have received does not include one article which is only available as online content via Ingenta*, namely "Snakestones in early modern medicine and Society" by Rachael Pymm who is an independent researcher.

*See www.ingentaconnect.com/content/bshp. This month our Editor, Stuart, has produced the latest 5-year index to the Pharmaceutical Historian covering issues from 2016-2020. This will be available soon to download as a pdf from our website.

Membership 2021

This month, and where relevant, you will have received your membership renewal invoice for next year. One key thing for some of you with Standing Orders set up to pay your membership fee is to check is that it is updated with your bank to show payment of the required £30 (or £15 for students).

New Members

We welcome into membership recently: Rose deNegri (Telford) and Manon Auffret (France).

Annual General Meeting - 19th October 2020

As you may recall we had to cancel our annual conference and AGM, due be held in Manchester in March this year, because of the pandemic. As a charity we have to submit our annual accounts and annual report each year to the Charity Commission by the end of October. Given this we decided to hold the AGM online like many other Societies were doing and arranged this for Monday 19th October using the Zoom virtual meeting software. We took the opportunity also that day to hold our first committee meeting since last February. We were pleased to be joined by 21 members which included 9 from the committee and we had 6 apologies for absence. Here is a summary of what happened at the meeting which was chaired by Peter Homan who was still President on that date:

- The pre-circulated annual report for 2019 was agreed.
- The annual accounts for 2019 which had been pre-circulated were agreed. Thanks were given to the Treasurer and to several members who had helped finalise and check the accounts.
- Five nominations were received for election to fill the existing vacancies in the BSHP Committee and these had been accepted by the committee. Nominations put to the vote and agreed were:
 - Shirley Ellis
 - Michael Jepson
 - Mark Nesbitt
 - Selina Hurley
 - Matthew Johnston (co-option)
- The Committee's nominations for the Society's Officers (Charity Trustees) for election were:
 - President: Chris Duffin
 - Vice President: Mark Nesbitt
 - Honorary Secretary: Roy Allcorn
 - Honorary Treasurer: Deborah Bishop (to 31st December 2020)
 - Honorary Treasurer Selina Hurley (from 1st January 2021)

The nominated officers were elected unanimously by virtue of there being no objections.

Congratulations were given to Chris Duffin on becoming President and to Selina Hurley for taking over as Treasurer next year. Thanks were also expressed to Deborah for her stewardship of the finances over recent years and she will be handing over the role progressively ready for the start of the 2021 financial year. See the website for current Officers: www.bsHP.org/aboutus/officers.asp

- Roy Allcorn, as Honorary Secretary, reported that membership numbers were still declining and now stood at 126. In the past year there had been two resignations and four who had deceased. He added that luckily we still get the occasional new members usually via the website.
- One key recurring problem he said was the non-response by a few members to any letters and emails mainly about shortfalls in subscription payments. Seven members still owed £10 caused by not updating their Standing Order, So, as agreed by the committee, they did not get the September membership mailing but will get this one for December with the annual renewal invoice. This will be re-assessed early next year once invoices are paid.
- It was suggested that if anyone knew of people who had an interest in pharmacy history then to try and see if they were interested in joining us.
- Roy's proposal for the same membership fee of £30 to be applied for 2021 was agreed.
- Information was given to the meeting about recent winners of the Burnby Memorial Bursary and the Pharmacy History Research Grant.
- A detailed report on the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Museum was presented by Catherine Walker their new Museum Officer who answered some questions from members.
- At the end of the AGM tribute was paid to retiring President Peter Homan who had joined the BSHP Committee in 1996. Everyone was enormously grateful for his many varied contributions to the Society. All were reminded that he took over from a paid professional secretary employed by the RPSGB and before the Presidency had been BSHP Honorary Secretary for around 20 years.
- Our next AGM is likely to be in October 2021.

At the committee meeting it was decided that we would investigate presenting some talks, panel discussions and a virtual annual conference via Zoom. This followed the inevitable decision that the March 2021 conference would need to be online only and, as such, that an in-person conference in 2022 in Manchester was probably our best option. Fortunately for us and our finances the proposed conference hotel in Manchester were able to transfer the monies pre-paid to 2022. Trying for at least one and maybe both Burnby talks online next year was a favoured option.

The committee also dealt with several normal business items which are always necessary to keep the Society functioning properly and in compliance with its overall charitable aims and objectives.

Quiz

We are grateful to our Immediate Past President, Peter Homan for this picture quiz.

The question is simple – can you name this object?

Also think when, where and how it might have been used.

The answer can be found at the bottom of page 4. Clue : Strawberry?

No prizes unfortunately, just a virtual self-imposed pat on the back if you guessed correctly.



Events - BSHP forthcoming virtual events

These events will take place online using the Zoom platform. If, as we hope, you wish to participate, you should request the signing-in details by emailing the Honorary Secretary (honsec@bshp.org). Signing-in needs you to have an internet connection and a device, ideally with a camera, that can handle the link.

Once you make contact with us we will email you a web link. Enter the website address provided into your web browser. You will be prompted to download and run a small programme which runs Zoom on your computer. There is no need to create a Zoom account. If you have not used Zoom before, please log in about 10 minutes before the meeting so as to set up. Zoom meetings can be seen and heard on most computers, tablets and smart phones.

Monday 11th January at 6: 30 pm

Panel discussion entitled '**What is the future for pharmacy history?**'

Chair: Mark Nesbitt (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew)

Speakers: Briony Hudson (independent museum curator and pharmacy historian), Selina Hurley (Science Museum), Anna Greenwood (Nottingham University), Yewande Okuleye (Leicester University). Join us for a lively discussion about the future of the discipline with a chance to ask your own questions and participate in the debate.

Monday 22nd February at 6:30 pm

'**Unlocking the Medieval Medicine Cabinet**' by Freya Harrison

Joint BSHP and Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy Meeting, incorporating the Faculty's Sydenham Lecture. Chair: Briony Hudson.

Lecturer: Dr Freya Harrison (Assistant Professor, School of Life Sciences, University of Warwick) is a microbiologist working in the School of Life Sciences at the University of Warwick. In 2014 she co-founded an interdisciplinary consortium to investigate remedies used to treat infection in pre-Enlightenment Europe. Working with colleagues from across the sciences, arts and humanities, the AncientBiotics consortium aims to datamine historical medical texts to uncover patterns of natural product usage, and to identify, reconstruct and test remedies which may lead to the discovery of novel antimicrobial compounds.

Friday 26th to Sunday 28th March 2021 (times to be confirmed)

In the light of pandemic restrictions, our 2021 conference will be taking place online, with a series of sessions across three days. We have already secured a number of speakers including those booked for this year's postponed event. However, if you are interested in giving a short presentation (20 minutes) via Zoom as part of the programme. Conference Organiser, Briony Hudson, would be very pleased to hear from you. Contact: conference@bshp.org - Deadline: Friday 18th December 2020.

Full details including joining instructions for audience members will be shared in early 2021, or keep an eye on our website www.bshp/events, Facebook and Twitter accounts (@PharmHist) for updates.

Events - Worshipful Society of Apothecaries

The Faculty which covers pharmacy has arranged a series of virtual lectures including the following:

- 23rd February - "Surgery and Emotions before Anaesthesia" by Michael Brown
- 10th March - "History of Peyote" by Mike Jay and also "The History of Gigantism - from Legends to Genes" by Marta Korbonits
- 22nd March - "The Sydney Selwyn Lectures" by Dr Mary Fletcher and Dr Ellis Onwordi

All these are 6-7pm - full details at www.apothecaries.org/events/category/faculty-hp-events/

They also have programmed an in-person one day symposium for 6th May 2021 (9.30am-5pm) entitled "Bark, Berries and Bitter Pills" which is subtitled "200 years of Quinine and other botanicals" and has five guest speakers. The cost is £50 per person.

More information can be found at: www.apothecaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Barks-Berries-Bitter-Pills-Flyer-2021.pdf

Remember When? - our conference was in these lovely locations:



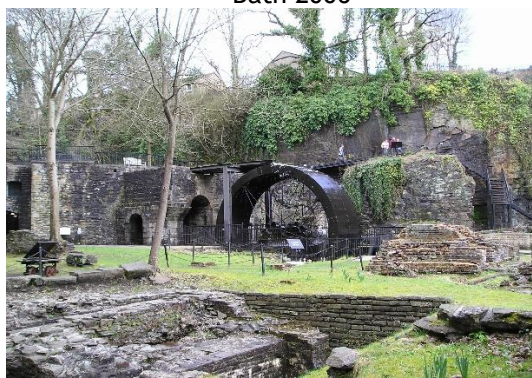
Bassenthwaite 2009



Bath 2006



Wakefield 2007



Llanelli 2010

Contacts

Facebook: British Society for the History of Pharmacy

Twitter : @PharmHist

BSHP Secretariat : info@bshp.org

Office Address: Unit Q, Troon Way Business Centre, Humberstone Lane, Leicester, LE4 9HA

Quiz Answer

A Victorian Fly or Wasp Trap. Diluted jam would be introduced into the open rim and a cork fitted. Flies and wasps would be drawn into the base of the bottle and would have difficulty escaping. Used in a sick room.