



# BSHP Gazette

The Newsletter of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy

April 2019

Number 8

## Welcome to our latest communication to Members

This issue is slightly later than usual due to the inclusion of information from our conference and AGM which was held at the end of March at the Best Western Royal Beach Hotel, Southsea, Portsmouth.

## Annual Conference: 29-31 March

This year's theme was "Pharmacy and the Sea". On pages 2 and 3 you will find a series of photographs illustrating the wide ranging programme of talks on both days and also from the Saturday afternoon organized visit to the Mary Rose Museum. We welcomed 38 delegates and also on the Saturday five students and four members of staff from the University of Portsmouth School of Pharmacy.

## Annual General Meeting held Sunday 31 March

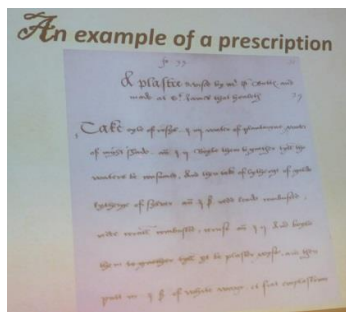
26 members attended the meeting where approval was given to various documents included in the conference pack including importantly our audited accounts for 2018. The meeting also approved the re-election of 6 members of the Society's committee and of the four Officers (who are our Charity Trustees as required by the Charity Commission). We are delighted to welcome Dr Chris Duffin to the post of our Society's Vice President replacing Ainley Wade who has retired from this position and from our committee for personal reasons.

## Evening meeting at UCL on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February

Prof. Anne Charlton gave us a talk entitled "The Treatment of Henry VIII's "Sorre Legge".



Brief historical details were given about Henry VIII



An example of one of his prescriptions

Professor Charlton explained the composition of Tudor court medical teams and also detailed many of the ingredients used at the time many of which were herb or plant based. She had researched many of the Sloane manuscripts in her work and her hypothesis was that Henry suffered in later life from the poisonous side-effects of lead.

Anne is Professor Emerita of Cancer Health Education at the University of Manchester Medical School.

## Membership Subscriptions 2019

Earlier in March you should have received the latest printed copy of the *Pharmaceutical Historian* (Volume 49 Number 1). If you didn't receive this then it is probably because you have not renewed your annual membership with us and so we have held back these copies pending your renewal. Some omitted to amend their old Standing Orders and will have received a supplementary invoice for £10.

**So please renew or pay your invoice to the Secretariat office as soon as possible please.**

With any unpaid renewals outstanding at the end of April we shall, reluctantly, have to assume that you no longer wish to remain a member of our Society.

## Photographs from the Conference



On Friday evening Andrew Whitmarsh, D-Day Museum Development Officer, gave us a talk on the vitally important role that Portsmouth and Southsea played on D-Day.



The Royal Beach Hotel in Southsea, right on the seafront opposite the pier, was our conference venue. It was used by the displaced Council in the second world war.



BSHP President Peter Homan opened proceedings by welcoming all the delegates to the weekend which had *Pharmacy and the Sea* as its theme.



We had 37 attending plus some staff and students from the Portsmouth University School of Pharmacy (SOP). 2019 sees them celebrating their centenary.



Darek Gorecki from the SOP gave a presentation about the history of pharmacy education in Portsmouth. This was in the form of a chronology which detailed its growth in the area.



Chris Duffin spoke about John Woodall and this author's 1617 book "The Surgion's Mate". This detailed all that was required in a medicine chest on board ship.



Ayman Atat gave an illustrated insight into the excipient oxymer (a mixture of water/vinegar & sugar/honey) as used in the Ottoman Empire. He described ancient recipes mainly used for digestive disorders.



Peter's talk was entitled "Highlights of an ephemer collection" using printed and written examples from his personal collection. These came from his time in community pharmacy and many present could relate to the material he chose.



Stuart Anderson covered pharmacy and migration – all based on his research into James Butler Swann and his 3 sons. James set up a pharmacy business in New Zealand, then Fiji then Samoa. The reasons behind all this were explained.



On Sunday morning, during the AGM, Peter presented Briony Hudson with the Leslie Matthews medal deservedly awarded to her for her contributions to pharmacy history research.



Katrina Maydom (the winner of the 2019 Burnby Memorial Bursary) gave a talk on "Consuming New World Drugs in early modern London: James Petiver's apothecary practice". This was in 17<sup>th</sup> century London in Farringdon.



Jane Wickenden from the Institute of Naval Medicine in Gosport concluded the conference with a talk on Hugh Clapperton a ship's surgeon and African explorer who famously visited Lake Chad in Africa whilst seeking the source of the River Niger.



## Visit to the Mary Rose

On the Saturday afternoon Briony Hudson had arranged a group visit to Mary Rose Museum which is situated in the old Portsmouth Naval Dockyard area. 28 people took advantage of this (see group photo extreme right below). The Museum is immediately next to the famous HMS Victory and near to the home of the new aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth still forlornly awaiting her supply of aircraft.



Our guide told us the whole story of the sinking of this famous ship on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1545 during the Battle of the Solent which raged against the French invaders. Around 500 lives were lost when the Mary Rose sunk and only 35 sailors survived. The theories why it keeled over were given which were largely due to it being overloaded and with a mostly untrained (conscripted) crew.

There are many cases in and around and of most interest to us were items from the surgeon's chest plus other surgery and medical treatment items. One of the fascinating facts was that the crew each had 1 gallon of beer a day instead of water. These photos show what these displays are like:



Henry VIII watched as his 34 year old flagship sank during the battle. Many attempts over the years had been made to salvage the wrecked warship but only objects were recovered up to 1978 when a decision was taken to attempt a full-scale lift of remaining starboard side timbers from the hull.

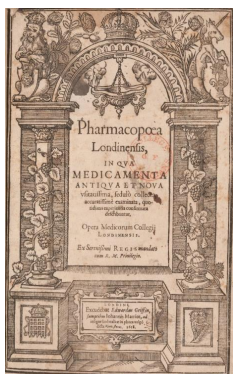
She was raised on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1982 using a special cradle. Many of us remembered the dramatic tv relay of this event especially the moment when one of the supports gave way, luckily causing minimal damage. The timbers were sprayed continuously for around 30 years firstly with water and then with polyethylene glycol. A building was constructed around the Mary Rose and this was opened in 2013.



The Museum shows that it is all more than just a shipwreck and the exhibition has been designed to illustrate what life would have been like for the sailors. Walking around we saw that only one side remains (above left), the bow and stern are lost. However the way that this is displayed with artifacts placed on what would have been the port side recreates much of how the vessel was organised.

Given the way the exhibits are arranged one really gained an insight into the conditions on board ship. She and her treasures are now extremely well preserved for future generations.

It was a most interesting visit and so well complemented our pharmacy and the sea conference theme.



## *The Pharmacopoeia Londinensis* 1618 and its descendants.

**Lecture by Professor Clare Fowler**  
Emeritus Professor, UCL

**Monday 13 May 2019 at 5.30pm**

MAPLETHORPE LECTURE THEATRE,  
UCL SCHOOL OF PHARMACY,  
29-39 BRUNSWICK SQUARE, LONDON WC1N 1AX

Nearest Tube: Russell Square

Refreshments will be served from 5.00pm

**NON-MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

Questions? Contact Chris Duffin, BSHP Programme Secretary: [events@bshp.org](mailto:events@bshp.org)

### Other dates for your diary

June/July	Details of our Summer visit are still being finalised with the options of a visit to Kew, or a historical walking tour in the area around the RPS Headquarters in East Smithfield (London Borough of Tower Hamlets) plus a visit to the RPS Museum. Please email <a href="mailto:events@bshp.org">events@bshp.org</a> to register your interest.
1-3 July	Three day course jointly with BSHP and the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries, Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy entitled "History of Pharmacy and the Pharmaceutical Industry". See the full programme on the Apothecaries' website: <a href="http://www.apothecaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Prog-app-form-HoPharmacy-2019.pdf">www.apothecaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Prog-app-form-HoPharmacy-2019.pdf</a>
Monday 14 October (5.30pm)	"Animal, Vegetable, Mineral and ?": Dr John Addenbrooke's Cabinet of Materia Medica" by Henrietta McBurney Ryan, Newham College, Cambridge.

### Further congratulations to Briony Hudson

On top of the award of the Leslie Matthews medal, Briony has been appointed to the post of Interim President of the Faculty of the History & Philosophy of Medicine & Pharmacy at the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries.

### Contacts

**Facebook:** British Society for the History of Pharmacy

**Twitter :** @PharmHist

**BSHP Secretariat :** [info@bshp.org](mailto:info@bshp.org)