

BSHP GAZETTE

NEWS FROM THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY



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A note from the President

*Professor Mark Nesbitt, Senior Research Leader,
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew*

This is an exciting time for the Society. After 17 years in which our secretarial services have been provided by Association Enterprises, we are taking these in house. These years have seen the transition from paper to digital records that means we no longer need a physical office. We are grateful to the AE team, and Jane, Alan and Robert, for their support over nearly two decades. Changes will be behind the scenes; arrangements for subscriptions and so on remain the same. However, we will no longer maintain the old Leicester postal address.

What does this mean for our members? The first outcome is a shiny new website, conjured up by Kim Walker over Christmas. Do take a look (bshp.org). We have taken the opportunity to refresh its content, including a useful guide to Open Access publications under 'Resources'. We hope the website will become a central resource for pharmacy history. Let us know what else could be added to its content.

We expect to see useful financial savings from our new arrangement, which we can channel into the work of the Society. To that end, in the second half of the year your committee will be reviewing the Society's strategy for the next five years. It is already clear that educational resources, and digitisation of research materials, will be high priorities.

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WWW.BSHP.ORG

FACEBOOK: [PHARMHIST](https://www.facebook.com/PHARMHIST) TWITTER: [@PHARMHIST](https://twitter.com/PHARMHIST)

SECRETARIAT: INFO@BSHP.ORG

New Website Launched!

Celebrating a quarter of a century of the BSHP being online.

In the year 2000, a webpage was made available advertising the BSHP's events, awards and news. The earliest site shows a simple design using the long-standing logo and a theme on the pharmaceutical colour of 'mauve'. Later, in 2018, a revamp slightly updated the format to use more colour.

That website existed until 2025, when a brand new site was launched (See image). Echoing earlier colour themes, it uses royal purple, and has been designed in Wix to be more accessible and interactive to enable regular updates and better interaction with the BSHP community.

Here's to the next 25 years, we hope you enjoy the new website!

If you have an event, blog or news feature you'd like to appear on the site, we warmly welcome proposals emailed to: info@bshp.org

THE NEW BSHP 2025 WEBSITE



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I look forward to seeing many of you at our conference in Worcester, a particularly attractive city. We will be electing a new committee member; please see elsewhere in the Bulletin for details of how to apply. I would like to take a moment to thank Roy Alcorn, who has stepped down from the committee after many years of service to the Society in every available role. We have also sent a card to Dr Shirley Ellis to thank her for many services to our community, including the recent sharing of her library with fellow historians. In the same spirit of celebrating those who contribute to our field, I will have the pleasure of awarding the Leslie Matthews medal to Drs Anne Stobart and Chris Duffin, the Society's guests of honour at the conference.

Mark Nesbitt, BSHP President

Call for Committee Nominations

Fancy joining us as on the committee? We have spaces for committee members. Any interested parties can view the officers on the committee

here: <https://www.bsphp.org/officers>

Nominations for candidates by email to president@bsphp.org

BSHP Annual General Meeting 2025

Members are advised that our AGM will be held on Saturday 5 April at 4pm as part of our 2025 annual conference. Please send any apologies for absence to honsec@bsphp.org.

BSHP NEWS

Membership renewals

Renewal invoices for 2025 have been sent out with the following options (which are the same as 2024):

- £30 for full members
- £15 for students

Many thanks for your support, which allows us to continue to promote pharmacy history through our talks, conference, and the *Pharmaceutical Historian*.

Pharmaceutical Historian

With this mailing you are receiving the March 2025 issue of *Pharmaceutical Historian*, (Volume 55, Number 1), our flagship international journal.

Updated Address

Please note we have a new mailing address:

BSHP C/O RPS Museum,
Royal Pharmaceutical Society,
66-68 East Smithfield, London E1W 1AW

Peter Homan Small Grant Award - Reports

Verity Smith was awarded a grant for the

project: *The World Turned Upside Down:*

Creativity gallery development at the National Civil War Centre, Newark Museum. Read more about this on our news [blog](#).

Abigail Heath at the School of Pharmacy has used their award to digitise the complete collection of our student journal, *The Square Chronicle*. This can now be accessed here:

<https://archive.org/search?>

[query=creator%3A%22Square+Association%22](https://archive.org/search?query=creator%3A%22Square+Association%22)

**Peter Homan
Small Grant Award**

Apply for up to £500 - Open for applications.

<https://www.bsHP.org/awards>

OTHER SOCIETY EVENTS

Monday 28 April

Apothecaries Hall, London

Mr Nicholas Culpeper: 'lay' herbalist and revolutionary

<https://tinyurl.com/jfkxe5tn>

Friday 16 May 09:30am - 4pm

Apothecaries Hall (AM)

& Chelsea Physic Garden (PM)

Apothecaries, Plants and People: A potted history of the Apothecaries and the Chelsea Physic Garden

<https://tinyurl.com/355b48kt>

Wednesday 10th June 6:30-7:30 pm

Chelsea Physic Garden/Society of

Apothecaries

Dr Katrina Maydom

Hans Sloane Lecture: Remedies from the New World in James Petiver's Apothecary Practice

<https://www.apothecaries.org/events/category/cfhs-events/>

Wednesday 10 – Saturday 13 September

British Society for the History of Medicine (BSHM) 31st Congress

University of Leeds

BSHP Members qualify for the reduced registration fee.

Abstracts deadline **20 May**

<https://bshM.org.uk/congress-2025/>

History of Medicine Course

Weekends, September 2025 to June 2026.

<https://apothecaries.shorthandstories.com/history-of-medicine/index.html>

BSHP EVENTS - 2025

BSHP ONLINE LECTURE SERIES BOOK AT BSHP.ORG/EVENTS

MONDAY 12 MAY, 6.30 -7.30 PM (BST)

DR KIM JACOBSON,

Retired Physician & Researcher

From Spring Tonic to Syphilis: Sassafras; An Indigenous Herbal Cure-all

Sassafras is a plant that has been used by the indigenous peoples of the Americas for thousands of years, for medicinal and culinary purposes. It became a hugely popular export to Europe during the 17th and early 18th centuries. This lecture will describe its use, exploitation as a result of colonialism, and “fall from grace”, touching on continued use in some populations and the inherent dangers of inappropriate ingestion.



Monday 7 JULY, 6.30 -7.30 pm (BST)

DR HILARY INGRAM

University of Nottingham

“Just another shop”? Boots The Chemists in New Zealand and Fiji

Monday 13 october, 6.30 -7.30 pm (BST)

LUCY JANE SANTOS

Author & Researcher

Radioactive Remedies: The Unlikely History of Uranium and Radium in Pharmaceuticals



Monday 1 December, 6.30 -7.30 pm (BST)

DR HALIL TEKINER

Erciyes University School of Pharmacy, Turkey

A Dose of satire: Caricatures Tracing the History of Turkish Pharmacy

Watch previous online talks on our youtube channel:
www.youtube.com/@bshpharm

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