



# BSHP Gazette

The Newsletter of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy

September 2023

Number 26

## Editorial

As we move into Autumn, we trust you had a good Summer despite some unpredictable weather. At the time of writing, we are experiencing a so-called Indian Summer. We have another selection of news for you and another appeal for anyone wishing to join the BSHP committee. We are still seeking a new Honorary Secretary for next year and any offers of help are still welcomed.

## Pharmaceutical Historian - Volume 53 No.3

With this mailing you are receiving the September 2023 issue of our flagship international journal for the history of pharmacy.

## Membership Subscription Renewals

Our thanks must go to everyone who renewed their membership and especially those who have agreed to move their Direct Debits away from Go Cardless for next year. If you have yet to do this then please arrange this now with your bank.

## BSHP Online Lecture Series - Global Histories of Pharmacy

Unfortunately, details of the next series of Zoom lectures, beginning later this month, are not available at the moment. If you have attended any previous lectures, you should receive notifications of future ones via Eventbrite or please watch our website [www.bsHP.org/events/](http://www.bsHP.org/events/).

They will be on Mondays again and are timed to start at 6.30pm.

## Annual Conference 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024

Save the date for our annual conference, to be held at the Thackray Museum of Medicine in Leeds in 2024. Join us for a packed programme of talks, socialising, our Annual General Meeting, and plenty of time to explore this wonderful museum!

Our conference theme is Public Pharmacy. As usual, we would welcome short talks (20 minutes) from BSHP members, either directly linked to the conference theme or any other aspect of pharmacy history that you're currently exploring.

There is also the opportunity to submit a poster, again on the conference theme or other area of pharmacy history interest. Perhaps you'd like to talk about sharing pharmacy history in public places and spaces, or examine pharmacy's public image in a particular era. You could investigate pharmacy's visibility on the high street through architecture or advertising, or look at an aspect of public health pharmacy. You do not have to be an experienced speaker or seasoned researcher to take part - we are always very keen to support those new to pharmacy history.

Please contact Briony Hudson, Conference Organiser ([conference@bsHP.org](mailto:conference@bsHP.org)), with a short outline of your proposed contribution (250 words) - or with any queries - by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November.



Full programme details including an associated social programme and booking form will be issued with the December Gazette and via our website at [www.bsHP.org/events](http://www.bsHP.org/events).

Please note that accommodation will not form part of the booking, but suggested options will be provided for delegates to book directly.

Image left is the Thackray Museum of Medicine in Leeds.

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## Peter Homan Small Grant Scheme

### Report on First Call closed on 31st May 2023

This Scheme invites applications at any time of year, with closing dates set at 31<sup>st</sup> May and 30<sup>th</sup> November each year. 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 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 the Panel considered the five applications received. The winners were:

1. 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.
2. 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.

The other three applicants were given feedback to help them re-apply after some suggested modifications to their application forms.

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## New Members

We welcome the following into membership:

Laura Sapsford (UCL Library, London),  
Zephyr Stead (Beckenham),  
Parmanand Mistry (Cleckheaton),  
Ursula Barthlen (Germany),  
Karen Davis (Amersham),  
Alaster Rutherford (Knowle, Bristol)

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## Society of Apothecaries - Faculty events -

Collecting and reflecting pharmacy history: 3-day explorer course, Wednesday 27 to Friday 29 September

There's still time to book a place on this year's explorer course, run in conjunction with the Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy at the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries. Join Briony Hudson and Stuart Anderson to visit 6 fantastic London venues. From carboys to COVID vaccination, herbs to herbals, materia medica to medicines, explore the objects and organisations that tell pharmacy histories today. This course will take you behind the scenes of key pharmacy collections with curator-led tours, object-based sessions and insightful talks that provide background stories and reflect on the challenges of curating and collecting pharmacy history to present to visitors in the 21st century. BSHP is pleased to support limited subsidised places for students. Full programme and details here:

<https://www.apothecaries.org/pharmacy-course/>. You can book for one, two or three courses. Any queries, contact Maria Ferran, Faculty Manager, [facultyhp@apothecaries.org](mailto:facultyhp@apothecaries.org).

### 2023/4 evening lecture series at the Society of Apothecaries

Bookings are now open for the evening lecture series presented by the Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy. Held in the historical Apothecaries' Hall in the City of London, there are a number of talks of pharmacy history interest. Each lecture starts at 6pm with a drinks reception afterwards and the option to stay for supper.

Some historical highlights include:

- Pests, Plagues and Patients: 900 Year of Hospital Care in the City of London, with speaker Dr Robert Treharne Jones, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023
- The ubiquitous Mr Burroughs and the origins of Big Pharma, with speaker Julia Sheppard, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024.
- A Spoonful of Sugar: Polio, public health and protection, with speaker Natasha McEnroe, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

More details and booking here: <https://www.apothecaries.org/events/category/faculty-hp-cc-events/>

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## BSHP in Brittany - Part 1 - by Dr Chris Duffin, BSHP President



You might remember an appeal for potential papers in an earlier edition of the BSHP Gazette; Dr Manon Auffret President of the International Society for the History of the Neurosciences (ISHN) and as a member of our Society she was keen to forge links with the BSHP at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the ISHN, held in Rennes, Brittany.

The conference took place over 5 days (July 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>) and the scientific sessions were held in a well-equipped lecture hall at the Maison des Associations. The content was wide-ranging with topic sessions including neurology in early cinema, controversies in neurology, neuropathology, memory, psychiatry, amnesia and domestic developments in neurology in various countries.

The conference was truly international with delegates from many European and North American countries.

One session was dedicated to exploring links between the histories of pharmacy and the neurosciences and consisted of two talks given by Dr Chris Duffin: *Anti-epileptic gems and amulets* and *Austro-Bavarian folklore approaches to Epilepsy*, the abstracts for which will appear in the next Gazette. In addition, Manon addressed her favourite topic – the history of

Apomorphine, (part of which will be familiar from her talks to BSHP conference attendees) – in her Presidential address.

Additional talks with a pharmaceutical interest included (1) Joao Tavares (Lisbon) who examined the 1959 Denber study in which the first American clinical trial of haloperidol cast doubt on the efficacy and side effects of the drug, and (2) Eglė Sakalauskaitė-Juodeikienė (Vilnius) who summarised the broad range of medicines used in the treatment of nervous system diseases in Vilnius during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

We were also treated to guided tours of the surviving medieval parts of the old town of Rennes and the historic French port of Saint Malo. The conference Reception was held in an impressive suite at Rennes City Hall and the conference dinner was enjoyed at the sumptuous Chateau de Montmarin. In addition, we had the opportunity to browse through special displays of books organised by the Université de Rennes.

Another highlight was a visit to the Conservatoire du Patrimoine Hospitalier de Rennes (CPHR; [www.cphr.fr](http://www.cphr.fr)) Amongst the exhibits covering many aspects of the history of medicine in Rennes, and situated over two floors, was an interesting display of pharmaceutical items. The centrepiece was a set of 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century pharmacy shelves housing a wide range of contemporary and later drug jars and examples of French proprietary medicines.

Notable additions included a large theriac and various hospital jars, a mache-bouchon (for compressing and softening corks prior to insertion into the necks of bottles) in the shape of a salamander, and various everyday items of pharmaceutical use such as pill and suppository makers.

*Right : 18<sup>th</sup> century drug jar for Theriac  
(Conservatoire du Patrimoine Hospitalier de Rennes)*



All agreed that Manon had masterminded a most successful conference which cultivated the friendly exchange of ideas and encouraged future co-operation.

Part 2 of this article, appearing next quarter, will include the abstracts of the two BSHP papers mentioned above plus some more photos.

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## New Book - “Modern Medicines from Plants”

Being launched this month is a new book “Modern Medicines from Plants – Botanical histories of some of modern medicine’s most important drugs”, edited by Henry Oakley and published by the Royal College of Physicians.

Details of how to order can be found here where a 20% discount on the full price of £44.99 is available to the end of the year:

<https://shop.rcplondon.ac.uk/products/modern-medicines-from-plants?variant=40238963785806>

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## Secretariat Office - Change of Address

Our Secretariat Office is relocating from 2<sup>nd</sup> October when its new address will be as follows:

Association Enterprises, Unit 9, Cartwright Court, Cartright Way, Bardon Hill, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 1UE

Phone numbers and emails remain the same as before

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## Contacts

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