



# BSHP Gazette

The Newsletter of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy

December 2018

Number 7

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## Seasons Greetings from the President

I am pleased to report another successful year for our Society.

We must thank the University College London, School of Pharmacy for the continuing use of their facilities where we have attended three most interesting lectures arranged by our Programme Secretary, Dr Chris Duffin.

The Annual Conference back in March/April was in Nottingham. Briony Hudson, our Conference Organiser, gave us an interesting programme and the opportunity to visit the very extensive Boots Archive for our Saturday excursion.

Our Summer Visit was to the Science Museum's Repository at Blythe House where the staff had organised a tour of items of medical interest especially for us.

My thanks go to the very supportive Committee and my very best wishes go to you all for Christmas and the New Year.

I hope to see many of you in Portsmouth.

Peter Homan  
BSHP President

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## Annual Conference: 29-31 March 2019 "Pharmacy and the Sea" - Best Western Royal Beach Hotel Southsea, Portsmouth

Enclosed with this December mailing you will have found full details about our 2019 conference together with a separate booking form. Our thanks must go to Briony Hudson, our Conference Organiser, for putting together another great programme. Please note the deadline for applications is Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February. Our AGM will be held on the Sunday morning at 9.30am. Please contact Briony with any queries by using this email : [conference@bshp.org](mailto:conference@bshp.org).

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## Membership Subscriptions 2019

Also enclosed with this December's information is a membership subscription renewal invoice at our new rate of £30. Please study carefully the payment options, two of which are new this year. Thank you to those who have switched over to Direct Debit – as said before we really want to encourage everyone to do this by switching over from Standing Orders.

Repeated here is the web access link which is also shown on the invoice:

<https://pay.gocardless.com/AL0001TKYA1VW4>

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## Any Budding Treasurers out there?

Deborah Bishop our Treasurer, having done her three years, wants to hand over the role to someone else. Any new Treasurer would need to become one of the BSHP's four Charity Trustees and ideally (but not necessarily) would need to attend our Committee meetings. Deborah would give full handover instructions and training during 2019. Further information is available from Deborah via the email [treasurer@bshp.org](mailto:treasurer@bshp.org). Please consider helping us if you can as this Society simply cannot operate without someone in this key position. Thank you.

## Evening meeting at UCL on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October

This was our last evening lecture of the year and we enjoyed hearing about "The Enlightened Mr Parkinson". The talk was given by Dr Cherry Lewis who is Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Bristol School of Earth Sciences. We learnt that no picture seems to exist of James Parkinson, it is thought however that the image on the front cover of Cherry's book (taken from "The Village Apothecary" courtesy of the Wellcome Collection) might well have been him given that he was a village apothecary who practiced in Hoxton, Shoreditch where his father was an apothecary surgeon.

Having heard all about his background and career in London in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century we were told of his political writings and activities under the pseudonym "Old Hubert" done alongside his association with Daniel Isaac Eaton a radical writer and publisher. James was acquitted of plotting against the King and after this carried on with some pioneering work in medicine. Not many of us knew about his main interest in fossils and in particular his study of ammonites. He is even commemorated by the name of the ammonite *Parkinsonia parkinsoni*.

One day he noticed a medical condition causing someone to flex and to shake and which caused him to be curious, so much so that he became the first to identify the symptoms here versus other forms of tremor. In 1817 his famous book "An Essay on Shaking Palsy" was published. Eventually this condition became known as Parkinson's Disease and for which there is still no known cure.

He died on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1824 having suffered a stroke. He left his apothecary's shop to his son, John. His collection of organic remains was given to his wife - much of it was sold but neither these nor a sale catalogue have ever been found. He was buried at St. Leonard's Church, Shoreditch where his life is commemorated with a stone tablet, the exact site of his grave is not known. His body may lie in the crypt or in the churchyard. A blue plaque at 1 Hoxton Square marks the site of his home.

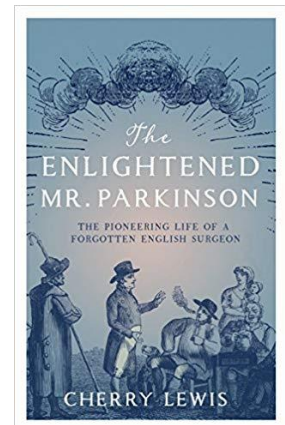
Cherry was thanked for her informative talk which was enjoyed by us and by a number of students.



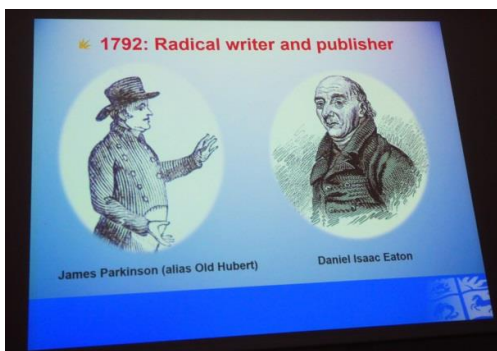
Dr Cherry Lewis



1 Hoxton Square (Wellcome)



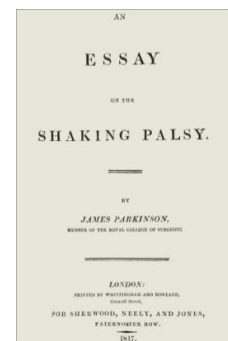
Her book



Showing possible image of James Parkinson and also Daniel Eaton



Ammonite given his name



His 1817 book

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## Theft from RPS Museum

The RPS Headquarters building in East Smithfield was broken into during the early morning of Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Sadly the "first president's chain" was stolen from a museum case which was smashed into by the lone intruder. This chain, shown on the right, was engraved with all the names of all past Presidents from 1841-1968. It dates from 1901 and comprises 58 panels in 18-carat gold. There is a second chain which is worn by the current President. The alarms did sound while the two doors into the main reception area were smashed open. The Police were called and the facilities team attended soon afterwards.

Needless to say the item in question is irreplaceable and our sympathies go to the RPS Museum staff who were understandably shocked and saddened by this tragic loss of a precious historical artefact.



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## Pharmaceutical Historian : An International Journal for the History of Pharmacy

With this mailing you will have received the latest printed copy of our journal (Volume 48 Number 4, December 2018). All the issues from the start of 2017 are available online as open access pdfs through Ingenta Connect. This is where you can access them: [www.ingentaconnect.com/content/bshp](http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/bshp).

All the pre-2017 back issues of the *Pharmaceutical Historian* have been digitized and are available on an open access basis. They can be accessed directly using this link: <http://publikationsserver.tu-braunschweig.de/get/65362>.

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## Dates for your diary

Monday 13 May (5.30pm)	"Pharmacopoeia Londinensis 1618 and its descendants" by Professor Clare Fowler, University College, London.
June/July	Details of our Summer visit will be circulated in March. We have two options at present, one a visit to Kew, the second 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. If either one interests you then please let us know in order to help us gauge which one to organise.
Monday 14 October (5.30pm)	"Animal, Vegetable, Mineral and ? : Dr John Addenbrooke's Cabinet of Materia Medica" by Henrietta McBurney Ryan, Newham College, Cambridge.

Advance notice : We are planning to run the 3 day pharmacy history course with the Apothecaries again next summer from 1-3 July. More details will follow next year.

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## New members

We would like to give a warm welcome to the following new members :

- John Shaw, Nottingham
- Kyren Burns, Milton Keynes
- Sheikh Mohammed Riyadul Karim, Rainham
- Rana Bains, Derbyshire

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## Contacts

Facebook: British Society for the History of Pharmacy  
BSHP Secretariat : [info@bshp.org](mailto:info@bshp.org)

Twitter : @PharmHist



*Hofmannus luteus.*  
Yellow Henbane.



Image reproduced by kind permission of the Royal Society of Medicine

# *Henry VIII's 'sorre legge'*

*Lecture by*  
*Prof. Anne Charlton*

*Professor Emerita of Cancer Health Education*  
*University of Manchester Medical School*

**Monday 4 February 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)