

# BSHP GAZETTE

NEWS FROM THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY



## A note from the President

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

Many thanks to Dr Chris Duffin for stepping in at short notice on 8 July to speak on “Geological drugs and prophylactics – a look at the historical uses of fossils, minerals and rocks in the prevention and treatment of disease”. Both our autumn talks are new: please see page 4 for details.

It has been six years since the Society last awarded its highest honour, the **Leslie Matthews Medal** for original and scholarly work in the history of British pharmacy. I am very grateful to the awards committee, led by Catherine Walker, for choosing two recipients for 2024, representing something of the Society’s breadth of interests: **Dr Anne Stobart**, expert on 17th century domestic medicine and founder of the Herbal History Network, and **Dr Christopher Duffin**, former President, and expert on geology and pharmacy.

We expect to read the citations and present the medals at our exciting spring meeting in Worcester on **5 April 2025**. Worcester is a very attractive cathedral city, full of character and warmly recommended for a stay. I hope to meet you there.



DR ANNE STOBART  
& DR CHRIS DUFFIN

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# 2025 Annual conference date & call for papers

by Briony Hudson

## SATURDAY 5 APRIL 2025

Save the date for our annual conference, to be held at the **George Marshall Medical Museum in Worcester**. Join us for a packed programme of talks, socialising, our Annual General Meeting, and plenty of time to explore this wonderful museum. We are also planning visits for the afternoon of the Friday (4th) if you'd like to extend your stay.

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

Our conference theme is inspired by our location Worcester. As the place where the precursor to the British Medical Association was founded in 1832, and the home to two medical museums, our focus is the interaction between pharmacy and its history with other professions and disciplines.

**Call for Papers & Posters:** Perhaps you'd like to talk about past pharmacists' relationships with other health practitioners. You could investigate areas of overlap between historical pharmacy practice and other disciplines. Or you might have a case study where pharmacy history meets another field of study. 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.



THE GEORGE MARSHALL MEDICAL MUSEUM IN WORCESTER. ALL IMAGES: GMMM.



INSIDE THE MUSEUM.

Please contact conference organiser, **Briony Hudson** ([conference@bshp.org](mailto:conference@bshp.org)), with a short outline of your proposed contribution (250 words) - or with any queries – by **Friday 8 November 2024**.

Programme details including an associated visits and social programme and booking form will be issued with the December Gazette and via our website.

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



More about the venue here:

<https://medicalmuseum.org.uk/georgemarshallmuseum/>



## Pharmaceutical Historian

With this mailing you are receiving the September 2024 issue of the *Pharmaceutical Historian*, (Volume 54, Number 3). This issue includes an article by two Chinese pharmaceutical historians, **Zhu Zhu** and **Zhang Bo**, on the life and work of Moody Meng (1897-1983), a pioneer in pharmaceutical education and the founder of the Chinese Pharmacopoeia, who was recently elected a Posthumous Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, marking the 100th anniversary of his qualifying as a pharmaceutical chemist at the Society's School and the addition of his name to the Register.

Also included in this number is an article by two pharmaceutical historians from Japan, **Yohko Natsume** and **Mitsuhiko Nose**, on medicinal plants named Amrta in Ayurvedic formulations. There is also an article by immediate past president **Chris Duffin** on Theodore Turquet de Mayerne and his Balsam of Bats, 1677. The issue is rounded off with a review of **Patrick Chiu's** new book, *A History of Western Pharmacy in China* by **Halil Tekiner**, the president of the International Society for the History of Pharmacy.

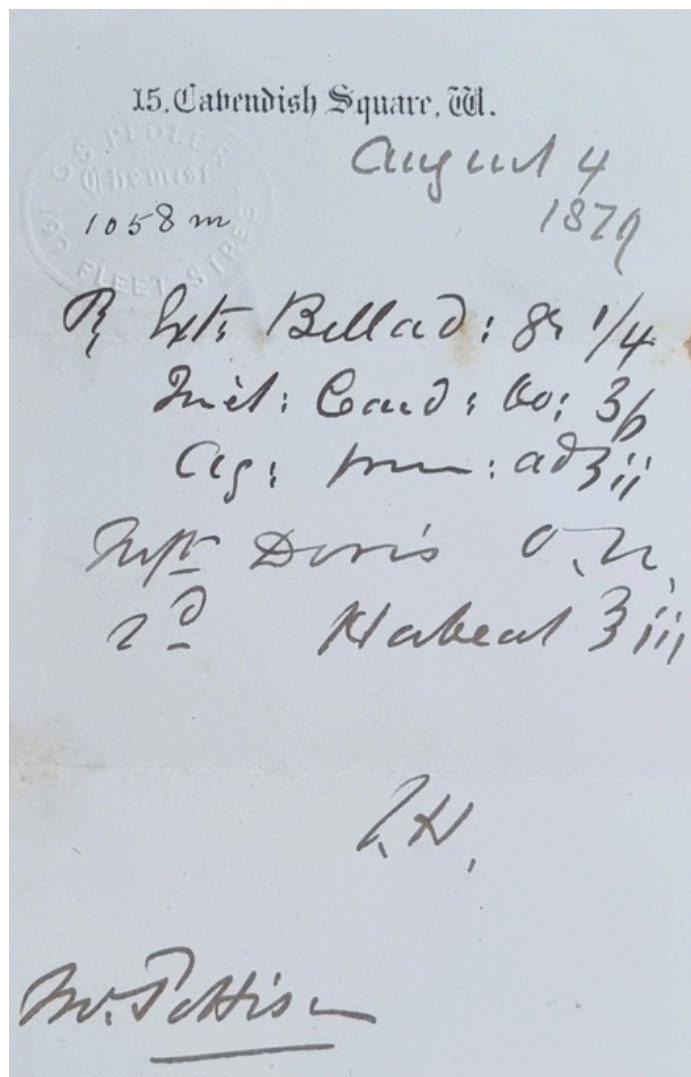
### Peter Homan Grant Scheme

**£500.** Open for applications.

Deadline 30 November.

Granted twice a year by the British Society for the History of Pharmacy.

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



## Can you help?

A BSHP member has asked for help in deciphering a set of three scribbled prescriptions (see one example above).

Please view the rest of the images in Google Drive link given below (use the digital Gazette for access):

[ACCESS PRESCRIPTIONS LINK](#)

If you think you can help, please email: [editor@bsHP.org](mailto:editor@bsHP.org)

## 2024 BSHP EVENTS

**7 OCTOBER 18.30-19.30 BST, [ONLINE], FREE**

**Dr Shahina A. Ghazanfar (rescheduled)**

**Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew**

*History of medicinal plants in the Qur'an & other religious texts.*



**25 NOVEMBER 18.30-19.30 BST, [ONLINE], FREE**

**Dr Kim Walker**

**Royal Holloway / Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew**

*The making of a quinologist: Cinchona and quinine science in the work of John Eliot Howard (1807-1883)*

Please note the talk on post-war pharmacy in the Philippines by Dr Cruz Gutierrez has been postponed to 2025

**Watch previous online talks on our youtube channel:**

<https://www.youtube.com/c/BSHPBritishSocietyfortheHistoryofPharmacy>

**BOOK YOUR PLACE: EVENTS@BSHP.ORG**

## News from members

In May **Stuart Anderson** gave a presentation entitled 'Pharmacy in Britain and its Empire', as part of the Webinar Empires, China, and Modern Pharmacy, organised by Springer Nature to mark the publication of the book *Western Pharmacy in Modern China* by Patrick Chiu. And in August he gave a keynote address entitled 'Pharmacy in Britain and the Indian sub-continent in the Age of Empire' at the South Asian Heritage Month meeting held at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society Headquarters in London.



## OTHER EVENTS

**OPEN HOUSE, SEPTEMBER 2024**

**Royal Pharmaceutical Society, London** (21/9)

**Royal College of Physicians, Regent's Park**, (21/9)

**Linnean Society, Piccadilly** (21/9)

**Apothecaries Hall, Blackfriars** (22/9)

**Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Edinburgh** (28/9)

Click the links above or see:

<https://programme.openhouse.org.uk/>

16 October 2024, 10am - 4.30pm

**Conference: Converging Influences in the History of Western Herbal Medicine & Practice**

Herbal History Research Network, London

<https://www.herbalhistory.org/home/seminars/>

28 October, 5pm - 8pm [Online]

**British Society for the History of Medicine**

**Webinar & Poynter Lecture** <https://bshh.org.uk/>

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