



# BSHP Gazette

The Newsletter of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy

September 2020

Number 14

## Editorial

With the on-going restrictions caused by the pandemic we have decided that we must hold our delayed AGM virtually using Zoom software and, as previously intimated, this will be on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October which was a scheduled meeting date. The second part of our 2019 annual report appears in this issue (Part 1 was in the June issue) Please see page 4 for full information on the AGM and for an agenda.

We hope that you will find this edition of newsletter of interest but it continues to be frustrating for us, in these challenging times, that we cannot organize any meetings or other activities for you all.

## News update

**BURNBY MEMORIAL BURSARY AND RESEARCH GRANT 2021** – The application forms for these are available on our website by looking at our awards page : <https://www.bshp.org/awards/>

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE** It is still our intention to hold our postponed annual conference at the Copthorne Hotel in Salford, Manchester from 26<sup>th</sup> March–28<sup>th</sup> March 2021. All being well full details will be issued with our December mailing.

**NEW MEMBERS** – We welcome Marianne Datiles who is doing pharmacy research at the UCL School of Pharmacy, also Catherine Walker who is the new Museum Officer at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

## Obituary - Roger Mills:

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Roger on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020 at the age of 81. Those who knew him were aware of how he had suffered with illness for over 20 years. His funeral was held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August with only a few able to be present. Because of this it was broadcast as a webcast.

Roger became President of BSHP in 2010 and 2011. After this he became our Treasurer until 2015.

Roger choose all the music for his funeral service which was held at Easthampstead Park Crematorium in Bracknell. This decision in itself was so appropriate given what an important part classical music and opera played in his and his wife Sylvia's life.

Indeed during her brave tribute to her husband, she said that Roger had listed all the musical performances they had attended on a spreadsheet resulting in a grand total of 2052 entries (which included 384 operas and 1500 concerts). One of key themes shared was that he had spent his life "financing music".

His best man and long-time friend Robin gave details of Roger's education (pharmacy degree at Chelsea, and chemistry degree at Durham) and his career (May & Baker, Richardson-Vicks USA, and then as a manager in retail pharmacy).

One of the best memories, among the many shared on the day, was that he was "marvellously opinionated" but that he always remained a true gentleman.

We all owe him a big debt of gratitude for his support of BSHP and also of pharmacy history over many years. Our thoughts are with his wife and family.



Roger as BSHP President at the 2010 Annual Conference in Llanelli

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## Obituary - Andrew Hardy:

Dr Andrew Hardy, author and co-author of a number of contributions to the *Pharmaceutical Historian*, died of cancer on 13<sup>th</sup> July at his home in Devon. Born in Sidcup, Kent, in 1946, he studied chemistry at Durham University, and in 1970 was awarded a DPhil in X-Ray Crystallography at the University of Sussex. After teaching at Glasgow, he spent five years working as a government scientist at the Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) in Preston. (Having signed the Official Secrets Act, he revealed little of what the work entailed other than to remark: 'We used to joke that we did the unspeakable to the unmentionable.')

In 1986 he went to the Gulf state of Oman, where he was to spend twelve happy years teaching at the newly-founded Sultan Qaboos University in Muscat. This was to prove a turning-point in his life and career, leaving him not only with a deep affection for the country and its people, but also with a new and abiding interest in the history of medicine and folk-medicine. He examined, for example, the components – and health implications – of *kohl*, a widely-used cosmetic. This led, among other scholarly work, to the writing and production of a little handbook – designed, as he put it, to fit 'into a doctor's white-coat hip pocket' – entitled *Inorganic Ethnic Remedies of Oman and the GCC States* (1999) – an illustrated guide to medicines, cosmetics, and spices from Akar Fasi (a red powder used as a face cosmetic) to Zaibakah (a silver-white liquid used for medicinal purposes and to ward off the evil eye).

After returning to the UK in 1998, he spent his last two decades in Devon, where he was an Honorary Research Fellow in the history department at the University of Exeter. Working largely from his home in Honiton, he collaborated with a small circle of like-minded specialists in Europe, the Middle East and elsewhere who remember him as a quiet, self-effacing man and a generous colleague and friend.

The above tribute was contributed by his brother. Stuart Anderson, editor *Pharmaceutical Historian*, advises that there are still 3 articles of Andrew's to be published.

The first on a 'Poison antidote powder' is in the September 2020 *Pharmaceutical Historian* (Volume 50 No.3) mailed out with this Gazette. The remaining two contributions are on "A study of a Kidney Stones powder' and on a "Greek cosmetic (pyxis) pot" respectively. These have not yet been scheduled for publication, but at least one should make an appearance during 2021.

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## Other deaths of Members

We are also sad to report two other deaths. Firstly Harkishan Singh from India who contributed articles regularly to the *Pharmaceutical Historian*. A review of Singh's career will be published in the journal next year. There are no pending contributions from him.

Lastly we remember Norma Irvine who only joined the Society in 2018 around the time she started as a volunteer in the RPS Museum.

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## Annual Report 2019 Highlights - Part 2

### Committee Meetings -

The Committee met three times during the year. The members who have served in the 2019 calendar year were:

Mr R T Allcorn	(19)	Mr P G Homan	(18)
Dr S C Anderson	(18)	Ms B Hudson	(19)
Mr J Betts	(19)	Dr M H Jepson	(17)
Mrs D Bishop	(19)	Dr M Nesbitt	(18)
Dr C Duffin	(19)	Ms M Wake	(17)
Dr S Ellis	(17)	Ms K Walker	(18)

Ainley Wade (Vice-President in 2018) decided not to stand for re-election in 2019.

**Pharmaceutical Historian** - Four issues of the *Pharmaceutical Historian : An International Journal for the History of Pharmacy* (Vol. 49, Nos. 1,2,3,4) were published during the year in March, June, September and December. Stuart Anderson continued with the editorship following the new arrangement in 2017 to publish the journal on-line (with Ingenta) and thus internationally with the International Society for the History of Pharmacy (ISHP). Printed copies continued to be produced and sent to all members.

**BSHP Gazette** - Four issues of the Gazette, our quarterly newsletter, were produced and mailed out to coincide with the four issues of the *Pharmaceutical Historian*. This continued to be four pages of news, details of events past and forthcoming, and other information including many photographs reproduced in full colour.

**Website** - Our website was kept updated with full information about our forthcoming events. Other information such as details of our awards etc the online application form (with ability to pay by PayPal) and a full list of contacts can be found at [www.bshp.org](http://www.bshp.org).

**Awards** - Alongside our existing Burnby Memorial Bursary, we continued to offer the Annual Pharmacy History Research Grant with the aim of stimulating research by pharmacy students, pharmacists and pharmacy historians.

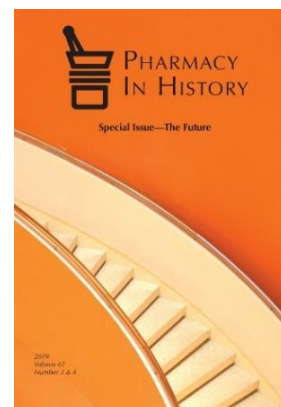
**Appreciation** For 2019 the Committee once again wished to put on record its thanks to the UCL School of Pharmacy for the assistance with facilities for meetings and to John Betts, Keeper of Museum Collections, at the Museum of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society for their help and support.

## Accessing pharmacy history material at home

We mentioned last time sources such as the RPS Museum website, all the digitised pharmacy history material on the Wellcome Library website and where past digitised issues of the *Pharmaceutical Historian* are located.

Wellcome Library staff have kindly activated online access to *Pharmacy in History*, the American equivalent of the *Pharmaceutical Historian*. It has been the flagship journal of the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy since 1959. All back issues are available via JSTOR to library members online, including the important special issue (61: 3-4, 2019) on the Future of the History of Pharmacy, which includes papers by Briony Hudson (Challenging Collections and Collecting Challenges), Stuart Anderson (The Post-Pharmaceutical Era) and Anna Greenwood and Hilary Ingram (One Future: Unpacking Empire and Colonialism). This is a very welcome development as the print journal is held by very few libraries in Europe.

In normal circumstances it is necessary to visit the Wellcome Library for membership (<https://wellcomelibrary.org/using-the-library/joining-the-library/>); while the Library is shut for COVID-19 short-term memberships are available online by emailing [library@wellcome.ac.uk](mailto:library@wellcome.ac.uk).



## Events

1) The BSHM and the Osler Club of London have come together to organise an event ("Sir William Osler 1849-1919: The relevance of his Legacy Today") that will be "virtual" owing to current circumstances. An array of outstanding speakers have agreed to participate in the Osler Legacy meeting. This will provide a unique opportunity to mark the contribution of Sir William Osler in the year of the centenary of his death.

The biennial Poynter Lecture "The great Republic of Medicine knows and has known no national boundaries", organised by the BSHM will be given by Dr John Ward, a noted Oslerian and Past President of the BSHM and Osler Club. Registration for this event (£10 per registrant) will allow attendance at both meetings.

BSHP Members can apply for this event. For further details contact [admin@bshp.org.uk](mailto:admin@bshp.org.uk).

2) The American Institute of the History of Pharmacy (AIHP) are holding a free online streaming festival over 5 days in September - see <https://aihp.org/new-social-history-festival/>. It is co-hosted with the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy and is entitled "A New Social History of Pharmacy & Pharmaceuticals". The Festival runs from Thursday, September 24 through to Tuesday, September 29, 2020.

3) The full 2020-21 programme for the Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy is now open for bookings. See <https://www.apothecaries.org/faculty-events/>.

The image is a poster for an event. At the top left is a small portrait of Sir William Osler. The main text reads: 'The Osler Club of London and the BSHM', '1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 Virtual Online Meeting', '16.00 UK time', 'Sir William Osler 1849-1919: The Relevance of his Legacy Today'. Below this, it lists speakers: Prof Dame Jane Dacre (Professor of Medical Education), Dr Hilary Morris (Medical Historian and Educator), Dr James Lu Shen (Writer and former General Practitioner), and Dr Daniel Sokol (Barrister and Medical Ethicist). It then says 'Followed at 18.00 UK time by the 19<sup>th</sup> Poynter Lecture' by Dr John WK Ward (MB ChB FRCPEd FRCGP DChB(ORCS) DFFP). A quote from William Osler is included: "The great Republic of Medicine knows and has known no national boundaries" - William Osler, the great medical internationalist. Registration and payment details are provided at the bottom, including the cost per person (£10) and the deadline (25th September).

The Apothecaries' summer online Explorer courses are also available to join until 16 September. With 3 themes to choose from, participants have access to recorded lectures to watch at their leisure and 2 live Zoom discussions with speakers and other delegates. More details here: <https://www.apothecaries.org/apoth-explorer-course/>

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## Annual General Meeting Agenda and Joining Details Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 4pm - Online via Zoom\*

1. Introduction and Apologies for Absence
2. Presentation of last year's Annual Report, 1 January – 31 December 2019 (pre-circulated with the June and September Gazettes)
3. Finances
  - Presentation of the Financial Report and Balance Sheet for 2019 – to be formally agreed
4. Election of members to the Society's committee:
  - Nominations received, accepted and to be confirmed:
    - Shirley Ellis
    - Michael Jepson
    - Mark Nesbitt
5. Election of Officers -Nominations received, accepted and to be voted on:

President:	Chris Duffin
Vice-President:	Mark Nesbitt
Honorary Secretary:	Roy Allcorn
Honorary Treasurer:	Deborah Bishop
6. Election of an independent examiner (auditor)
7. Membership - a verbal update will be given
8. Awards – an update regarding:
  - (i) Burnby Memorial Bursary 2020
  - (ii) Pharmacy History Research Grant
9. Any Other Business

### **\*How to take part using Zoom software**

Firstly if you wish to participate you need to request the signing-in details ideally by emailing Honorary Secretary ([honsec@bshp.org](mailto:honsec@bshp.org)). You could write in for these\* but signing-in needs you to have an internet connection and a device, ideally with a camera, that can handle the link.

Once you make contact we can email you a web link, the 2019 Annual Accounts and any other relevant information. Enter the website address provided into your web browser. You will be prompted to download and run a small programme which runs Zoom on your computer. There is no need to create a Zoom account. If you have not used Zoom before, please log in about 10 minutes before the meeting so as to set up. Zoom meetings can be seen and heard on most computers and phones. If your device lacks a microphone you will not be able speak at the meeting. You can send us any written comments\* on the agenda from now onwards by email preferably or by post.

Instructions on how to participate in the meeting, e.g. asking questions or voting, will be given at the beginning.

If you are unable to participate in the meeting via Zoom then please send Roy Allcorn, Honorary Secretary, your apologies for absence using the email address above.

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## Contacts

Facebook: British Society for the History of Pharmacy

Twitter : @PharmHist

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

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