



# BSHP Gazette

The Newsletter of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy

September 2021

Number 18

## Editorial

Many things are slowly getting back to normal and we hope that this latest issue of our quarterly newsletter will give you a suitable insight into our plans going forward. There are a lot of interesting future events to choose from, many from ourselves and some from related societies. We trust that you will find something of interest. Some of these events are in-person and some virtual. We are excited at the prospect of being able to hold our first in-person conference since March 2019. Also, it would be great if as many of you as possible could sign-up for our virtual AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> October (see below).

## BSHP Annual Conference 2022 - Salford, Greater Manchester: "Collectors, Collections and Collecting".

Next year's conference is planned as one based on meeting in person. At long last it will be at the Copthorne Hotel from Friday 25<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March. We very much hope you will be able to join us for a sociable weekend of talks, visits and plenty of chances to catch up with friends, old and new. Full details and a booking form will be sent out with the next Gazette in December, or will be available on our website at [www.bshp.org/events/ShowEvent.asp?E=45](http://www.bshp.org/events/ShowEvent.asp?E=45).

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. 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 - or with any queries - by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November.

## BSHP 54<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting 2021

We held our last Annual General Meeting online on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020. By necessity this was a catch-up meeting as due to the pandemic we were unable to hold one as planned in March 2020 and the AGM prior to this had been way back in March 2019.

In an attempt to get back on track please be advised that we will hold our 54<sup>th</sup> AGM for Members at 4pm on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October. Again, this will be online only using Zoom. A formal agenda plus supporting documents will be issued nearer the date to any Member who wishes to participate. To sign-up for this please email Roy Allcorn, Honorary Secretary, using [honsec@bshp.org](mailto:honsec@bshp.org).

The meeting will be asked to approve the Annual Report for 2020 and the 2020 Annual Accounts, then to ratify members of the committee. The AGM will include, amongst other things, the usual updates on the BSHP Awards, Membership Matters and the RPS Museum. An AGM for the election of Officers (Charity Trustees) will be held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at the conference. If any Members wish to join the Committee then please notify the Honorary Secretary as above. Likewise, if there are any items you wish to raise at the October AGM then please advise these well before the meeting.

## Pharmaceutical Historian - Volume 51 No.3

With this latest mailing you are receiving the September 2021 issue of our flagship international journal for the History of Pharmacy. This issue includes the last article written by the late Andrew Hardy.

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## Remembering Peter - A summary

Since the sad news of Peter Homan's death, reported in June, we have the following to share:

### 1) Memorial Day 20<sup>th</sup> August

Members of Peter's family along with some friends and BSHP colleagues attended this memorial event in his home town of Epsom. Firstly, all assembled at the small chapel at Epsom Cemetery to hear memories from family members plus one by Briony Hudson aptly entitled "I don't like change" and a repeat of the eulogy given by friend Philip Smalley which he gave at Peter's funeral.

Then all went to the graveside for the interment of Peter's ashes alongside those of his beloved wife Chris. Following this everyone went to nearby Epsom Race Course for a buffet lunch where a table of photographs and personal items, such as certificates, had been arranged (see right).



Note the beer bottles placed top left.



### 2) Peter's Pharmacy Artefact Collection

His extensive collection has been bequeathed to our Society and we are pleased to announce that a special display case (see left) has been organized at the RPS Museum by Catherine Walker, Museum Officer and member of the BSHP Committee.

Unfortunately, much of the RPS office building and thus the Museum remain closed. The photograph shows you part of what she chose to showcase in his honour.

In this way and through this case of items that he collected over many years, the aim is that these objects will continue to bring enjoyment, interest and support to many learning about aspects of the fascinating history of pharmacy.

His library of books also bequeathed to us will be discussed further at the next BSHP Committee meeting in October. Some items are already allocated to the Library of the Society of Apothecaries.

### 3) Peter Homan Memorial Bursary

Our October Committee meeting will discuss the aims and objectives of this proposed new award which will be a natural successor to the Nita Burnby Bursary award. Ideas here are welcomed. Thank you to those who have contributed already financially to the fund. Donations are still most welcome and if you are interested then please contact Roy Allcorn, Honorary Secretary.

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## Aspirin 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium - Appeal for Information

Aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid) was first synthesised, at least for therapeutic purposes, by the Bayer company on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1897; BSHP and BSHM are currently in the early stages of investigating the possibility of holding a joint meeting to mark the upcoming 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The potential scope of the meeting might include: use of plant-derived medicines in ancient history; the roles of individuals in the rediscovery and evaluation of salicylic acid; the rise of industrial chemistry; marketing of consumer-aimed pharmaceutical products in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century; the contribution of the pharmaceutical industry to the horrors of the world wars; the proliferation of pain killers in the 20<sup>th</sup> century; development of gold-standard methodology to answer pharmaceutical research questions; Aspirin's place in popular culture; Aspirin's role today, novel approaches and applications.

Are any Members aware of anyone who has aspirin as a research focus, or whose research might complement the aims of the meeting? If so, please contact Chris Duffin ([president@bshp.org](mailto:president@bshp.org)) with your suggestions.

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## Society of Apothecaries

### 1) Online Pharmacy History Explorer Course:

Our Society is pleased to be working with the Faculty for the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy at the Society of Apothecaries to present a new online course this Autumn. Directed by Stuart Anderson and Briony Hudson, we hope you will join us for an exploration of pharmacy history from the perspectives of patients, controlled substances, and wider histories.

With a range of international speakers, delegates can access pre-recorded online lectures at their own pace during September and October, and take part in live Zoom discussions with the speakers during November. Full details and booking form can be found here: [www.apothecaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Online-course-application-prog-2021Vs6.pdf](http://www.apothecaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Online-course-application-prog-2021Vs6.pdf) .

The course will go live from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September. BSHP is supporting a limited number of student places at £30, with the full price being £60.

### 2) Pharmacy History Talk:

Briony Hudson is giving a pharmacy history talk - "**A great rage for mahogany, varnish and expensive floor-cloth: London pharmacy shops**" - for the Friends of the Archives at the Society of Apothecaries on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September, following their AGM at 6pm at Apothecaries' Hall. For further details and to book your place, contact [friends@apothecaries.org](mailto:friends@apothecaries.org).

### 3) 2021/2 Courses and Evening Lecture Programme:

The Society's Faculty for the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy has launched its future courses and evening lecture programme. More details on the lecture programme can be found here: [www.apothecaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Faculty-Prog-Flier-2021-22\\_FD.pdf](http://www.apothecaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Faculty-Prog-Flier-2021-22_FD.pdf) and on the courses here: [www.apothecaries.org/courses/](http://www.apothecaries.org/courses/). Note that you do not have to attend the full history or philosophy courses or sit the diplomas - there are day rates if a particular course day appeals to you.

### 4) Bark, Berries and Bitter Pills:

This virtual symposium, held by the Faculty in May, covered plant-based remedies focusing on their history, cultural context, and how they continue to be important in mainstream medical practice.

They attracted a broad range of speakers as follows:

- Dr Noel Snell "Plant-based Treatments in Respiratory Medicine".
- Professor Michael Heinrich "Quality, Safety and Evidence of Herbal Medicines from an Ethnopharmacological Perspective".
- Professor Mark Nesbitt, Kim Walker and Dr William Parker in conversation about "Kew, Quinine and writing 'Just the Tonic'".
- Dr Yewande Okuleye "Cannabis Flowers: Poison or Medicine".
- Kim Walker "Recreating Historical Techniques for Cinchona Preparation".

They held a poster competition where the winner was Je Ern Chooi for his one dealing with "The Story of Aspirin – Botanical and Chemical Insights". For all the posters please see:

[www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/65600821/bbb-poster-book-060521](http://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/65600821/bbb-poster-book-060521)

A recording of the event can be found on YouTube - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-x3JbdgGJk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-x3JbdgGJk)

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## New Members

We welcome the following into membership:

- William Parker (Derbyshire)                      Aileen MacDougall (Perth)
- John Minshull (London)

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## Other News

Professor Glenn Sonnedecker, former Director of the American Institute for the History of Pharmacy (AIHP) and a leading historian in the field of the history of pharmacy, died on Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> , at the age of 103. A tribute to him can be found on the AIHP website: [www.aihp.org/remembering-glenn-sonnedecker/](http://www.aihp.org/remembering-glenn-sonnedecker/)

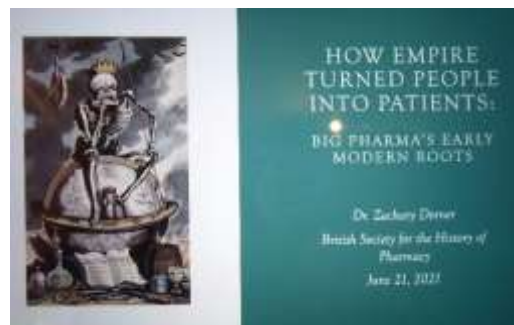
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## Events - BSHP's Virtual Events to date

In June we saw the conclusion of our latest series of online events which were live-streamed using the Zoom platform. You can catch up with all the recordings of the six online lectures and one panel discussion on our YouTube channel at: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCGycostH8KsAE6JnWDsdIvA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGycostH8KsAE6JnWDsdIvA)

**21<sup>st</sup> June "How Empire Turned People into Patients: Big Pharma's Early Modern Roots"** by Dr Zachary Dorner (University of Maryland).

The theme of his talk was that during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, trends in overseas trade, enslaved labour, and colonial warfare hastened a turn toward viewing individuals as interchangeable patients who could be targets of similar medicines. Seeing people this way has had significant consequences for healthcare: altering practices and supporting a globalized pharmaceutical industry.



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## Events -A New Season of Virtual Talks

Given their popularity, especially internationally, we have decided to organise a new programme of online talks. All except December 6<sup>th</sup> are timed as 6.15 for 6.30pm - Details so far are as follows:

**Monday September 13<sup>th</sup>**

Dr Ted Bergman from the University of St Andrews will speak on "Women Apothecaries and the Law in Early Modern Spain: Three Case Studies".

**Monday October 11<sup>th</sup>**

Joao Neto, Director of the History of Pharmacy Museum in Lisbon, will give a talk about some treasures in their collection.

**Monday November 15<sup>th</sup>**

Lucy Santos will give a talk on 'Tales from the Radium era' (final title to be confirmed).

**Monday December 6<sup>th</sup>**

Anne Grons from the Institute of the History of Pharmacy and Medicine, University of Marburg, will speak on "Coptic Pharmacological Prescriptions". Please note time here : 7.15 for 7.30pm

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## Other Information

1) We've had advance notice of a new book by Stuart Anderson. This is entitled "Pharmacy and Professionalization in the British Empire, 1780-1970" and will be published around November by Palgrave MacMillan. Further details are available here: [www.palgrave.com/gb/book/9783030789794](http://www.palgrave.com/gb/book/9783030789794). It will be published initially in hardcover and as an e-book.

2) The Royal Society of Medicine, History of Medicine Society, has invited any interested BSHP Members to register for a series of webinars under the heading "The emergence of medicine and health care up to the present-day". Full details are available at: [www.rsm.ac.uk/events/history-of-medicine/2021-22/hsq50/](http://www.rsm.ac.uk/events/history-of-medicine/2021-22/hsq50/)

3) The British Society for the History of Medicine (BSHM) are holding their 2021 Congress at the University of Sheffield 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> September and this is entitled "The History of Medicine in the Workplace". Please see the June BSHP Gazette for further information.

4) Pier Paolo Daniel Competition:

ISHP's friends at the Italian Academy of the History of Pharmacy have devised a highly attractive competition financially for young researchers (born after 1987)- for full details see:

[www.histpharm.org/Pier\\_Paolo\\_Daniele\\_Competition.pdf](http://www.histpharm.org/Pier_Paolo_Daniele_Competition.pdf)

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## Contacts

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