



BSHP Gazette

The Newsletter of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy

March 2018

Number 4

A Note from the Editor

Welcome to the fourth issue of the BSHP Gazette, our quarterly newsletter for Members. This was launched just over a year ago with the aim of providing information on BSHP and other pharmacy history events and activities that could no longer be included in the *Pharmaceutical Historian*.

Annual Conference : 6-8 April

Plans are well advanced for our 2018 Conference being held at the Best Western Premier Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth, Derbyshire (near Nottingham). All who have booked to attend should have received detailed information in an email in mid-February from Briony Hudson our conference organiser.

Booking is closed now and a very full programme is all set. On the Sunday morning, after our AGM, we will be welcoming Alex Bowmer the winner of this year's Burnby Bursary. His talk is entitled "A View from the Farm: Antimicrobial Resistance Before Antibiotics, c. 1940-1960."

On the Saturday afternoon we are looking forward to a visit to the Boots Archive in Nottingham. There will be a report on this and on the whole conference in the June Gazette.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will take place at 9.30am on Sunday 8 April as part of our conference weekend. Members will be asked to approve last year's Annual Report and our Financial Report for 2017. Elections of Officers will take place and endorsement will be sought for the other members of the current committee. We also want to ask the meeting about the level of membership subscription fees and alternative methods of paying these. If you have any suggestions then please email honsec@bshp.org.

BSHP Website

We are very pleased with our new website launched last October and we recommend that you visit it at www.bshp.org. We do plan to add new information this year and would welcome any suggestions about additional content that you would like to see. We know that we want to include more photographs for example.

Interestingly we have had four new Members join us as a result of the on-line application capability on the new website. This has the new facility for paying subscriptions using PayPal.

Burnby Memorial Bursary 2018

As reported above the winner of this year's Burnby Memorial Bursary was Alex Bowmer, a PhD student from Kings College, London. We were encouraged by having received 8 applications this year, the increase being due largely to publicity on Facebook and Twitter. A number of unsuccessful applicants are presenting posters at the conference.

The Bursary application forms for 2019 will be available in July.

Evening meeting held on Monday 5 February

Here is a summary of this recent event for your information and interest.

Dr Petros Bouras-Vallianatos, shown right, presented his lecture on "Byzantine Pharmacology between East and West" to a large audience at the UCL School of Pharmacy. He is a Wellcome Trust Research Fellow at King's College London, and has made an extensive study of early Greek medicinal manuscripts.

From this research he explained how knowledge was transferred throughout the Mediterranean area in the Byzantine era. In those days sugar syrup was an important medicinal product and especially *Julep* which was this syrup mixed with water. Honey was first used before the widespread introduction of refined sugar.

Examples of recipes from early Greek pharmacopoeia manuscripts were given.



Summer Visit to Blythe House - Friday 8 June

This visit is timed for 11.30am on the above date and the cost will be £10 per head. Blythe House is near Olympia in West London and holds a number of museums' collections including 170,000 objects from the Science Museum which is our main focus of interest as described below.

Please register interest now to Chris Duffin by emailing him at events@bshp.org. He will provide more information on how to apply and how to pay. Places are limited to 12 people.



From stethoscopes to Egyptian Mummies, the Science Museum cares for one of the largest and richest medical collections in the world. At their heart is the Wellcome Collection. Henry Wellcome, of the Burroughs Wellcome and co. drugs company, amassed a fortune from introducing tableted medicines into Britain which he then ploughed into his passions - anthropology, history and the history of medicine. On this tour, there will be an opportunity to see pharmacy glassware and equipment from the early 19th century onwards, an entire room of mortars and pestles as well as stunning ceramicware collected from pharmacies across the globe.

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 1, March 2018). We hope you will like the update to full colour now on the printed copies. All last year's issues and this one are available online as open access pdfs through Ingenta Connect.

You just need to use this link to register and then you can access them:

www.ingentaconnect.com/content/bshp/ph

Once registered you can select which articles you wish to download. The total number of downloads for 2017 was 327 plus another 34 by the end of January, making a total of 361. The most popular papers so far have been Sylvia Michelletti's on Exotic Poisons and Owen Durant's on the Doctrine of Signatures. We will monitor the numbers on a monthly basis.

We have been working on a collaborative project to digitise all the back issues of the *Pharmaceutical Historian* from 2016 back to 1967. We will make a further announcement about this in due course but we are quite excited about this extension to our own historical archive.

Dates for your diary

Friday 6 April to Sunday 8 April 2018	Our 2018 BSHP Annual Conference being held at the Best Western Premier Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth, Derbyshire.
Monday 21 May (5.30pm)	Evening meeting at UCL : Fiona Shannon (Trinity College, Dublin) – see page 4 of this Gazette for details of this talk on Irish ethnobotany.
Friday 8 June (11.00am)	Visit to the Blythe House Museum store (see item on page 2)
Tuesday 12 June (1.30pm)	Medicinal Plant Lecture : Historical Sidelights (two lectures) and the BSHM Poynter Lecture : <i>The Doctor as Collector</i> by Simon Chaplin. (Venue Royal College of Physicians, London - to book go to www.rcplondon.ac.uk/events/medicinal-plant-lecture-historical-sidelights-and-poynter-lecture)
Tuesday 17 April (6.00pm)	Worshipful Society of Apothecaries Eponymous Lecture : <i>The "Petticoat Peril" : Exploring Women in Pharmacy</i> by Briony Hudson [Free entry but contact Maria Ferran for booking details : facultyhp@apothecaries.org]
Monday 15 October (5.30pm)	Evening meeting at UCL : Dr Cherry Lewis (University of Bristol) – title to be decided, but the talk is concerning James Parkinson of Parkinson's disease fame.

Register of BSHP Speakers

Chris Duffin, our Programme Secretary, is compiling a register of potential speakers who are happy to be called upon to give talks on the history of pharmacy and related subjects. This would then be published on our website and for distribution amongst appropriate societies. If you already give talks to local groups, have addressed BSHP conferences, or would welcome an opportunity to speak about your area of interest, perhaps you would consider adding your name and details to this register? To help you think about this, Chris suggests that a potential format might be as follows :

Name of speaker	Initial contact details
Title of Talks	Abstract(s) if possible
Area served	Fee (if required)

Please don't feel that you need to restrict yourself to offering a single lecture title – there may be lots of information you would like to share! If you would be willing to have your details added to such a register, even if you would prefer to omit some of the sections above from your entry, please could you send the information to Chris Duffin (cduffin@blueyonder.co.uk) who will collate and distribute the final list.

Membership Subscriptions 2018

We would really appreciate early renewal and payment of your 2018 membership subscriptions for which our annual notification was included with our mailing back in December. In line with new UK legislation (from 13th January) we have withdrawn the facility for paying us by bank/credit card as we cannot add the surcharge for this payment method. Any queries please email honsec@bshp.org.

New members

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

- Michael Down, Sheffield
- Jemma Houghton, Manchester
- Chris Derrett, London
- Marian Stolz, Leicester
- Barry Mawson, Cardiff
- Joy Wingfield, Nottingham

Contacts

Facebook: British Society for the History of Pharmacy

Twitter : @PharmHist

BSHP Secretariat : info@bshp.org



A repository of knowledge - the Schools' Manuscript Collection offering a unique insight into medicinal practices in post independent Ireland.

***Lecture by
Fiona Shannon***

*PhD Candidate, Sheridan/Sasse Group, School of Pharmacy
and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Trinity College, Dublin*

Monday 21 May 2018 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