

# 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*

On 5 February your committee met at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society for a day-long workshop to develop a **5-year strategic plan for 2026-30**. We had time for really sustained discussion on how the Society can best mobilise resources to further support research and dissemination. Our discussion benefitted from the immense experience and wide networks of those present, and indeed two important aspects of the draft strategy concern how we transmit that experience to a new generation of pharmacy historians, and how we can extend our reach through collaboration with like-minded organisations. Our initial thoughts are summarised overleaf. We also discussed conference locations, and changes to subscriptions. We will bring all these topics for discussion with the membership at the business meeting in Edinburgh. I also encourage readers to contact me direct ([president@bshp.org](mailto:president@bshp.org)) with any thoughts.

I am looking forward to our **Edinburgh annual conference on 8-10 May**; please visit our website to see the full programme and to book your space. Looking overseas, it is not too late to submit a paper to the Congress of the International Society for the History of Pharmacy in Innsbruck, 2-5 September 2026: [ishp2026.com](http://ishp2026.com)

I also encourage members to consider **joining our committee**; the call is overleaf. Its work does make a real difference to the Society and to the subject, and members are welcome at any career stage.

[WWW.BSHP.ORG](http://WWW.BSHP.ORG)

FACEBOOK: [PHARMHIST](#) TWITTER: [@PHARMHIST](#)  
SECRETARIAT: [INFO@BSHP.ORG](mailto:INFO@BSHP.ORG)

### IN THIS ISSUE:

5-year Strategy Plan

2026 Annual  
Conference details

Provincial Pharmacy  
Leaflets

100 Years of  
Tremletts Chemist

New BSHP Online  
Lectures



## BSHP - Draft 5-year strategy

Our strategy discussions converged on a set of practical priorities aimed at strengthening research capacity, improving collaboration, enhancing visibility, and securing the Society's long-term sustainability. Much of the meeting focused on how to mobilise resources—people, collections, partnerships, and funding—to support an increased level of activity. Collaboration with like-minded organisations emerged as central in enabling to do this with our current resources.

We began by discussing the scope of pharmacy history. We agreed that at its centre are two themes: the discovery, trade and preparation of medicines, and the practice of pharmacy, including its reception by patients. It was emphasised that, as envisioned by the founders of the Society, our scope is broad and not limited by any time period or specific tradition. Four key initiatives were then identified:

### 1. Strengthening Research

A major theme was the need to expand the Society's ability to support and generate research. Proposed actions include:

- Events such as discussion panels to identify and promote topics that are either under-researched (e.g. hospital pharmacy) or that are fast-developing (e.g. pharmacy in the former British Empire).
- Financial support for researchers through increased BSHP grants.
- Initiate a pharmacy history email discussion list as an international initiative,
- Recognising research excellence through new awards to complement the Leslie Matthews medal, e.g. for books or early career researchers.

*Image: BSHP committee strategy meeting, February 2026 (L-R): Catherine Walker, Kim Walker, Matthew Johnston, Briony Hudson, Mark Nesbitt, Jemma Houghton and Stuart Anderson.*

### 2. Supporting museum, library and archive collections

- The group emphasised that pharmacy collections remain underused, partly because some of the skills needed to use them, such as pharmaceutical Latin, are now scarce. We felt that artefacts (as opposed to archives) were an under-used resource.
- Training workshops, delivered through regional museum networks, to build skills among curators, volunteers, and collectors.
- Rapid assessment by Society members of under-used collections.
- Collaboration with Subject Specialist Networks on training and advocacy
- "Artefact of the month" on our website
- Creating a category for institutional membership

### 3. Education and dissemination

- Collaboration with other organisations offers many opportunities to broaden our reach, both online and (importantly) in-person. (continued...)
- Online (Youtube style) guides to research materials and methods.
- Updating RPS Museum factsheets in partnership with BSHP.

*Continued...*



- An in-person evening lecture each year (alongside our online programme) to enable networking, in collaboration with a partner organisation.
- Longer-term advance planning for conferences enabling joint hosting with other societies, increasing attendance and interdisciplinary exchange.
- Regional ambassadors to build nationwide connections.
- Explore joint activities with UK and international allied societies, including shared promotion of events and publications to members.
- More research-related content for the Gazette, e.g. research resources and star archives/artefacts.

#### 4. Sustaining membership and the Society

All the above depends on a Society in good financial health – and that depends on members. We have already taken important steps, including moving last year to streamlined in-house administration, but ever-increasing printing and postage costs now absorb much of our budget.

- A new menu of subscriptions to cover online and hardcopy options, in the UK and overseas.
- Increased benefits for members, e.g. via discounted or free admission to charged events.
- Regular online forum for members carrying out research, hosted by committee members.
- Restarting Gift Aid to increase revenues.

#### GAZETTE COVER IMAGE HISTORY:

Founded in 1821, the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science was the first college of pharmaceutical sciences in the United States.

Famous students included William Procter founder of the American Pharmaceutical Association and Eli Lilly who founded his own pharmaceutical corporation.

The four initiatives sit alongside our existing activities, including our online meetings, conference, summer visit, gazette and journal, resource-rich website, grants, awards, and support for student participation in courses. These will continue.

#### Next steps

We will discuss this draft strategy at our Edinburgh meeting in May 2026. Whether or not attending, all members are invited to send feedback on the strategy to the BSHP President, Mark Nesbitt at [president@bshp.org](mailto:president@bshp.org), if possible by early May. The Committee will then approve the revised strategy following the Edinburgh meeting.



### Call for Committee Nominations

Fancy joining us as on the committee? We have spaces for committee members. Any interested parties can view the officers on the committee here: <https://www.bshp.org/officers>

Nominations by email to [president@bshp.org](mailto:president@bshp.org).

### A BSHP LEGACY

By leaving a gift in your Will you could help support future research into the history of British pharmacy.

If you would like to discuss this, please email Treasurer, Jemma Houghton: [treasurer@bshp.org](mailto:treasurer@bshp.org).

**Peter Homan**  
**Small Grant Award**

Apply for up to £500 - Deadline 30 May 2026  
<https://www.bshp.org/awards>



Mr Bill Tremlett showing some examples of antique objects from Tremletts Chemist to staff at the Portsmouth History Centre

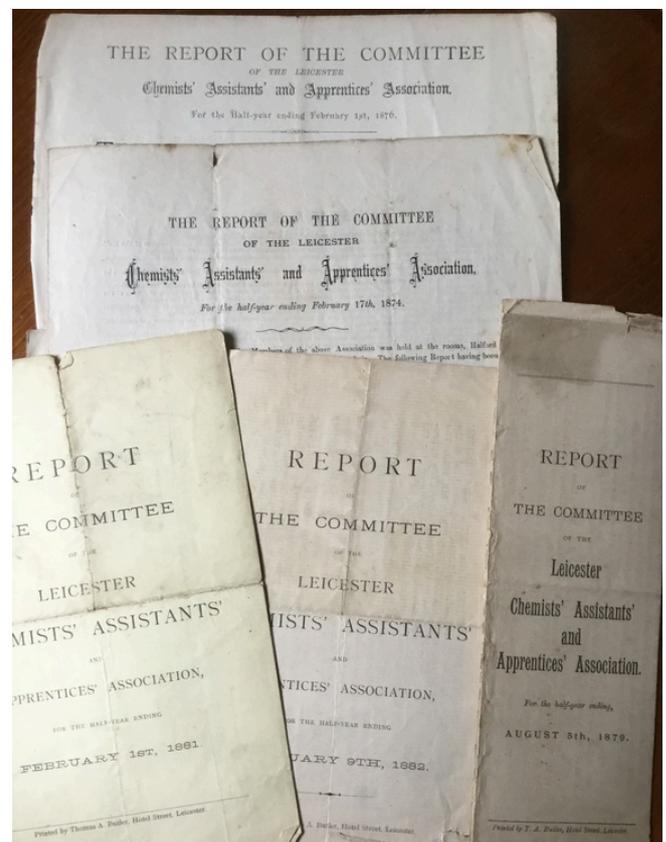
## 100 years of Tremletts Chemist

An exciting update about a recent Peter Homan Grant output (see image, left). The Portsmouth History Centre is working in collaboration with the Tremlett family and the School of Pharmacy, University of Portsmouth, to put on an exhibition about the history of local pharmacy. Tremletts Chemist was a family-run business at the heart of community pharmacy in Portsmouth for 100 years. The grant is funding a researcher to locate and research antique pharmacy instruments, photographs and other documents held by the Tremlett family, and gather information on the history of the pharmacy. An exhibition will be held in the Portsmouth History Centre from May – November 2026 to display these objects and history. More info on BSHP.org news page.

## Provincial Pharmacy

The theme of BSHP’s Annual Meeting this year may well throw light on provincial pharmacy. Although far from a neglected area of history more investigation is needed, especially for the 1800s with the striving for greater professional recognition.

By chance John Crellin has acquired recently five, somewhat ragged leaflets (see right): half-yearly reports of the “Committee of the Leicester Chemists’ Assistants and Apprentices’ Association” (for 1874, 1876, 1879, 1881, and 1882). They open up topics omitted from my early publications on Leicester pharmacy (1962 and ’65). I will be happy to donate the Reports to anyone researching Leicester pharmacy or similar associations elsewhere in Britain. **Contact:** [jcrellin@mun.ca](mailto:jcrellin@mun.ca)



**Peter Homan  
Small Grant Award**

Apply for up to £500 - Deadline 30 May 2026  
<https://www.bsHP.org/awards>

# BSHP NEWS

## BSHP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Friday 8 - Sunday 10 May, 2026

Theme: *Pharmacy Communities:*

*Local & Global Perspectives*

 *Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Edinburgh*



We hope you will be able to join us in beautiful Edinburgh for a sociable weekend of talks, visits and our Annual General Meeting.

**Full programme details** [www.bsHP.org/annual-conference](http://www.bsHP.org/annual-conference)

**Accommodation** - Please note this will not form part of the booking, Early booking of accommodation is recommended. Options include: Premier Inn Hub, Haymarket; Voco Hotel; The Resident Hotel. Other options are available.

### Notice of AGM

BSHP's Annual General Meeting 2026 will be held during the annual conference on Saturday 9 May at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Edinburgh office.

Please check our website for the full agenda and conference papers, which will be uploaded in due course.



## Membership news

Many thanks to all new and renewing members for your support, which allows us to continue our activities promoting pharmacy history. If you have received a reminder invoice with this mailing it is because our records show that you have not yet paid for the 2026 subscription year. Any queries, please email **Matthew Johnston** [honsec@bsHP.org](mailto:honsec@bsHP.org).

If you are eligible, please also consider adding Gift Aid to your subscription payment. This enables us to reclaim UK tax from HMRC on subscriptions and donations.

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:**

Hen Hilton, Cotswold

## Pharmaceutical Historian

With this mailing you are receiving the March 2026 issue of *Pharmaceutical Historian*, (Volume 56, Number 1), our flagship international journal. This issue contains three articles; the first, by **Chris Duffin**, outlines the pharmaceutical history of Jet (Lapis Gagates); the second, by **Yohko Natsume**, describes the medicinal uses of khadira (Acacia catechu) in the history of Indian pharmacy; and the third, by **Marie-Isabelle schwarzburger, Ulrich Koppitz** and **Heiner Fangerau**, provides an account of the digital repository relating to Vester's Archive of the history of German pharmacies. Readers should be aware that a change has been made to the platform on which open access issues of *Pharmaceutical Historian* is hosted changed from Ingenta Connect to the University Library, Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany effective from 1 January 2026. Please see our website to read the latest issue online.

**Peter Homan**  
**Small Grant Award**

Apply for up to £500 - Deadline 30 May 2026  
<https://www.bsHP.org/awards>

## OTHER EVENTS / GRANTS

**Monday 16 March 2026, 18.30-19.30**

### Society of Apothecaries

*Gideon De Laune Lecture: 'Alligators, carboys and green crosses. Pharmacy symbols, past, present and future' – by Briony Hudson & Monckton Copeman*

*Lecture: 'Medicine and Collecting in Early Modern London: James Petiver's (1665-1718)*

*Apothecary Practice' by Dr Katrina Maydom*

[facultyhp@apothecaries.org](mailto:facultyhp@apothecaries.org)

**Saturday 20 June**

### Poynter Lecture

British Society for the History of Medicine

See website for announcements

[www.bshm.org.uk](http://www.bshm.org.uk)

**September 2026 - March 2027**

### Society of Apothecaries

*The History of Medicine course (DHMSA)*

A mixture of online and in-person lectures

[AcademicTraining@apothecaries.org](mailto:AcademicTraining@apothecaries.org)



### The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh Physicians' Collections Research Grant, £3,000, Deadline: 1 April 2026

The grant aims to encourage new research into, and engagement with, the College's archive and library collections. The recipient is expected to share their research with the public through a variety of channels, email:

[library@rcpe.ac.uk](mailto:library@rcpe.ac.uk)

## BSHP ONLINE LECTURE SERIES

[BOOKINGS: BSHP.ORG/EVENTS](http://BSHP.ORG/EVENTS)

**Monday 15 June, 18.30 - 20.00 pm**

DR STUART ANDERSON

Editor, *Pharmaceutical Historian*

***What's in a name - College of Pharmacy or Pharmaceutical Society? Deciding what's best for British Pharmacy 1841 to 2026.***

& CATHERINE WALKER

Museum Manager, Royal Pharmaceutical Society

***Museum Reports: The changing role of the Museum at the Pharmaceutical Society.***



**Monday 19 October, 18.30-19.30 BST**

KATHLEEN CRUZ GUTIERREZ

Assistant Professor, History, University of California, Santa Cruz

***A Narrative of Reiteration and Repetition: Medicinal Plants, Nationhood, and the Postwar Philippines***

See past lectures at: [www.youtube.com/@PharmHist](https://www.youtube.com/@PharmHist)

SECRETARIAT: [INFO@BSHP.ORG](mailto:INFO@BSHP.ORG)  
[WWW.BSHP.ORG](http://WWW.BSHP.ORG)

BSHP C/O RPS MUSEUM,  
ROYAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY,  
66-68 EAST SMITHFIELD,  
LONDON E1W 1AW