



## **President's letter**

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of the BSHM, I write to wish you a happy and interesting 2019. This first newsletter of the year includes information about last September's symposium on archives and museum collections and an invitation to attend and contribute to our exciting biennial Congress which will take place in Bristol in September 2019.

The BSHM has recently introduced some organizational and strategic changes to enable your society to be sustainable in the long term. We are in the course of implementing more professional administrative systems and increasing engagement with our individual and affiliated members.

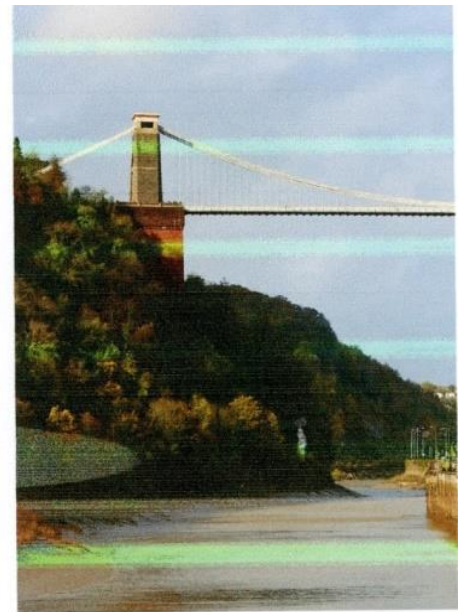
We have also created two new volunteer roles and recruited colleagues to help us develop and improve the content of the Society's website and encourage members to contribute blogs and book reviews and share information about forthcoming history of medicine events <https://bsham.org.uk>.

The future success of the BSHM will depend on good communication and active participation by the membership. Please make use of the website and write to us with new and interesting content and feedback.

With very best wishes and hope to see you in Bristol.

Chris Derrett, President BSHM [president@bsham.org.uk](mailto:president@bsham.org.uk)

## **Future BSHM Event**



**BSHM Congress**  
**Bristol, The M Shed**  
**11th-14th September 2019**

**The Congress themes are:**

- History of Medicine at Sea**
- History of Medicine in the West of England**
- History of Health Care Education**
- History of Mental Illness and Mental Disability**
- Other topics**

**Call for abstracts January 2019**

**For further information go to [bshm.org.uk](http://bshm.org.uk)**

**To register your interest go to <https://www.conftool.org/bshm2019/>**

## Recent BSHM Event



A symposium entitled “In Sickness and in Health: Exploring History of Medicine Collections,” was held on the 12th. September at the Wellcome Collection in London. The event was organised jointly by The British Society for the History of Medicine, London Museums of Health and Medicine and The Health Archives and Records Group. The symposium attracted medical historians, archivists, and museum curators. The aim was to explore the potential of a diverse range of archives and museum collections as tools for enquiry and study in the history of medicine.

Presentations on a range of museum and archival collections were provided by speakers from the Royal College of Physicians, Kew Gardens, Lothian Health archives, the Science Museum and the Royal College of GP. Topics included oral history collections, genetic history archives, women in medicine, plant material collections and a unique general practice archive.

The delegates could network and view online demonstrations of digitised collections during the refreshment break.

There was a lively final open discussion related the use of history of medicine collections for historical study.

Most of the speakers Power points are available on the website;  
<https://bshm.org.uk/events/collections-symposium/>

## **BSHM Roles update**

### Social Media editor



Dr Lucy Havard

Lucy is a senior acute medicine clinical fellow currently working at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge. She has always enjoyed history and completed an intercalated BSc in History of Medicine at the Wellcome Library during her medical degree at UCL. After completing Core Medical Training, she did Masters in History and Philosophy of Science, again at UCL. Her thesis focussed on early modern manuscript receipt books, which comprise eclectic complications of food recipes, medicinal remedies and household tips. She plans to apply for speciality training in Gastroenterology and hopes to do a PhD in History (at some point!)

Regarding social media plans for the BSHM, her main role is to edit the BSHM blog. A blog can provide a snapshot of various interesting aspects of medical history - in just a few paragraphs! The aim is to publish a new blog every couple of weeks. We have had great ones recently, ranging from the Spanish flu, to nineteenth-century female surgeons, to spa therapy in Georgian England! If anyone thinks they might be a budding blogger, please send her a draft (300-500 words) on any aspect of medical history, preferably with pictures to:

[blogeditor@bshm.org.uk](mailto:blogeditor@bshm.org.uk).

Perhaps a meeting or exhibition you have attended might be worth highlighting to fellow members Lucy looks forward to hearing from you - and hopefully meeting more of you in person - soon!

### Affiliates Liaison Officer

Dr. Bill Dibb



Bill Dibb is a Consultant Clinical Microbiologist and Chair of Infection Control who has worked in Norway, UK, Saudi Arabia, UAE and latterly Ireland. He is originally a Yorkshireman and qualified and trained at Cambridge, Aberdeen and Bergen Universities. Nowadays, as semi-retired, there is time to concentrate on important things like Medical History and some leprosy charity work in

Nepal! Trekking is a passion, and he recently climbed Kilimanjaro and various mountain routes in Nepal.

Bill completed the DHMSA some years ago. His particular interest is Infection and postal items, having built up a large personal collection of these items which are scanned and available to interested historians. A particular interest within this is leprosy and postal items.

Bill is tasked to improve the projection of affiliate member organisations within BSHM. So enabling the BSHM to better perform its role as a conduit and umbrella society for all aspects of medical history.

Contact: [affiliatesliaison@bshm.org.uk](mailto:affiliatesliaison@bshm.org.uk)

## **BSHM Reports**

### **Outcome of Strategic Review**

During the past year, the Officers undertook a strategic review of the Society's activities. This was done to clarify the future direction of the BSHM and to address the demands of running an expanding organisation. The outcome was a revised set of aims, objectives and initiatives, which the Officers and Representatives Committee approved. The details are posted on the BSHM website:

<https://bshm.org.uk/about-us/our-aims-objectives-and-initiatives/>.

To assure the efficient administration of the Society, the Committee supported the following important developments:

- New roles will be created – including leads for education, affiliate liaison, blog and newsletter editors – to help maintain and extend the activities of the Society.
- The BSHM will contract with a professional organisation to support the running of the day-to-day activities of the Society.
- An increase in subscriptions paid by affiliate societies will be implemented in 2019 to allow the Society to support the agreed initiatives and obligations.

The Officers are pleased to announce that the BSHM has contracted with AssociAction Enterprises Limited for the provision of professional membership and subscription services. The contact details for any membership enquiries are as follows:

Contact re BSHM [admin @bshh.org.uk](mailto:admin@bshh.org.uk)  
Email address: [info@associationenterprises.com](mailto:info@associationenterprises.com)  
Phone number: +44 116 274 735

### BSHM Hon Secs Report

- Member registration: Given the new regulations (GDPR) regarding the storing and protection of electronic contact data of members, the BSHM need to validate the member database. This will also assist direct contact with affiliate members. Would those who are part of BSHM via affiliate membership please consider registering their details using the online form at <https://bshh.org.uk/membership/register-bshh-member-affiliated-organisation/>
- Interest database: I often receive contacts from the media, authors or postgraduate students seeking advice on specific aspects of medical history. It's difficult to identify members who might be able to assist. While affiliate societies sometimes can help, it adds another layer of communication and delay.  
I therefore wish to float building a database of members' fields of interest and expertise. The Hon Sec could hold this and would act a conduit. I would expect giving the member the enquiry details so they can decide if they wish to follow though and so protect their privacy.  
Could colleagues please feedback whether this is an aspect of BSHM as an umbrella organisation that should be developed?
- Events calendar: Bill Dibb is contacting affiliate societies in order to populate an events diary available via the website. This will assist societies in planning events and identify speakers they may wish to consider in the future.  
Contact: [affiliatesliaison@bshh.org.uk](mailto:affiliatesliaison@bshh.org.uk)
- Recently a test email was sent from Association Enterprises advertising the Congress in September. Its automated nature resulted in an inaccuracy in that some female members were addressed as "Sir", I will ensure that this does not occur again. I apologise for any offence caused.

Mike Davidson (Hon. Sec.) contact: [secretary@bshh.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bshh.org.uk)