British Society for the History of Medicine Autumn 2026

Quarterly Newsletter

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Letter from the President



Dear members

I am delighted to report that our online Officers and Representatives and AGM meetings took place in September and as always, were very well attended. There was however one IT issue relating to a small number of email addresses not recognising BSHM, and those affected received the agenda and accompanying papers later than we would have liked, as alternative personal emails had to be found.

This issue will be familiar to many and remains a frustrating problem in conducting business online, but this has now hopefully been sorted. A short summary of the AGM is included in this newsletter, and I am happy to respond to any members' request for further information.

In early October I met fellow officers at the Liverpool Medical Institute (LMI) to begin planning for the 2027 Congress. Few locations can match this incredible building, particularly in relation to its role in medical history and heritage. The origins of the LMI date from 1768 when local surgeons formed a book club, and such was its success that in 1779 that it became the Liverpool Medical Library. Over the years this unique collection of books, manuscripts and journals has been carefully preserved, and delegates to the Congress will have the opportunity to see a selection of these over the four days. The building itself is also a fitting testimony to the many illustrious medical names which have met the needs of the people of Liverpool.

In April 2027, I am delighted to be attending the Nordic Medical History Congress both as President of the BSHM and as a speaker. It is always a pleasure to make formal links with established societies such as this, and I would encourage members to look at the possibility of joining me in the beautiful city of Gothenburg for what is a most fascinating programme.

Lastly, I would like to thank Anjna Harrar for her moving tribute of our late friend Christopher Gardner-Thorpe. Those of you who knew him will remember his preference for warm informality in all aspects of his life and for this very reason, Anjna has written this very personal reflection which perfectly matches Christopher in so many ways. This and a selection of memories from our members are included in this newsletter.

Best wishes

Hilary Morris

Call for Papers
Topics in the History of Medicine

Proposals are now invited for articles for the next volume of the BSHM journal. *Topics in the History of Medicine (ThoM*) to be published in late 2027. The themes are "Myths, Mistakes and Misunderstandings". The deadline for proposals: 31 December 2026

This volume, number 7, will focus on the tangled relationship between health care in the past and how it is viewed and practised in the present by considering the myths, mistakes and misunderstandings that have arisen across all aspects of the discipline.
Guest editor Nick Summerton encourages prospective contributors to consider the following broad questions, including:

Can we derive anything useful from our forebears that could impact on today`s health challenges?

How does the medical past affect the medical present?

How can we interpret historical illnesses and treatments using contemporary insights?

How do 'new' practices echo past ones that were abandoned?

How erroneous are our views of health care in the past?

THoM promotes scholarly work on all aspects of the history of medicine and healthcare by publishing a variety of articles including original research, biographical accounts and literature reviews. Volume 6, based on presentations to the BSHM Congress 2025, is in the final editorial stages and will be published shortly.

Prospective authors can contact Nick Summerton to discuss their ideas or to submit their proposal to him at nsummerton@doctors.org.uk.

Guidance for authors is available on the BSHM journal page at https://bshm.org.uk/thom/

Guest editor volume 7



In parallel with his work in general practice, public health and clinical epidemiology, Nick Summerton developed interests in Roman archaeology and ancient medicine.

Currently, he is focusing on the tangled relationship between the medical past and the medical present. He is particularly keen to work with others to enhance both the quality and the relevance of medical historical research.

BSHM ORC and AGM Report 29 September 2026

Our annual meetings of officers and representatives and the AGM took place online.

President

BSHM President Hilary Morris told the delegates that BSHM continues to excel in terms of providing a forum for affiliate and individual members and she thanked all who remain loyal to a society which is without precedence in terms of what it achieves. The BSHM journal, *Topics in the History of Medicine*, launched at a time when many publications were failing, now attracts international acclaim and is a highly respected publication. The regular newsletter and website keep BSHM in touch with affiliates, members and others in the history of medicine community.

"The society," she concluded, "enters its 61st year with a sense of energy and confidence regarding the future. Such a situation continues to make my role such an honour and one which I constantly hold with pride."

Finances

BSHM is in a sound financial position heading toward the 2027 Congress which will take place in Liverpool from 8-11 September, reported Treasurer Catriona Head. Catriona also told members that future years of account will be independently examined. Jeremy Young, a chartered accountant, has agreed to do this free of charge to BSHM.

Membership

We currently have 33 affiliate members, including a new member, the Veterinary History Society, which was founded in 1962, and now Dr Jenner's House & Gardens.



New member

Since the AGM, a former member, Dr Jenner's House & Gardens in Berkeley Gloucestershire, has rejoined BSHM as an affiliate member. The museum is now closed for the winter, so we will feature them in a future newsletter when they reopen. Welcome back.

Late news: Historic England has taken Dr Jennner's Temple of Vaccinia off the national Heritage at Risk Register, following a National Lottery Heritage Fund project to restore and reinterpret the modest, but hugely significant building.

Communications

We are gently updating the website and encouraging affiliates to send reports of their events for publication in our quarterly newsletter. Lee Coppack, the Hon Secretary, also welcomes blogs for the website. She posts on our social media accounts, X, Bluesky, Facebook and occasionally Instagram.

John Blair Trust

The John Blair Trust (JBT) supported the John Blair Trust Lecture, a new initiative, at the BSHM Congress in Leeds in 2025. Iain Macintyre former BSHM President and retired surgeon, delivered the inaugural lecture. Twelve students were awarded JBT travel grants to enable them to attend the Congress. The trust also supported cash prizes for the best oral and poster presentations at the Congress. There were fewer applications for trust than in earlier years. The trust continues to contribute to the Osler Student Travel Awards.

Awards and Prizes

Osler Student Travel Award Deadline

The deadline for the Osler Student Travel Award is fast approaching. November 30 is the last day for submissions for the 2027 award. The awards are worth up to £4000 and provide funds for an undergraduate student at a UK medical school to travel to North America to research an agreed topic in history of medicine using material not available online.

BSHM is among the supporters of the award along with the John Blair Trust, Friends of Millbank, The History Society at the Royal Society of Medicine, The Scottish Society of the History of Medicine, The Hunterian Society and the Osler Club of London.

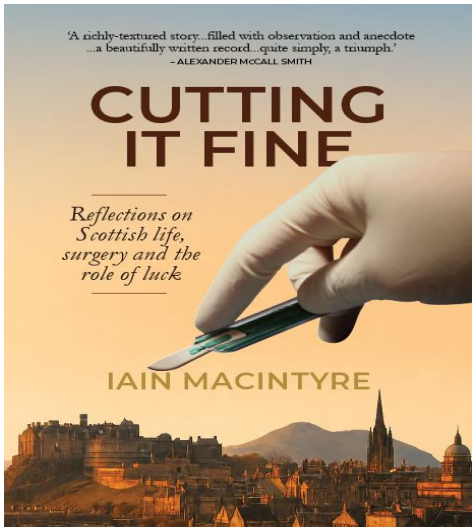
Further information is available from the BSHM website at https://bshm.org.uk/students/osler-student-travel-award-2026-2027/ and from the chair of the awards committee: Graham Kyle: grahamkyle33@gmail.com.

Hunterian Award 2027



Books: real and virtual

A memoir by Iain Macintyre



Cutting It Fine, Reflections on Scottish Life, Surgery and the Role of Luck Is a memoir by former BSHM President and retired surgeon, Iain Macintyre, and will be launched in in Edinburgh on Wednesday 18 November.

This memoir outlines Iain's personal and professional journey, reflecting on the changes that he has experienced over an 80-year lifespan. He includes historical vignettes of the Edinburgh Medical School and inspiring figures in Scottish medicine are woven into the story. Some 170 images illustrate the story. Iain was Vice President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh during its 500th anniversary celebration and he was a co-editor of *Scotland's Contribution to Naval and Military Medicine and Surgery* (2024).

The book is available directly from the printers, Mixam, using the link https://mixam.co.uk/print-on-demand/6abd11dddabac85861e29d35

There is also a website www.cutting-it-fine.com

Library after Dark

Colm O'Connor, a librarian from Waterford in Ireland, created the Library After Dark a free online library of public-domain books that you walk through like a real library, in the browser and on a phone.

He has now created a medicine room in his virtual library with
a history of medicine from Hippocrates to Pasteur in nineteen books, each with a short librarian's note: old physic (Hippocrates, Celsus, Culpeper, Religio Medici, Buchan), discoveries (Harvey, Withering, Jenner, Snow on cholera and on chloroform, Holmes, Pasteur) and healers (Nightingale, Mary Seacole, Elizabeth Blackwell, Sophia Jex-Blake, Osler's Evolution of Modern Medicine, The Gold-Headed Cane, Microbe Hunters). In the middle, under glass, is a facsimile of Vesalius's Fabrica of 1543 whose pages readers can turn.

He asks if members of BSHM would look at the library and let him know of correction to the notes or of suggestions for books to add.

The room is here: https://libraryafterdark.space/?room=medicine,

You can reach Colm at mailto:libraryafterdark1@gmail.com

International Events

International Society for the History of Medicine

The 50th Congress of the International Society for the History of Medicine is taking place in Tunis on 4-6 November. We hope to have a report from the event in our next newsletter.

30th Nordic Medical History Congress, Gothenburg – an invitation

The Nordic Medical History Congress, first convened in Gothenburg, Sweden in 1967, will return to the city from 21-24 April 2027 for its 30th meeting. The conference is being organised by the School of Public Health and Community Medicine and the Department of Historical studies at the University of Gothenburg in collaboration with Gothenburg Society for Medical History and the Medical History Museum in Gothenburg.

Participants from all countries are welcome. The congress language will be English.



Gothenburg of arms

The congress will cover all areas and aspects of the history of medicine, but there will also be a theme – *Water in Health and Disease*. The background is the Nordic countries' long tradition and reliance on travel and communication by waterways, the prominent role of spas and health resorts using water for treatment and wellness, and the historic struggles against waterborne disease.

The organisers welcome contributions with a historical context, also outside the water theme of the congress. For further information and submission of abstract:
https://www.trippus.net/30th_Nordic_Medical_History_Congress_2027

Affiliate Member News

Aesculapian Society Sheffield

This long-established Society meets in April and November with an invited lecture followed by a meal for members and guests. Richard England, consultant paediatric surgeon, Norwich, spoke on "Jenny Lind: The Legacy of the Swedish Nightingale in England" on the 22 April 2026. Prof. Rebecca Rowland. Durham University will speak on "Child Health, Poverty and Labour in 19th Century England: the Bioarachaeological Evidence" on the 11 November 2026.

The society was pleased to support the recent placement of a plaque at the former Jessop Hospital Sheffield (now part of the University of Sheffield) to commemorate the pioneering work of Dr Cecil Paine. Paine carried out the first recorded successful clinical use of penicillin in the world in Sheffield in 1930. the Lord Mayor of Sheffield unveiled the plaque in September 2026. More on the story of Dr Paine.



The Society Chairman is Professor Michael Tunbridge, the President-Elect is Andrew Parker and Jenny Stephenson is the Hon. Secretary. The society produces a biannual journal of which Professor Barry Hancock.

Centre for Health Studies, Society of Apothecaries

On 18 November, the Centre for Health Studies will present Diplomas in the History of Medicine to the latest cohort to complete the course. They are Michael Beverly, Norbert Paul Foster, Daryl Godden, Jesai Gohil, Antigoni Koukkoulli, Richard Leach, Bridget Ann Lock, Rokhsaneh Madeira and Deborah Russell Malins.

The winner of the Kapur Prize for the highest score in the dissertation in the diploma: Richard Leach.

The Osler Lecture Award for the best lecture: Daryl Godden.

The history course remains very popular and booking for the 2027-28 academic year will open on Friday 29 January 2027.

Croydon Medical Society

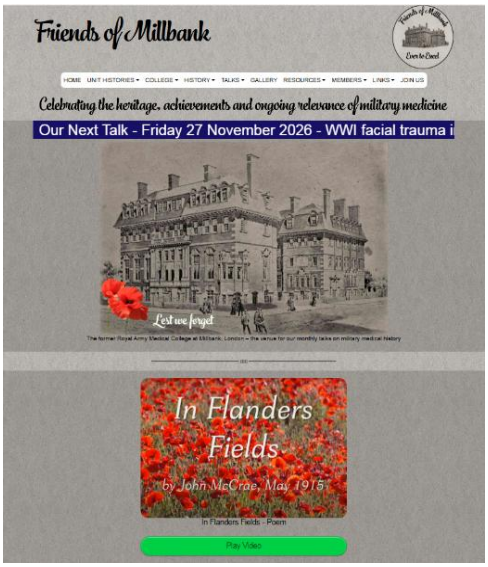
We were honoured to have Katie Snape come to talk to our Croydon Medical Society on Wednesday 14 October. Consultants and GPs, current and present, were joined by future doctors from local secondary schools.

Katie kindly gave time in her busy schedule with St George's and King's College Hospitals and Genomics England to give us a whistlestop tour of how genomics is already being used in our clinical work and how this will increase in the future – from antenatal screening to pharmacogenetics directing our prescribing – and everything in between.

The talk was very interactive with lots of questions from the audience. We left enlightened but also with more questions about how our clinical activities would be increasingly impacted and the ethical dilemmas attached to this new knowledge.

In November CMS member Nicholas Cambridge will give a talk on Erasmus Darwin. We will also have our version of Desert Islands Discs, with Nick Ford interviewing John Spicer and hearing about his life and choice of music.

Friends of Millbank



Friends of Millbank have had a busy year, writes chairman David Vassallo, with monthly military medical history talks at Millbank, the former Royal Army Medical College and now Chelsea College of Art in London.

Our speakers included three former Surgeon Generals (SGs) of the UK's Defence Medical Services and three former BSHM Presidents. The talks have purposely often been directly relevant to today's dangerous geopolitical climate, especially important for our members serving in HM Forces or the NHS who may soon have to care for casualties of war.

The year started with our AGM and a thought-provoking talk by Lieutenant General Professor Martin Bricknell, former SG, on "Strategic Medical Lessons from the 20th Century to inform the 21st - The contemporary relevance of military medical history.".

In February, Iain Macintyre (past President BSHM) continued this theme with 'Sir John Pringle (1707-1782); bringing Enlightenment thinking to the battlefield." Our Haywood Memorial Lecture in March (delivered shortly after the fourth anniversary of the start of the ongoing Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine) was delivered by Major General Timothy Hodgetts, former SG, speaking presciently on "The evolution of Military Emergency Medicine: are we ready for the next war?'

Our April talk by radiology historian Professor Adrian Thomas, another past BSHM President, was about an individual caught up in war and his lasting contributions to the care of casualties: "Jacques Lisfranc de Saint-Martin (1787-1847), a surgeon of the Napoleonic War."

We held a double session in May, starting with our first fireside chat in the magnificent oak-panelled Dining Room (now the Banqueting Suite) at Millbank, between Lt Gen Louis Lillywhite and Lt Gen Professor Martin Bricknell, both former SGs, discussing '*Adaptation and Innovation in the First Gulf War (1990-91)*'. This was followed by '*Vignettes from the Royal Army Dental Corps'* by Quentin Anderson, former Colonel Commandant of the RADC.



First fireside chat

Dominic Hodgson, practising surgeon, spoke to us in June about his PhD research theme: '*Captain Kenneth Walker RAMC and the paradigm shift in battlefield medicine in WWI'*. There were intriguing parallels with the current Russia-Ukraine War.

We held two talks in October starting with an entertaining presentation on '*Icarus - the first Air Accident Investigation*' by Wing Commander Alec Hurley, former Chief Instructor in Aviation Medicine at the RAF Centre of Aviation Medicine. Louise Reynolds delivered our keynote FEPOW George Blair Memorial Lecture, '*Echoes of Captivity'*, speaking about her father, Padre Eric Cordingly, military chaplain captured in Singapore on 15 February 1942, who worked steadfastly alongside medical personnel caring for the ill and suffering. The recording is open access: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FL37AI3DAY

We'll finish the year's programme on 27 November with a talk by Mike Davidson, past President BSHM, on "*WWI facial trauma innovations, it wasn't just Gillies."*

We have also organised several guided tours of historic locations, such as the Poppy Factory in March, Bateman's House (Rudyard Kipling's home) in August, and shortly (27 November) a morning and afternoon tour of select WW1 Women's Work Collection exhibits at the Imperial War Museum, preceding Mike Davidson's evening talk.

On 5 December, we shall celebrate our 20th birthday at our Christmas Lunch at the Civil Service Club. Some places are still available; email chairman@friendsofmillbank.org.

Friends of Millbank Links

Programme 2026: https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/programme-2026/
Programme 2027: see https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/programme-2027/
All our talks are recorded for our website. We now have over 50 such continuing education recordings from 2021-2026 in the members' area.
Previous lectures: https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/previous-lectures/ .
Membership is open to all, see: https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/join/ .

Osler Club of London



At the opening of the new season of meetings on 15 October, John Ward paid tribute to Dr Kazimierz "Kaz" Nowak (1938-2026) a long standing and much loved member who died in September.

This was followed by a lecture by biographer, Sheena Evans, titled "Forgotten but not lost: Janet Vaughan, twentieth century pioneer". We learned about Dame Janet's many facetted career that included her pioneering work as a haematologist, leadership of the blood transfusion service in wartime London and research into the effects of radiation on bone and the treatment of starvation. Dame Janet also served as Principal of Somerville College Oxford and made significant contributions to medical education and the advancement of women in medicine.

The next meeting takes place on the 10 December when Dr Rachel Clarke will speak on "Hope in a time of dying: palliative care in the Ukraine". Full programme details and membership enquiries: www.osler.org.uk All lectures take place at Royal College of Physicians of London.

Royal Society of Medicine, History Society Trip to Oxford

President Professor Marguerite Dupree led a group of 21 medical history delegates for a weekend in Oxford to examine Oxford's role in global and local medical history. Most delegates stayed at Rhodes House, where after introductory drinks we had a tour of the beautiful Arts and Crafts property by the renovations project manager. The work has incorporated state of the art technology alongside thoughtful developments to address the controversial history of the mining magnate Cecil Rhodes.

Delegates convened early Saturday morning for the first talk by Professor Catherine Green. who spoke enthusiastically about the development of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine. Her comment "Vaccines don't save lives; vaccination does," highlighted her compassion and proof that scientific breakthroughs are only as useful as the ability to deliver them to the end user.



A hard act to follow, nevertheless, Professor Sally Shuttleworth's presentation "Sleep Research and Sleeplessness in the Nineteenth Century" was fascinating and drew equal debate and enquiry. The morning talks concluded with a presentation about the Warneford Hospital Bicentenary Project and the local history of mental health provision. It was unknowingly pertinent as psychiatry and psychology were the remit of several delegates.

The Veterinary History Society

A Day of Anaesthesia

Approximately 25 members and guests attended the meeting if the Veterinary History Society (VHS) on Monday 14 September in London. They started with a visit to the Museum of Anaesthesia in Portland Place, where members could see many of the developments in human anaesthesia, and perhaps trace the links with developments in veterinary anaesthesia.

The academic programme in the afternoon also focussed on anaesthesia. Professor Eddie Clutton provided an extensive overview of changes in veterinary anaesthesia and analgesia that had occurred over nearly half a century. His presentation highlighted how technologies (and associated costs) had advanced and yet peri-anaesthetic mortality had not changed at such a pace. His comments on the ethical dilemmas now facing veterinary anaesthetists in particular led to a healthy and broad ranging discussion among delegates, especially concerning changing attitudes towards euthanasia.

Mike Hinton focussed on the issue of chloroform anaesthesia in the Crimean War (1853-1856). He detailed how much of the controversy over the use of anaesthetics in the conflict had arisen, and how it had been addressed and finally resolved. Answers did not necessarily come quickly in those days.

For a full report and more news about the VHS, our newest member:
https://thevhs.uk/vhs-newsletters/

West Sussex History of Medicine Society – A New Season

On Saturday 10 October, the West Sussex History of Medicine Society (WSHOMS) held the first meeting of its 26th lecture series in the historic cathedral city of Chichester on a characteristically crisp and sunny autumn morning. The programme attracted an audience of about 40 members from Sussex and surrounding counties.

President, Adam Stone, opened the meeting by introducing the traditional memorial lecture in honour of Dr Brian Owen-Smith (1938-2013) who had been instrumental in the foundation of WSHOMS. Professor Ken Shaw, Emeritus Professor of Medicine at the University of Portsmouth, delivered the lecture: 'Sir Thomas Browne (1605-1682), a 17th Century Physician's Reflections on Science and Theology."



Ken Shaw

Ken drew on his Norfolk roots to present a lively, comprehensive and insightful portrayal of the life and work of this remarkable doctor.

After attending Winchester College and the University of Oxford, Thomas Browne studied at the prestigious medical schools in Montpellier, Padua and Leyden and went on to establish his medical practice in Norwich. He is known for his writings, especially those in which he sought to reconcile the medicine and religion of his day. His *Religio Medici* (*The Religion of a Physician*), written in English and officially printed in 1643, proved an inspiration for Sir William Osler. Osler was present at the unveiling of the statue of Browne raised on the tercentenary of his birth beside the Church of St Peter Mancroft in Norwich where his remains are interred.

Browne was memorable for having introduced a large number of commonly used words into the English language – 724 neologisms according to the OED – including adverbial forms of words and novel negatives. Samuel Johnson included these in the compilation of his dictionary and wrote a biography of Browne. Ken also related the rather curious tale of Browne's skull, which was found to have an unusual degree of depth and capaciousness at the back of the cranium when it became separated from the rest of Browne's disinterred body and was only reunited in the funeral vault in 1922 (recorded at an age of 317!). A plaster cast of the skull is displayed in a casket at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.



Obstetric anaesthesia

With evident fatherly pride, the President then invited Emily Stone, a former student representative of the society who recently qualified in medicine from Newcastle University, to present the findings of her MA studies in the history of medicine on 'The Introduction of Obstetric Anaesthesia and Women's Experiences of Childbirth 1848-1865'. The focus of this richly illustrated and engagingly presented talk was the cultural history, and experiences of women, in the period immediately following the introduction of ether (1846) and chloroform (1847).

Religious concerns, based on the belief that the pain of childbirth was due to original sin, seemed to have had little influence on women's attitudes. The argument that pain in childbirth held a moral value was scotched by Queen Victoria's acceptance and promotion of 'the blessed chloroform' under John Snow. Childbirth was considered a hazard to the 'delicate nature' of the female body and became medicalised. Doctors argued in *The Lancet* whether pain was a pathological process or a useful physiological response. Obstetric anaesthesia prospered under James Simpson in Scotland and continental Europe. In London, anaesthesia developed as a specialty, while remaining the surgeon's prerogative in the rest of England.



Emily Stone

Although there is a paucity of sources giving the Victorian woman's perspective, it is nonetheless clear that women supported and advocated the use of anaesthesia in childbirth. Doctors were in favour, too, they could typically charge 30 to 50 per cent more for the privilege. Emily argued convincingly that the advent of anaesthetics led to a change in the doctor-patient relationship with women able to request the medical alleviation of their pain. At the same time, the role of the woman in childbirth became degraded, becoming that of a passive spectator in a process which emphasised medical intervention. The obstetrician 'stood before', in contrast to the midwife, 'with the mother'.

For the full autumn lecture programme and contact details, please consult the website: https://wshoms.co.uk/. Meetings take place on alternate Saturdays from mid-October to the beginning of December from 1000-1200 hrs at St Paul's Church, Churchside, Chichester PO19 6FT. Entrance is £8 per session, by cash or card, including tea and coffee. Non-members are welcome. No charge for students. Certificates of attendance for continuing professional development are available on request.

See following page for our tribute to Christopher Gardner-Thorpe.

Neurologist, medical historian, editor, teacher and friend Christopher Gardner-Thorpe (1941-2026)



The full tribute to Christopher Gardner-Thorpe with more photos and testimonials is available on the BSHM website at www.bshm.org.uk Text and photos by Anjna Harrar

Christopher Gardner-Thorpe, consultant neurologist, medical historian, editor and teacher, who died on 1 July 2026, combined a distinguished clinical career with an exceptional commitment to scholarship, teaching, medical publishing and the preservation of medical heritage. To his many colleagues and friends, he was also a generous mentor, an encouraging teacher and a warm and valued companion. Alongside his clinical career, Christopher cultivated a lifelong passion for medical history.

Born in Cosham, Hampshire, on 22 August 1941, Christopher entered St Thomas' Hospital Medical School in 1959, qualifying in 1964. Following postgraduate training in medicine and neurology, he became Consultant Neurologist at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital in March 1974.

He subsequently continued his neurological practice as an independent consultant and remained based in Devon for more than half his life. He developed particular interests in epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and the neurological manifestations of systemic lupus erythematosus. He also taught at the University of Exeter Medical School, covering medical history, medicine and the law, and medical writing.
He published extensively on neurological and historical subjects, including Charles Bell, James Parkinson, Jules Cotard and Cotard Syndrome. He was one of more than 140 contributors to *The Osler Encyclopedia*, published in 2020, an international reference work on the life and legacy of Sir William Osler.

Christopher devoted many years to the Society of Apothecaries, where he became an examiner for the Diploma in the History of Medicine (DHMSA) and later served as Deputy Convenor of Examiners, Course Director and President of the Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine. In 2013, he was instrumental in establishing the Society's fellows programme for DHMSA graduates, which ran until 2020. He was President of the History of Medicine Society at the Royal Society of Medicine from 2022 to 2023 and delivered the Osler Oration to the Osler Club of London in 2023.

As the second Editor and subsequently the first Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Medical Biography*, Christopher helped build its international reputation among historians, clinicians and medical writers. When he stepped down as Editor-in-Chief, he left the journal in a strong position for his successor, Professor Hilary Morris, the current President of BSHM, who continued its development.



Christopher was a strong supporter of the BSHM and all its activities. He chaired the steering committee for the BSHM's online journal, *Topics in the History of Medicine*, and subsequently presided over its editorial board as Editor-in-Chief. His unstinting enthusiasm, commitment, practical expertise and support were instrumental in establishing the journal and helping it develop professionally.

(Christopher with BSHM President Mike Collins in 2021)

His commitment to preserving medical heritage extended beyond his own publications. In 2000, he published *Stones Unturned: Memorials of Medical Significance in Exeter Cathedral*. He

later donated his rare medical books to Exeter Cathedral Library, establishing the Christopher Gardner-Thorpe Collection and ensuring that these works remain available to students, researchers and the wider public.

A friend, colleague and inspiring teacher
Professor Hilary Morris, President BSHM

Christopher and I succeeded one another, or served together, in several roles on numerous committees at the Royal Society of Medicine, the Osler Club and the Society of Apothecaries. Of all my memories, the most enduring is watching and listening to him engaging with students in a way that was truly unique. Christopher inspired those he taught not just through his incredible depth of knowledge, but also through the way he presented his subject and the respect he had for the learning process. His natural warmth and generosity of spirit defined a truly wonderful man, who will be desperately missed by all who had the honour to know him.

A champion of the history of medicine
Edward Wawrzynzack, President BSHM
President BSHM 2023-25

I remember clearly the day when, as a recent convert to the history of medicine, I first met Christopher. He was characteristically warm, engaging and full of encouragement, which left an indelible impression and made our future interactions a delight.
Christopher was a strong supporter of the BSHM and all its activities. He chaired the steering committee and subsequently presided over the Editorial Board as Editor-in-Chief of the BSHM's online journal, *Topics in the History of Medicine*. Without his unstinting belief, commitment and support, the journal would not have launched so effectively and developed so professionally. As journal Editor, I relied upon and benefited from his extensive know-how, intelligent analysis and sound advice. It was an honour to have known Christopher and worked closely with him over several years.

BSHM
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