

THE WORSHIPFUL SOCIETY OF
Apothecaries
Spring 2024



From the desk of
THE MASTER APOTHECARY

A warm welcome to you all to this Spring edition of the Society's newsletter. Springtime marks a period of considerable activity for our Society, filled with a number of intriguing events that we are eagerly anticipating.

Our academic team are already fully engaged in their efforts, and I had the distinct honour of meeting the new students enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine in Conflict and Catastrophe course just recently. In early February, the Hall was enjoyably busy, accommodating three concurrent courses attended by our new student group of doctors and nurses, and featuring our consistently outstanding lecturers.

On the educational agenda, we are looking forward to a compelling joint Faculty lecture on April 10th, focusing on the Role of London Medical Students in the relief of Bergen-Belsen in 1945. This narrative will recount the endeavours of 96 students who volunteered to assist, a story that Professor Stephen Challacombe will narrate, promising to deliver a powerful and evocative lecture.

March will see us participating in the Annual United Guilds Service at St Paul's Cathedral, a magnificent event attended by the Livery Companies of the City to commemorate the contributions of the 111 extant Companies, a tradition that has its origins in the Second World War era in 1943. This event will be followed by a luncheon in the Hall.

Additionally, on March 21st, we will host our next Livery dinner, expected to be as delightful and well-subscribed as our last, with our first guest dinner following on April 24th. In the interim, we will offer a series of evening lectures from both Faculties, so we encourage you to stay informed through updates from our Communications Officer.

On the 12th April to raise money for the Master's Fund, we immerse in history and art at our Charity Opera, Lo Spedale by Musica Antica. Watch this space for upcoming details.

Spring also heralds the Galen evening on May 23rd, the academic highlight of our year, where we award several prestigious prizes in an event graced by numerous Presidents of Medical Royal Colleges and senior medical academics. An evening not to be missed!

In closing, I hope you find interest and value in this newsletter and I look forward to your presence at our upcoming events over the next few months.



Upcoming *events*

22

FEB

Thursday 6:00pm

Speaking uncomfortable truths to the world: a critical role for a medical writer

23

FEB

Friday 6:45pm

****Sold Out****

Civic Livery Dinner

21

MAR

Thursday 6:45pm

The Livery Dinner

10

APR

Wednesday 6:00pm

The role of London Medical Students in the relief of Bergen-Belsen in 1945

12

APR

Details to be confirmed.

The Master's Charity Opera
Lo Spedale by Musica Antica

15

APR

Wednesday 6:45pm

Taking London's Pulse (Or what I've learned from Medical Officers of Health Reports)

24

APR

Tuesday 6:00pm

The First Guest Dinner

21ST MARCH
6:45PM - 7:30PM



SPRING LIVERY DINNER

COST: £120

VENUE: APOTHECARIES HALL, LONDON

DRESS CODE: WHITE TIE (BLACK TIE ACCEPTABLE)

@APOTHECARIESLDN

020 7236 1189

The Livery Committee



UPCOMING EVENTS

8th February

Livery Committee: Thursday 19:00 to 22:30
Dinner with New Yeoman and Apprentices

8th to 15th March

Livery Committee: Visit to Andalucia - FULL

18th and 20th March

Livery Committee: Monday and Wednesday, At the Old Bailey: State Trials and Error. Fundraising show see flyer, book via website.

25th April

Livery Committee: "Walking Tour of four art galleries in Fitzrovia & Mayfair" Led by Ben Street, see flyer, book via website.

The Carol Service, organized by the Livery Committee, was held in St Andrews by the Wardrobe after its refurbishment over the last year. Nearly 100 members of the society attended the service.

The service was taken by Sir Ralph Waller, the Masters Chaplain, with Sir Andrew Parmley as the organist supported by Thames Chamber Choir. For most people this marked the start of the Christmas celebrations.

A collection was taken during the service, which raised £763, which was divided equally between the Masters Fund and the Church.

Following the service, the congregation then walked to the Hall where there was a champagne reception followed by a three-course sit-down meal. Next years' service will be on Monday 9th December 2024. Again, it will be held at St Andrews by the Wardrobe.

Three circular images are arranged vertically on a background of alternating green and light blue vertical stripes. The top image shows a group of people in a large, ornate hall. The middle image shows two people, a man and a woman, sitting and talking. The bottom image shows a man in a suit and glasses holding a glass.

Join the Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy

Diploma courses will be open for registration until December, drop-in course days are available all year.

[Learn More](#)

WALKING TOUR OF FOUR ART GALLERIES IN FITZROVIA & MAYFAIR Led by Ben Street

The number of places is limited to 15 and will be allocated on a first-come first- served basis. Please feel free to invite one or more guests.

Ben Street is an art historian, author, lecturer, and educator based in London, the author of several books on art for general and younger readers. He has written for numerous publications, including museum catalogues, monographs, and magazines, and has participated as an expert on TV and radio programs for the BBC.

He has worked as a lecturer, educator and mentor for many museums and educational institutions, including The National Gallery, Tate, the Royal Academy of Arts, Dulwich Picture Gallery, Christie's Education, Sotheby's Institute of Art, the Museum of Modern Art and the Solomon R Guggenheim Museum, New York and is currently a tutor at the University of Oxford and the University of East Anglia.

Currently researching and writing his PhD on the late Philip Guston, about whom there an exhibition at Tate Modern until 24th February 2024.

In 2016 he led an event for the Livery Committee at Dulwich Picture Gallery. On **25th April 2024**, Ben has agreed to lead us through four art galleries in Fitzrovia/Mayfair. There will be about a 5-minute walk between each gallery. Disabled access is not considered to be a problem but there are unlikely to be any seats at the galleries.

Ben will decide nearer the date which galleries we will be visiting as these have not yet published their exhibitions. Applicants will be updated nearer the date, informed which galleries will be visited, and where to meet.

The intention is to visit two galleries before lunch and two after. Lunch will be taken at local hostelrys of which there are plenty. Each Apothecary and guest will choose and pay for their own refreshments.

Dress code: Smart casual

Dates: Thursday 25th 2024

Time: 11:00am - 2:30pm

Alan Collett is organising this event: contact email if required alan.collett@gmail.com

Walking Tour of four art galleries in Fitzrovia & Mayfair on Thursday 25th April 2024 starting at Savile Row and making our way to Cork Street area.

To book your place(s) by **Thursday 11th April 2024** please:

- Log in to the Members' Area of the Apothecaries website and book through the Society's GoCardless system (as you would for a Society Dinner)
- Any problems booking in this way, please contact Beci who will be happy to assist: events@apothecaries.org

LECTURE

FACULTY OF HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

22nd Feb - 06:00pm

Speaking uncomfortable truths to the world: a critical role for a medical writer



In her signature blend of candor and empathy, she'll explore the critical role of medical writers in challenging the status quo, advocating for patients, and ultimately, humanizing healthcare.

Dr Rachel Clarke

NHS Palliative Care Doctor
Three-time Sunday Times Bestseller

FRIENDS OF THE COLLECTIONS

At its AGM on Monday 13 November, members of the Friends of the Archives supported the proposal to rename the group the Friends of the Collections, in recognition of the Friends' wider range of activities and areas of support.


In addition to archival collections - including core Society records such as Court minutes, examination pass lists and business records - the Friends' remit includes portraits, drug jars, silverware, medals, scientific instruments and glassware, medical illustrations and dispensing equipment, not to mention a growing collection of recent and historical publications. Working alongside Honorary Curator, Nick Wood, and Archives Officer, Janet Payne, a group of volunteers drawn from the Friends' membership catalogue, research and display these items, and the Friends continue to support financially the acquisition of this broader range of material to add to the Society's rich collections.

The new name more accurately reflects both the Friends' current scope and the role that the Society would like it to support into the future.

Paul Simmons, Chair of the Friends, explained to the meeting that this change in name is linked to recent meetings between Friends and Society representatives to consider how best to support the organisation to ensure its sustainability.

Beci Ryan, the Society's Charities and Events Officer has been formally appointed as the Friends' Secretary, the Friends Committee will now have a new elected Honorary Treasurer role to liaise with the Society's Bookkeeper Sue Leary, and Friends' events have been incorporated into the Society's new online shop.

Of course, the change in name also requires a change in logo, with the updated design agreed by the Committee. To take forward these new challenges, the Committee will be refreshed by new co-options.



The Master's Fund

HELPING AT-RISK MEDICAL STUDENTS
Your donations make dreams come true.
Support a struggling student today.

FROM GROSSERS TO GROCERS TALK

On Monday 13 November Dr Helen Clifford, historian and archivist of the Grocers' Company and author of its two volume history *From Grossers to Grocers* (2018 and 2023), gave a fascinating talk to the Friends of the Collections following their AGM. Titled *Friends or Foes?*

Apothecaries and the great 'Separation', from the Grocers' Company perspective! Dr Clifford delved deep into the early history of the trades, tracing the interactions and development of the Grocers and Apothecaries from the thirteenth century onwards. Drawing on a wide range of primary and secondary sources, and centered on her in-depth knowledge of the Grocers' Court Minutes, she introduced us to individuals who created change, key moments in the Company's history and a consideration of the analysis carried out to date about the path that led the separation of the specialist sub-group of medical practitioners to become the Society of Apothecaries.

She concluded by suggesting that further collaborative exploration of the shared history would be profitable, and that there was definitely potential for those interested from both Grocers and Apothecaries today to come together to further investigate their histories.

Dr Clifford's scholarly talk was all the more enjoyable as she clearly was entranced by the developing story and the interest shown by her audience and her enthusiasm shone through. This was particularly so when she offered to share in co-operation in furthering our knowledge of the early links of both organisations.

The Society has recently acquired this splendid silver tray with the Society's arms originally given to John Newsom. Newsom was Master of the Society in 1814-15. The Tray, made by William Brown of London in 1822, was given to Newsom the following year "in consequence of the long services of unremitting attention given to the business of the Navy stock by John Newsom Esq." and of the "great esteem" in which he was held.

The Society is fortunate to hold more of Newsom's papers, particularly a fascinating journal of his voyages to the Coromandel Coast and Bengal between 1761 and 1763 as a surgeon's mate on the East Indiaman "Fox". Records then show that he joined the Society as a Yeoman by 1767, when he had an address in Cheapside. From there we have one of his bills of fare dating from 1786 which advertises the dispensing of physicians' prescriptions, the stocking of medicine chests and the sale of quality drugs. Finally, we have a charming small portrait of Newsom aged 82 in 1823.

It is worth noting that Newsom firstly practiced medicine as an assistant to a ship's surgeon, subsequently joined the Society of Apothecaries, but then very much practiced as a pharmacist from his shop in Cheapside. This demonstrates the very flexible nature of the work of an apothecary at a time when the distinctions between practicing surgery, physic and pharmacy were much more fluid.

The Society is grateful to the Friends of the Collections and to Past Master John Moore-Gillon for contributing towards the costs of this splendid tray, as well as to Dr John Ford who secured Newsom's papers in 2019.

Nicholas Wood.
Past Master and Honorary Curator

Adopt a Book scheme.

The beginnings of the Library at Apothecaries' Hall can be traced back nearly 400 years to the gift of a Gerarde's Herbal in 1633. Over the years, the fortunes of the Library have waxed and waned: many of the botanical books were moved to the Chelsea Physic Garden where they are still preserved, whilst many more were sold in the 1920's to help pay for the eradication of Death Watch Beetle which had been found infesting the Hall. Today, the Library contains a modest one thousand or so contemporary volumes but an additional 250 date from between about 1540 and 1850.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, many of these remaining books were somewhat neglected or forgotten, but in recent years they have been moved from the Library cupboards to the secure and controlled environment in the archives. Since 2015, a number of these have been restored through our Adopt a book scheme. In brief, an individual, or group of friends, "adopt" a book and pay for restoration.

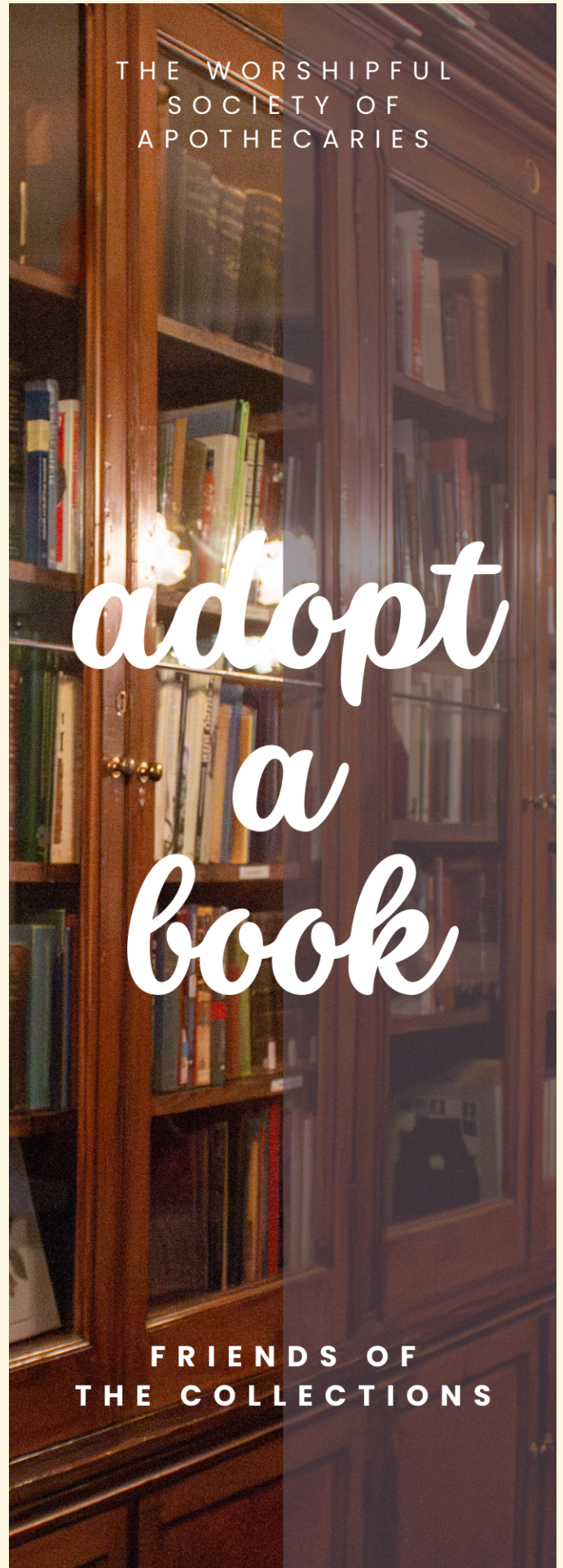
Some people have done so in memory of a friend or relative, or perhaps they have sponsored the restoration as a "gift". Either way, a bookplate is placed in the restored book as a permanent reminder of the donation. The current list of a dozen books in need of restoration can be found on our website.

They include a Culpeper's English Physician and Herbal, Darwin's "On the Origin of Species", and Florence Nightingale's "Notes on Nursing". An illustrated leaflet with more details of how to adopt a book can found on the website.

This is an important and on-going project to preserve the Society's rare books, allowing them to more easily be available for consultation by medical historians, researchers and members in general.

For those who would like to know more about the story of the Library, [click here](#).

Nicholas Wood.
Past Master and Honorary Curator.



THE WORSHIPFUL SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES

CIVIC LIVERY DINNER



23RD
FEB, 2024

FEATURING
THE LORD MAYOR
THE CIVIC SHERIFFS
LIVERY PRESIDENTS
SENIOR FIGURES

OPEN TO LIVERYMAN, YEOMAN AND THEIR GUESTS

DRESS CODE: WHITE TIE

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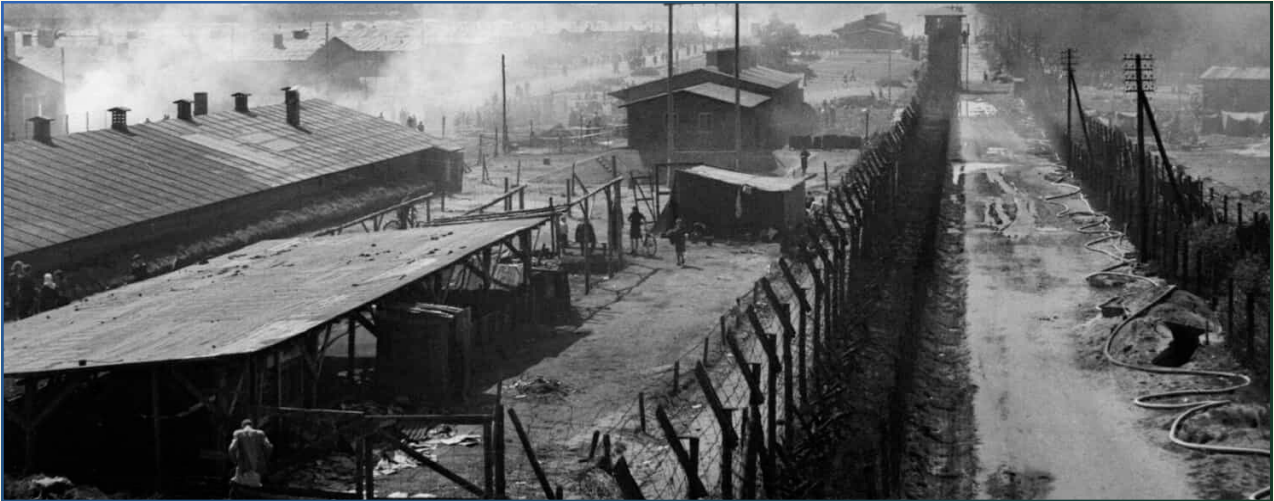


IN-PERSON

JOINT FACULTY LECTURE

10th Apr - 6:00pm

The role of London Medical Students in the relief of Bergen-Belsen in 1945



Join us to explore the extraordinary tale of courage and compassion. Discover the heroic journey of London's medical students at Bergen-Belsen in 1945. Sign up now and be part of this inspiring historical revelation.



Professor Stephen Challacombe

Professor of Oral Medicine

Past President of the British and International Associations of Dental Research



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THE MASTER APOTHECARY'S
Gallery



MEMBERS ADMISSION

The following were admitted to the Freedom:

Prof Marios Adamou OBE
Dr Rowland Gill
Dr Eithne MacMahon
Dr Eliot Williams
Col Ellie Williams





It is with sincere regret that we announce
the following deaths:

Mr Terence Philip Brock
Dr Irvine William Delamore
Mr Richard Kimber Franklin
Mr Gerald Keene
Dr James Michael Kenworthy-Browne

Editor: Peter Iwuoha
Contributors: Contributors: Master
Apothecary AVM Aroop Mozumder, Martin
Waldron, Beci Ryan, Nicholas Wood
Imagery: Photos courtesy of Carla
Salvatore & Phil McCarthy

The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries
lies at the heart of the early foundations of
modern-day medicine and remains an
important, active and innovative medical
institution today. The Society plays a key
role in the advancement of specialist areas
of medicine, and in the ongoing post-
graduate education and qualification of
practitioners.

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