

Charity Number: 1166134

British Society for the History of Pharmacy

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 31st December 2025

British Society for the History of Pharmacy

Reference and administrative information

for the year ended 31st December 2025

Charity number	1166134
Other names	BSHP
Registered address	BSHP c/o RPS Museum, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 66-68 East Smithfield, London, E1W 1AW

Trustees Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Robert Mark Nesbitt	President
Catherine Walker	Vice-President
Jemma Houghton	Hon. Treasurer
Matthew Johnston	Hon. Secretary
Briony Harmer	
John Crellin	
Stuart Anderson	
Christopher Duffin	
Abigail Heath	
Kimberley Walker	
Roy Allcorn	(resigned April 2025)

British Society for the History of Pharmacy

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st December 2025

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's constitution and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP.

Objectives and activities

The object of the charity is to advance education for the public benefit in the history of pharmacy by:

- Stimulating interest in and promoting and encouraging research and study in the history of pharmacy nationally and internationally;
- Furthering the publication of studies in the history of pharmacy;
- Organising meetings and conferences for the reading of papers on the history of pharmacy, pharmaceutical sciences and medicine; and
- Establishing contact nationally and internationally with other societies for historical studies.

The trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the trustees ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities remained focused on its stated purposes.

The trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Achievements and performance

Annual General Meeting 2025

The 57th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Saturday 5 April 2025 at the George Marshall Medical Museum, Worcester.

A quorum of Members attended the meeting.

At the AGM the following Trustees (Office Bearers) were confirmed:

President: Professor Mark Nesbitt

Vice-President: Ms Catherine Walker

Hon. Treasurer: Dr Jemma Houghton

Hon. Secretary: Mr Matthew Johnston

Briony Hudson was re-elected to the committee for a further three year term.

The 2024 Annual Accounts were agreed unanimously by those members attending the meeting.

Meetings of Committee

The Committee met three times during the year (17 February, 12 May and 13 October). All these meetings continued to be held online.

Name	Comments
Mr R T Allcorn	Resigned during 2025
Dr S C Anderson	2024-2027
Dr J Crellin	2024-2027
Dr C Duffin	2024-2027
Ms A Heath	2023-2026
Dr J Houghton	Honorary Treasurer until 2027
Ms B Hudson	Re-elected 2025-2028
Dr M H Jepson	2023-2026
Mr M Johnston	Honorary Secretary until 2027
Prof M Nesbitt	Re-elected as President 2025-2026
Ms C Walker	Re-elected as Vice President 2025-2026
Dr K Walker	2023-2026

Committee membership changes in 2025: Roy Allcorn stood down from the committee in 2025, otherwise there were no changes.

Membership

Total membership (including 1 Honorary Member) at 31st December 2025 was 125.

Movements in the year have been as follows:

New members: 7 / Resigned or deleted: 34

The higher number of deletions this year is largely due to a tidy up of membership data following the transfer of records from Associaction Enterprises and the removal of (presumed longstanding) non-paying members, in addition to smaller numbers of active resignations (9)/deaths (2), and as such is not in itself a cause for concern. Going forward it should be easier to track movements in membership numbers.

Meetings/Events

Committee meetings and public talks continued to be held online. A summer visit was held on 18 July to see the 'Curious Cures: Medicine in the Medieval World' exhibition at Cambridge University Library and to view the Heberden Medicine Cabinet at St John's College.

On-line Lecture Programme

Our successful series of free online discussions and talks continued in 2025 on Zoom. Bookings were managed in-house via the events@bshp.org email address. The 2025 lecture programme was as follows:

- Monday 12 May 2025: "From Spring Tonic to Syphilis: Sassafras; an Indigenous Herbal Cure-all" by Dr Kim Jacobson, retired physician and researcher
- Monday 7 July 2025: ""Just another shop"? Boots The Chemists in New Zealand and Fiji" by Dr Hilary Ingram, University of Nottingham
- Monday 13 October 2025: "Radioactive Remedies: The Unlikely History of Uranium and Radium in Pharmaceuticals" by Lucy Jane Santos – this was postponed to 2026 due to speaker illness
- Monday 1 December 2025: "A Dose of Satire: Caricatures Tracing the History of Turkish Pharmacy" by Dr Halil Tekiner, Erciyes University School of Pharmacy, Turkey

A Zoom-bombing incident during the July talk led to the unfortunate shutdown of the BSHP YouTube channel, which contained recordings of past lectures. A new channel has been created and the committee are working on restoring surviving recordings for 2026.

Annual Spring Conference April 2025, Worcester

23 people bought tickets for the event and 20 attended including 14 BSHP members. Delegates were all UK-based apart from one from Serbia, which is a much smaller international contingent from previous years. A number of delegates were herbalists, presumably attracted by Dr Anne Stobart's keynote lecture.

Following the format established newly in 2024, the formal programme took place on one day, Saturday 5 April, with optional dinners arranged in city-centre restaurants on Friday and Saturday evening, and hotel suggestions made for delegates to book themselves.

An optional visit to see medical highlights from the Worcester Cathedral Library, hosted by Librarian David Morrison was arranged for the Friday afternoon, with 13 booked, although in the event only 8 attending.

Curator Harriet Hathaway at The Infirmary Museum had also arranged that the Board Room where the BMA was founded would be available for delegates, free of charge. A small number of delegates visited on the Friday afternoon.

The Saturday programme was based in the lecture theatre of the George Marshall Medical Museum. For the first time, we sold tickets through TicketSource. Many thanks to Matthew Johnston for grappling with setting this up, and fielding subsequent enquiries.

The following short papers were given on the Saturday morning:

- Chris Duffin *Early Modern Plague Amulets*
- Briony Hudson *Sir Edwin Landseer's part in pharmacy history*
- Jelena Manojilovic *Stomatin from the laboratory of pharmacist Mr Milan Kovacevic*
- Graeme Tobyn *Culpeper on compound medicines in the Pharmacopoeia Londinensis 1618*
- Edward Wawrzynczak *Serum medicines meet the market*

In the afternoon the group was given a guided tour of the George Marshall Medical Museum by curator Louise Price, a talk on phrenology by volunteer Louise Robinson, and time to browse the displays.

Two Leslie Matthews Medals were awarded to Dr Anne Stobart and Dr Chris Duffin, by BSHP President Prof Mark Nesbitt. This was followed by keynote talk by Dr Anne Stobart on Researching historical medicinal recipes – collaboration and links between household medicine practitioners and apothecaries.

The Annual General Meeting was held at 4pm.

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Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st December 2025

Pharmaceutical Historian

Four issues of the *Pharmaceutical Historian: An International Journal for the History of Pharmacy* (Vol. 55, Nos. 1,2,3,4) were published during the year dated March, June, September and December. Stuart Anderson continued with the editorship continuing the existing arrangement to publish the journal on-line (with Ingenta) and thus internationally with the International Society for the History of Pharmacy (ISHP).

Printed copies continued to be produced and sent to all members who wanted them in that format. PDF copies are sent by email to members opting for a digital subscription, primarily those based overseas.

The hosting contract with Ingenta terminated on 31 December, with all content being transferred to Braunschweig University Library's pharmRxiv (PharmArchive) platform from 1 January 2026. This platform already hosts the Pharmaceutical Historian's archive content from 1967-2016.

BSHP Gazette

Four issues of the Gazette, our quarterly newsletter, were produced and mailed out to coincide with mailing the four issues of the *Pharmaceutical Historian*.

BSHP Website (www.bshp.org) **and Social Media**

The BSHP website was successfully relaunched in January 2025, having previously been run by Associaction Enterprises (see section below on secretarial support). This has given the committee greater flexibility in terms of updating the site and it is hoped that this will become much more active, with more regular content updates and opportunities to interact with the BSHP community. Many thanks to Kim Walker for designing the new website and overseeing a smooth transition.

All new membership applications in 2025 were received via the web-based form and paid for using the associated on-line PayPal payment system.

The number of our followers on Facebook continues to grow and is an important means of keeping everyone interested in us up to date. Our following on Twitter/X has fallen, in line with a general pattern of decline on that platform. We maintain a minimal presence on the site in order to reach our existing audience with updates.

Awards – Peter Homan Small Grant Scheme

This scheme was launched in early 2023. It invites applications at any time of year, with closing dates set at 31st May and 30th November. Applications are considered by a team of four members of the BSHP Committee, consisting of individuals with curatorial and research experience.

There were no applications for the period to the end of May 2025.

In December 2025 the Panel considered the single application received for the period to the end of November 2025:

- A request to support a pharmacy history exhibition, '100 Years of Portsmouth, 100 Years of Tremletts Chemist!' (Portsmouth History Centre and the School of Pharmacy, University of Portsmouth). Funding would be used for research costs including object selection, cataloguing,

and conducting oral history interviews with former staff members. Grant criteria met: Research costs and public engagement. Outcome: Grant of £500 made.

Awards - Leslie Matthews Medal

The Leslie Matthews Medal is the BSHP's highest award, presented for original and scholarly work in the history of British pharmacy, and last awarded in 2024.

No nominations were made for the award in 2025.

Secretarial support

Secretarial duties were brought in-house from 1 April 2025, having previously been provided by Associaction Enterprises. The transition was smooth and has led to greater efficiency in administrating membership data and services, as well as a small reduction in expenditure.

Appreciations

The Committee wishes to put on record its thanks to Catherine Walker at the Museum of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society for her help and support.

We are also indebted to Associaction Enterprises for their secretarial services over many years and their assistance in ensuring a smooth transition of these services to the Society's committee.

Financial review

The unrestricted funds held as at the 31st December 2025 were £52,096.

Reserves

The charity does not have a specific reserves policy as we maintain an investment account that would cover and exceed any running costs over the next 12 months. As at the 31st December 2025, this was £40,000.

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), registered in 2016 in England and Wales, operating under a constitution.

The trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits or remuneration from the charity. No expenses were reclaimed from the charity.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

There must be at least four Charity Trustees, who will be Officers of the charity: the President, the Vice-President, the Honorary Treasurer and the Honorary Secretary. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the Charity Trustees, or to appoint a new Charity Trustee.

Officers are proposed and voted in at the Annual General Meeting.

In addition, up to eight Ordinary Committee Members shall normally be elected by the BSHP membership for a term of three years. The Trustees and Ordinary Committee Members may decide to co-opt up to two additional ordinary committee members, bringing the total number of Trustees and Ordinary Committee Members up to a maximum of 14 at any one time.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 10/05/2026 and signed on their behalf by

Mark Nesbitt (Chair)

British Society for the History of Pharmacy

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Receipts		
Memberships	3,785	3,664
Annual conference	1,165	848
Donations	75	-
Peter Homan Bursary	-	50
Interest	1,688	1,210
Total receipts	6,713	5,772
Payments		
Charitable expenditure		
Associaction Enterprises costs	1,485	2,992
Conference expenditure	811	877
Insurance	158	154
Fees	46	23
Peter Homan fund payments	-	867
Pharmaceutical Historian printing and costs	3,288	1,083
Postage	1,585	-
Society of Apothecaries student support	100	-
Subscriptions (BSHM, ISHP, ISHP journal hosting)	994	420
Website	322	-
Total payments	8,789	6,416
Net receipts / (payments) for the year	(2,076)	(644)
Bank and cash balances at start of year	54,172	54,816
Bank and cash balances at end of year	52,096	54,172

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Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank and cash balances	52,096	54,172
Investment		
CAF Shawbrook deposit	40,000	40,000
Liabilities		
Membership income in advance	640	660

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. As a lower-income charity under section 133 of the 2011 Act, the trustees have elected to prepare the charity's financial statements using the Receipts & Payments basis.

2 Fund accounting

All the charity's funds are unrestricted. Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

3 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

No trustees or other persons connected with them received any remuneration during the year.

One trustee (2024: none) received reimbursement for postage expenses of £83 relating the Pharmaceutical Historian and Gazette (2024: £nil).

One trustee (2024: none) was reimbursed for expenses relating to the new website totalling £259 (2024: £nil).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year.