

History Centre News

No. 3 Autumn 2005

Walk the talk: a year of health history walks

by Ros Stanwell-Smith, Centre member and History Walks leader

A series of walks funded by a grant from the Wellcome Trust began with some short lunch time walks focusing on the names carved on the frieze round the School. These included the history of Bloomsbury and forays into Bedford Square, Gower Street and Torrington Square.

Occupants of the Keppel Street building have made many medical discoveries and advances, and the School is well placed for exploring London's medical history. Bloomsbury is the site of many medical 'firsts' - the first anaesthetic was administered in Gower Street, for example.

Two walks entitled 'Snow and Soho' acknowledged the absence of the name of Dr John Snow from the frieze. They took a meandering route from the School down to Soho and included the story of the cholera outbreak made famous by Snow's work. The most recent walk was to the Foundling Museum to learn more of 'Children's tragedies, children's stories'.

Even when a walk is repeated, it is never quite the same - slightly different routes and different points of interest are included. Climate has an influence, too, but these walks have been well attended even when freezing cold or drizzle dampen historical enthusiasm.

There's something about having a guided walk into history that beats reading about it in a book or hearing it in a lecture - hopefully it supplements what people know already and gives some new insights. During the next year, some of these walks will be repeated - taking note of all the helpful feedback received so far.

First Open House hailed as a success

by Victoria Killick, Archivist and Records Manager

On Saturday 17 September, the School participated in the Open House London for the first time.



The Open House weekend is a celebration of contemporary and renowned architecture across London which provides free public access to over 500 buildings and attracts over 350,000 visitors. Our participation was made possible through the Wellcome Trust Enhancement Award to the Centre.

We were overwhelmed by the interest in the School, with over 300 visitors coming through the doors. The guided tours, which were run on the hour by Victoria Killick, Archivist & Records Manager, Caroline Lloyd, Head of Library Services and Dr Ros Stanwell-Smith, Honorary Senior Lecturer were oversubscribed but we managed to squeeze over 200 people onto these.

Visitors attend Open House

Visitors were shown the reception area, North Courtyard Building, Library and the exterior of the School. Those who couldn't get on a tour viewed an exhibition on the history of the Keppel Street building and picked up literature on the School. including a specially designed leaflet on the history of the building. We received many positive comments from the visitors who were impressed with the building and the information provided. Many visitors expressed the hope that we would be open again next year, which we definitely plan to be.

Current Research Projects

Drug user groups, the voluntary sector and drug policy from the 1970s to the present

In July 2004 work began on a three year Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded project investigating the role played by drug user groups and the voluntary sector in illegal drug policy from the 1970s to the present.

The research is being conducted by Professor Virginia Berridge and new addition to the History Centre, Dr Alex Mold. Alex Mold joins the Centre following the completion of a PhD in history at the University of Birmingham on the 'British System' of heroin addiction treatment from 1965 to 1987.

The user group project aims to examine the impact of the voluntary sector on the formation of drug policy from the 1970s onwards. It will examine the reasons behind the emergence of voluntary organisations in the drugs field, consider the work of these and place this in the context of wider developments in the nature of voluntarism over the last 30 years. For example, it would seem that the voice of the drug 'user' is now accorded greater authority in determining policy than it has been in the past. The purpose of this project is to analyse how and why this, and other changes, have taken place and relate these to current and future policy initiatives.

Work already undertaken on the project has included preliminary archive visits, oral history interviews and use of the Freedom of Information Act (2005) to gain access to Department of Health policy papers. The researchers intend to disseminate their findings through published work, conference papers and in a workshop bringing together academics and potential 'users' of the research to be held in 2006/7.

Medicalising cannabis: science, medicine and policy 1960s - 2003

Cannabis has been the subject of much policy and media attention in the last few years. Historical work on the contemporary history of cannabis as a medicine is limited and this project,

Medicalising cannabis: science, medicine and policy aims to analyse how the status of cannabis has begun to change from illicit 'drug' towards licit 'medicine'. It hypothesises that the medicalisation or rather re-medicalisation of cannabis has been an important route for changes in the environment in which recent British policy on cannabis has been made. The project aims to analyse:

the process of medicalisation of cannabis since the 1960s

the interests involved, in particular, the role of scientific research and allied professions; industrial interests; drug technology; and user activism

the interaction of science and medicine with policy at the national level through the examination of the policy role of expert committees and their membership; and through a study of the role of the media the overall impact of medicalisation on the policy environment.

Framed as a history of science and policymaking the project studies the process whereby boundaries shift between illicit 'drug' and licit 'medicine ' and the issues and interests which are involved in that transaction.

Research themes include: the role of scientific research. incorporating a study of the trajectory of scientific research and the importance of different professional communities; the role of lay knowledge of medicinal cannabis, especially within the MS community; and the scientific and policy transfer in which the importance of professional organisations and expert committees such as the House of Lords Science and **Technology Committee and British Medical Association will** be considered.

The project also has a smaller international dimension covering the impact of international agencies such as the WHO and the International Narcotics Control Board, and international policy transfer focusing on Australia, Canada, the US and Britain.

A wide variety of sources are being utilised, ranging from interviews with politicians, medicinal cannabis activists and scientists, to media reporting of important events such as the publication of the Wootton Report and the famous Times advertisement on cannabis legalisation, sponsored by SOMA.

Archival material provides an important aspect and current research involves the personal papers of Professor William Paton of the Department of Pharmacology, Oxford University, as well as documents on cannabis from the MRC and records of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs.

The project commenced in April 2005 and funding was awarded to Virginia Berridge, with Suzanne Taylor as named researcher, by the Wellcome Trust for a period of three years.

For any enquiries, please contact suzanne.taylor@lshtm.ac.uk

European Association for the History of **Medicine and Health**

Report on Conference, 'Cultural History of Health and Beyond', Paris, September 2005

Centre members recently participated in this biennial meeting, one of the major international gatherings of medical and public health historians from Europe, the Americas and Australasia.

Alex Mold convened a session on the intersections between culture and health at which Alex, Virginia Berridge, Ginnie Smith and Ornella Moscucci spoke, on issues ranging from drugs to grooming to women's cancers.

Martin Gorsky organised a session (in conjunction with the interwar health group), which explored the comparative development of health systems in the early twentieth century, focusing on Britain, Hungary, Spain, France and the United States.

Important announcement

School to host European Association for the History of Medicine and Health Conference, 2007! by Martin Gorsky

Centre director Virginia
Berridge is now President of
the European Association, and
the School will host this
prestigious conference in
2007. We have chosen the
theme of health and environment,
and particularly hope that this
will allow us to take forward
some of the concerns we
developed in our recent
'Healthy Cities' conference.

Afternoon Workshop

Health Education, Public Health and Citizenship after 1945 16 November 2005

by Kelly Loughlin

Organised by the Centre for History in Public Health, this afternoon workshop at the School focuses on developments in the theory and practice of health education in post-war Britain. With contributions from public health historians and those currently working in health promotion, the workshop seeks to initiate discussion and reflection on the role and legacy of health education.

Given that health education is a highly expansive concept, the workshop's title aims to provide a framework for discussion by highlighting two important aspects in its historical development; health education's location within public health medicine, and its relationship with notions of citizenship.

Health education emerged as an area of specialist practice within local public health departments, and the first national co-ordinating body, The Central Council for Health Education, was established by the Society of Medical Officers of Health in 1927. This local health education function survived the advent of the NHS in 1948, and continued through to NHS reorganisation in the 1970s, when the local empire of the Medical Officer of Health effectively came to an end.

The 1980s saw the emergence of health promotion, a movement which became increasingly critical of health education. At the close of the century health education was widely dismissed as paternalistic and ineffective. At the start of the 21st century the word 'education' failed to survive the latest re-organisation of the national co-ordinating body (the old CCHE 1927) and the Health Education Authority was transformed into the short-lived Health Development Agency.

Although Medical Officers of Health sought to claim health education as their territory, it should be recognised that a 'duty' to educate patients, families and the public in matters of health was also undertaken by the hospital service, general practitioners, schools, voluntary organisations, commercial interests and central government.

This mix of governmental, professional, commercial and civil society involvement suggests the range and complexity of health education as a subject for historical enquiry.

Moreover, the role of health education and the image of its recipients have been famed by ideas of citizenship and social responsibility, and supported by models of human behaviour drawn from a range of social sciences. Indeed, the subjects of health and personal development within schools are currently framed by the National Curriculum in Citizenship.

We intend this framework to be productive rather than limiting, and believe that a consideration of health education in relation to public health and citizenship opens-up a range of themes for discussion.

Book Launch

The health education workshop will be followed by a launch for the latest book from the Centre:

Virginia Berridge and Kelly Loughlin eds. Medicine, the market and the mass media: producing health in the twentieth century (Routledge, 2005).

All members of the History Centre are welcome and an invitation will be circulated later this term.

Notice of Publications

Making medicines: A brief history of pharmacy and pharmaceuticals

A new book on the history of pharmacy, edited by Dr. Stuart Anderson, Senior Lecturer at the School, has just been published by the Pharmaceutical Press.

It presents a chronological discussion of the history of pharmacy and therapeutics from the ancient Egyptians to the present. It focuses on the discovery and uses of medicines to treat illness through the ages, and the evolving role of the pharmacist.

The book is in four parts. Part 1 looks at the development of pharmacy from the ancient world to the present. Part 2 covers pharmacy education, the practice of pharmacy in hospitals and in the community, and the growth of the pharmaceutical industry. Part 3 is concerned with the products of pharmacy, with chapters on therapeutic discovery, dosage form, drug safety and the progression from secret remedies to prescription medicines. Part 4 examines pharmacy today and tomorrow.

The book has two colour plate sections illustrating how pharmacy has developed over the centuries, and there are many photographs included in the text. The book is aimed at pharmacists, pharmacy students, health care practitioners and medical historians. The 336-page hardback book is on sale at £24.95.

Forthcoming events

Workshop
Health education, public health
& citizenship after 1945
Wednesday 16 November 2005
2.00 pm - 5.10 pm.
Room 5, Keppel Street
Building.

Public Health Lecture
Mark Harrison
Disease, Empire and the Rise
of Global Commerce: the origins of international sanitary
regulation in the 19h Century
Thursday, 24th November
5.00 - 6.30 pm.
Manson Lecture Theatre,
Keppel Street. Followed by a
reception in Room 5.

Centre for History in Public Health seminar programme, Autumn 2005

All Room 5, Keppel Street

Dr Marianne Fedunkiw (University of Toronto) Dr Dorothy Maude: an intrepid woman doctor in war-torn Serbia, 1915-1918 Thursday 27 October 2005, 12.45 pm - 2.00 pm.

Dr Alex McKay (Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL) Bhutan: biomedicine and traditional medicine, past and present Tuesday 8 November 2005, 5.30 pm - 7.00 pm.

Dr Ulrike Lindner (Munich University): Antenatal care in post-war Britain and Germany Thursday 17 November 2005, 12.45 pm - 2.00 pm. The 'Creole with the tea mug': Mary Seacole's place in the history of nursing Thursday 1 December 2005, 12.45 pm - 2.00 pm.

Drug and Alcohol seminar programme, Autumn 2005

All in Room 5

David Nutt (University of Bristol)
Addiction - what's the brain got to do with it?
Thursday, 3 November 2005, 5.30 pm - 6.45 pm.

Elizabeth Ettorre (University of Plymouth) Seeing women, power and drugs through the lens of embodiment Tuesday, 15 November 2005, 12.45 pm - 2.00 pm

Kiran Nanchahal & Sam Pattenden (LSHTM) Cheers! - Your good health?" Thursday, 8 December 2005, 5.30 pm - 6.45 pm.

Find out more about the Centre for History and Public Health at www.lshtm.ac.uk/history



Caroline Lloyd, Ros Stanwell-Smith and Victoria Killick outside the Keppel St. building on Open House Day

How are we funded and managed?

Funding comes from the Wellcome Trust, the Economic and Social Research Council, the Nuffield Trust, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Unilever Centre. We also run funded seminars, conferences and workshops.

A Management committee meets twice a year, supported by monthly meetings of a strategic group incorporating active researchers. There is a wider group for affiliated staff.