

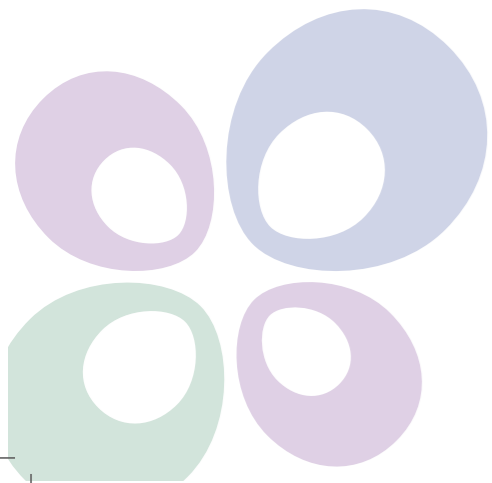


The Blackie Foundation Trust

funding the future of homeopathy



FORWARD THINKING



2009 Issue
Registered Charity No: 313442



ROYAL VISIT HONOURS BLACKIE FOUNDATION TRUST

On the 25th of November 2008 The Royal London Homeopathic Hospital (RLHH) was treated to a Royal visit as Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra experienced the newly refurbished Great Ormond Street site. The Princess was keen to learn more about medical homeopathy pioneered by the late Dr Margery Blackie, former homeopathic physician to HM Queen Elizabeth II and founder of The Blackie Foundation Trust.

Dr Sara Eames, Homeopathic Physician RLHH, Blackie Foundation Trustee and President of the Faculty of Homeopathy, co-coordinated the visit and showed Princess Alexandra around the building. Mr. Jeremy Nickson, Chairman of The Blackie Foundation Trust, and Mr. Robin Holland-Martin, Blackie Foundation President, were also present.

The visit began with a tour of the recently opened Complementary and Alternative Medicine Library and Information Service (CAMLIS) where a special part of the library houses a fascinating collection of Blackie memorabilia, which Her Royal Highness found most interesting. Dr Peter Fisher, Clinical Director of RLHH and Gerhard Bissels, Chief Librarian of the CAMLIS library were on hand to explain to the Princess the pioneering work done by Dr Blackie.

A visit to the pharmacy followed, which was open for business as usual dispensing prescriptions and advice to waiting patients. Her Royal Highness stopped to talk to Ms Ananti Shah, Chief Pharmacist of the RLHH. After some discussion a prescription for a cold was dispensed to Her Royal Highness along with a gift from The Trust, a collection of homeopathic medicines in a stylish presentation case, which was presented by Trust Administrator Julia Potter.

The Royal visit continued to the third floor to see a typical consulting room in the hospital. Dr Andrea Wiessner and Dr Jennifer Lenhart of the RLHH then welcomed Princess Alexandra along with the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson hospital midwives Jackie Baxter and Debbie Gould who were working in the clinic.

The tour concluded with afternoon tea in the management office whereupon Her Royal Highness spoke with warmth and knowledge of the valuable pioneering work done by Dr Blackie and of the continued research currently being performed in this fascinating branch of medicine.

Today, there is a growing demand for homeopathic medicine in Great Britain; however, homeopathy has always been controversial. The Blackie Foundation Trust aims to support trials in clinical and scientific research into its mode of action.



FUNDING THE FUTURE OF HOMEOPATHY - NEW LOOK FOR BLACKIE

When the decision was made to re-launch and restyle The Blackie Foundation Trust's corporate identity, an opportunity arose to communicate more effectively the modern face of homeopathy within contemporary medicine and The Trust's mission statement.

A re-branding exercise starts with a look at the essential values of a business. By identifying what those values and promises are it is easier to define the design criteria. In the case of The Blackie Foundation Trust, the old logo had long ceased to have relevance to the modern world and was seen to be somewhat austere. New colours and a smoother, cleaner, design style were needed to lift the old into the new.

A brand identity should reflect the nature and values of the product and service, as well as be pleasing to the eye, memorable and adaptable. My Giraffe Ltd, Advertising and Design agency, was commissioned to provide a detailed analysis of where The Blackie Foundation Trust had come from and how best to demonstrate The Trust's commitment to the ongoing future of homeopathy.

The design options consisted of three choices: the traditional, where the focus would be on retaining a link with the past using a restyled version of the familiar castle emblem but with a modern graphic style; the leaf, where the link to natural resources would be strong along with natural colours and a clear empathy to current awareness issues; and the abstract, which is based on science in the form of a cell structure using empathetic colours which illustrate water; air; nature and flowers. The Trust decided upon the latter, preferring its link to science and nature. Part of the remit of The Blackie Foundation Trust is to underline the guiding principles set by Dr Margery Blackie and her commitment to research and the ongoing development of homeopathy, which the new logo encapsulated.

With the design choices made, the question arose as to how best display this new direction? A website is the obvious answer; and The Trust now has a fully functioning and modern site from which to promote its core values to the world. With pages devoted to news, history, funding, merchandise and further reading, it is a unique one-stop for anyone interested. And perhaps most crucially of all, a Donate link is featured on the homepage that takes the viewer straight to a special page from which details are given on how to make a donation to The Trust.

LOOKING FORWARD

The Blackie Foundation Trust now has all the tools at its disposal from which to take its funding issues onwards as it approaches the close of the millennium's first decade. From the fresh new look on its website, to a brand new visual identity, redesigned stationary and business cards, it's hugely important to The Trust to take this new look and capitalise on the clear message it can now communicate. With homeopathy increasing in popularity by the day, there is a positive attitude to the future.

Royal links stands The Trust in good stead creating a solid foundation and giving The Blackie Foundation Trust a firm platform from which to develop its funding goals and research criteria. The Trust is seen as a clear leader in the field of homeopathic research – and its new design style reflects this.



RESEARCH

The Blackie Foundation Trust is funding both national and international organisations to research various areas within homeopathy, including Dimitris Zienkiewicz's 'The impact of ultra-high dilutions of antigen on Dendritic cell activation and immune response initiation'.

Jackie Bishop from the University of Bristol writes about the use of homeopathic products in children and their development during childhood and into adulthood. Her investigations are based on a data generated over eight years from the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children and are invaluable for future homeopathic research projects.

Another study sponsored by The Blackie Foundation Trust is Dr. Jacob Minah's and Professor Florence Margai's report on Homeopathic treatment for Malaria.

For further reading see www.blackieft.org



NEWS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

When Dr Margery Blackie started her Fork Suppers back in the 1950's to promote homeopathy amongst her fellow medical practitioners little did she know that, nearly 50 years later, the Trust bearing her name would be thriving and expanding.

Like all of my fellow Trustees, I am determined to help researchers investigate the effectiveness of homeopathy and how it can treat and cure so many debilitating conditions, diseases and illnesses.

I am extremely grateful to the many individuals who help us with financial support especially to the late Mrs. M. E. Carter for her generous legacy. Likewise, we cannot continue to be effective without the support of our volunteers, whether they be Vice Presidents, Trustees or in the front line delivering assistance.

Special thanks go to our President Robin Holland-Martin for his counsel and support and to Dr Anita Davies for providing us with office space at her consulting rooms in Upper Wimpole Street.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our former Trust Administrator Shirley Cave, for her hard work, commitment and skill in managing our affairs for eight years and at the same time welcome Julia Potter who has replaced Shirley. We wish Julia every success and many happy years ahead.

The Trust's aims and objectives are simple: to support homeopathic research, support the education of health professionals who want to obtain homeopathic qualifications and to raise awareness of the benefits of homeopathy. We have an ambitious and exciting programme of initiatives and events ahead and, with your help, The Blackie Foundation Trust will go from strength to strength.



BRITISH HOMEOPATHIC CONGRESS 2008, HARROGATE

Last October The Trust packed its bags and headed up to Harrogate to attend the British Homeopathic Congress 2008 where it held an exhibition stand. This time however The Trust was showcasing its new look, with the stand designed by Trust Administrator Julia Potter; and it proved very popular within the homeopathic community.

There was a general consensus this year among the attendees that the event was of an excellent standard and was a welcome opportunity for the medical homeopathic community to come together to share ideas and listen to presentations within an enthusiastic and friendly atmosphere.



DR SARA EAMES, TRUSTEE OF THE BLACKIE FOUNDATION TRUST BECOMES PRESIDENT OF THE FACULTY OF HOMEOPATHY

At the beginning of February this year I was very honoured to be elected as President of the Faculty of Homeopathy. The Faculty of Homeopathy was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1950 to oversee and deliver national standards for training in, and the practice of, homeopathy by doctors.

This is obviously a challenging time to be leading a homeopathic organisation, but so far I am enjoying it and finding that it fits well with my other commitments. For at least the past ten years I have been campaigning for homeopathy so the subject matter and political situation was not new to me.

The main concern which I had, apart from whether there were enough hours in the day, was about conflicts of interest, as I would have a 'Blackie hat', a 'Royal London Homeopathic Hospital hat' and a 'Faculty hat'. I am rather pleased that so far I have found this can be used to an advantage, as I am able to keep all the organisations informed about the activities of the others. It is vital in these tricky times that we support each other; whilst sticking to the goals and objectives of each of the separate organisations. One of the things which I can offer The Blackie Foundation Trust is my up-to-date knowledge of homeopathic politics and by the end of my three years as Faculty President I hope that not only the Faculty will be a more robust and larger organisation, but that The Blackie Foundation Trust will also be better known and playing an integral part in the advancement of homeopathic research and education. I am only sorry for my poor fellow trustees who must get a bit fed up with me declaring conflict of interest in so many of the topics we discuss!



THE TRUST ABROAD

XXIInd International Conference of the Groupe International de Recherche sur l'Infinitesimal (GIRI) Oostende, 20.05.08.

Report by Galen Ives, M.Sc

The day began with a Board meeting of GIRI, electing new members and officers of the society. Prof. Bonamin, who has been president for the past five years, retired from office and was replaced by Dr René Halm. I also retired as secretary, agreeing to remain as assistant secretary for a further year.

GIRI has now published the third edition of its book Signals and Images. The book is dedicated to the late Prof. Madeleine Bastide in recognition of her great contribution to high dilution research; she was one of the founders of GIRI. A new journal has been launched, sponsored by GIRI – the International Journal of High Dilution Research. This is a purely electronic publication, with free access to all. The aim is to create a high quality, peer-reviewed publication dedicated not just to homeopathy but also to all aspects of high dilution research. It can be accessed at www.feg.unesp.br/ijhdr.

Most notably for the Trust was a presentation by Lex Rutten who received a grant from us last year for his work on improving homeopathy by scientific research. His central concern is the uncertain and subjective nature of much of the classic repertory and he aims to place this on solid, statistical foundations. He gave a detailed presentation. Dr Michel van Wassenhoven followed with his own work on symptom verification which I have also similarly reported in 2005. Both speakers argued strongly that a statistical approach will improve homeopathic practice; the links between symptoms and remedies can be established with much greater clarity, and the existing repertory can be both verified where accurate and improved where it is not; the result will be an "evidence based repertory". Gathering the necessary base of statistical data will be a very major undertaking involving international collaboration; the present work is only in its infancy, but is nevertheless already producing interesting and useful data.

This year, the GIRI meeting was followed by the Liga Medicorum Homoeopathica Internationalis (LMHI) Congress.

HOST A FORK SUPPER

The Trust is keen to hold similar events around the country, so if you know of a group of doctors who would be interested or would like to organise or host something similar yourself, please contact The Trust.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A FORK SUPPER?

If you, or your company, would like to sponsor the costs of a Blackie Foundation Fork Supper, and would like to know what sponsorship brings, please see our website www.blackieft.org for more details.

THE BEST FORK SUPPER SINCE MARGERY BLACKIE'S TIME

One of the constant challenges to the homeopathic community is to inform enough doctors about the possibilities of homeopathy. Margery Blackie used to hold regular Fork Suppers to introduce doctors to the ideas of homeopathy and to invite debate on the subject. On the 11th December 2008 The Trust hosted a Fork Supper at the Malone Golf Club, Belfast, Northern Ireland. The Supper had over 50 attendees consisting of healthcare professionals new to homeopathy, including doctors from primary and secondary care, nurses and pharmacists. After the Fork Supper there has been a great deal of interest from health professionals in taking the Faculty courses. The event coincided with a delegation from the Faculty of Homeopathy meeting with the Health Committee at Stormont to discuss the possible integration of homeopathy into the National Health Service, as therefore increasing patients choice.

During the Fork Supper Dr Sara Eames gave an informative introductory talk on homeopathy and Dr Peter Fisher, Clinical Director and Director of Research at the Royal London Homeopathic Hospital, hosted a question and answer session which generated a lot of discussion.

The Trust will watch Northern Ireland with interest and await the outcome of the important discussions that are happening there, taking a special interest in the educational developments and research opportunities.



OBITUARIES

SIR MAURICE LAING

All of us involved with the Blackie Foundation Trust felt great sadness when Sir Maurice Laing died in February 2008 aged 90. He had been an influential supporter of The Trust - first as President from 1988 to 1998, and then subsequently as one of our Vice Presidents, in order to maintain contact with us.

His achievements and successes in his long life were very substantial, indeed remarkable. He was a shrewd and enterprising businessman with great flair, as well as having a very human and generous side.

He joined his family's construction company, John Laing & Sons aged 17 working under the direction of his determined father. Except for four years during World War II when he served in the RAF, he spent his main career with the Company. Due to his prominent role in the UK's Construction industry, he became President of the CBI in 1965, and received his Knighthood in the same year. He contributed a great deal of time to Trade Associations and Board of Trade committees.

He joined the Court of the Bank of England in 1963 and remained on the Court for seventeen years - an exceptionally long period, especially during the considerable upheavals in the UK economy and in politics during that time.

Working closely with his elder brother, he built up the Laing construction group to be a major force in the world of civil engineering and building, constructing motorways, bridges, housing and (during the War) RAF bases. In between all that work, he made time for other things; he developed a passion for ocean racing and became much involved in the sailing community; he spent considerable time and money on philanthropic causes close to his heart. He was greatly interested in complementary medicine and over the years was a very generous supporter of the Blackie Foundation Trust. In everything that he did (both large and small) he took a detailed interest in the strategic and administrative sides of the entities he supported. Among many other positions, he was President of the London Bible College.

During his life he was enormously generous, supporting a very wide range of charitable activities, but always keeping a low profile. He was greatly admired.

THE RT. HON DR J DICKSON MABON

Dr J Dickson Mabon was a staunch supporter of homeopathy and was one of The Blackie Foundation Trust's stalwart Vice Presidents, having been appointed in 1984. He died in April 2008 aged 82. He was very much a no-nonsense Scotsman. He was well known as a Labour MP (he was in the House of Commons from 1955), reaching Ministerial rank in the 1960's and 1970's - he became a Privy Councillor in 1977. He qualified as a doctor at Glasgow University in the 1950's and became a homeopathic physician. He was a great defender and influential supporter of homeopathy for the rest of his life.

Dickson's most important contribution to homeopathy was his successful involvement to save the Royal London Homeopathic Hospital from closure in the early 1990s. This was largely thanks to his political skill and guidance of the dedicated team at the Hospital, the Hospital was granted NHS Trust status in 1993, and he became its first Chairman until 1997. He also served as the President of the Faculty of Homeopathy in 1995.

With a twinkle in his eye and an infectious sense of humour; he was always a robust colleague to have around - he will be much missed.



HOW YOU CAN HELP US CONTINUE OUR VALUABLE WORK

The Blackie Foundation Trust relies entirely on donations and has fortunately enjoyed the support of many people who have been generous in response to our fund-raising events. These donations are critical for the continuation of the Trust's work in keeping up the momentum of our research and educational activities. The Trust would appreciate your help in a variety of ways; through sponsorship, by making a donation, perhaps by holding an event and, of course, by making a bequest in your will.

GIFT AID

Under this scheme, the Trust reclaims from the Inland Revenue the basic rate of tax on the gift. Your donation of, say, £100 then becomes £128.20 for the Trust. A full explanation of the Gift Aid Scheme is included in our donation form below.

DON'T FORGET THAT THE TRUST ALSO SELLS NOTE LETS, PERFECT FOR ANY OCCASION

These 11 cm x 15 cm notelets are in greeting card form with the bouquet on the front and blank inside, making them useful for any occasion. With each pack of 10, there is an overprinted transparent sheet which, when held over the picture, identifies each element of the composition. The notelets cost £4.00 per pack of 10, p&p 50p for one pack, £1.00 for two and more.

To purchase these please send a cheque and details of where the notelets should be sent to **The Trust Administrator, The Blackie Foundation Trust, 1 Upper Wimpole Street, London, W1G 6LA.**

COLLECTING BOX

Included with our newsletter is a new fundraising initiative from The Trust. The idea is that you would place the box in your waiting room, entrance hall or wherever you like and people can donate to The Trust. Once you have collected money please send The Trust a cheque totalling the amount collected. The contribution will be used to support our research programme and will go towards granting educational bursaries to those wishing to study homeopathy.

For further information visit
www.blackieft.org
 or call **020 7935 0856**

The Blackie Foundation Trust's research programme is recognised by its membership of the Association of Medical Research Charities.

Registered Charity No: 313442

FRIENDS & DONATION FORM

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Email _____

I wish to become a Friend of The Trust and will make an annual donation of £ (min £25)

Please make your cheque payable to:
THE BLACKIE FOUNDATION TRUST

Please send the completed form and donation to:
**The Trust Administrator, The Blackie foundation trust,
 1 Upper Wimpole Street, London, W1G 6LA**

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ made payable to The Blackie Foundation Trust.

I would like to Gift Aid this donation.
 You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the Charity reclaims on your donation in the appropriate tax year.

I authorise The Blackie Foundation Trust to hold personal data I have provided and use it to send me further information about The Trust.