

## **A heartfelt, tribute to the Queen, HRH Elizabeth 11 (1926-2022) on behalf of The Faculty of Homeopathy**



Many of us have not lived through a time when the Queen did not rule our country. She is an integral part of our lives, embedded deeply in our culture and British Heritage. She has overseen disasters too numerous to mention, family rifts, tragedies and disloyalties, very much flaunted in the public domain. Equally, she has shared many joyous occasions, including

investitures, Trooping the Colour, launchings, the palace garden parties, and of course, the Christmas message.

Through all of this, she has remained dignified and calm; never lowering her guard, her steadfast commitment to her duty unwavering, demonstrating an inimitable poise, at all times.

She represented, unequivocally, a quintessential Britain; always much more than the dictionary definition of 'Queen' - 'The female ruler of an independent state,' rather, she was the personification of the ultimate matriarch, to her citizens throughout the world, her family, and to us, as homeopaths, so deep was her conviction to homeopathy. Undeterred by the ignorance of the detractors, firm in her knowledge of the power of the remedies, she became a motivating force for students, and a shining example of radiant health, for much of her life. Her strong association with The Faculty of Homeopathy has left many of us deeply saddened, yet full of gratitude for her life, much of which she shared with some of our colleagues, as her physician, pharmacist, or simply, friend.

Her longevity is as ever, probably due to a multitude of factors, but certainly not least her lifelong love of homeopathic medicine. The Queen always travelled with a case of remedies recommended to her by both Dr Marjorie Blackie and Sir John Weir; the case, still touchingly contained hand-written notes of advice by these physicians, tucked deep inside, to her late father, she enjoyed the sense of security of having essential remedies to hand. The Royal Family continue to consult with Ainsworths Homeopathy Pharmacy, which, in 1980 was graciously honoured with Royal Warrants of Appointment to Her Majesty The Queen, Her Majesty The Queen Mother and His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, as suppliers of homeopathic remedies, Ainsworths have since earned a worldwide reputation as a centre of excellence. Our Dean of Pharmacy, Tony Pinkus, owner of Ainsworths, had fostered a solid relationship with The Queen and the rest of the Royal Family and continues to do so.

The Queen had many homeopathic physicians throughout her life, those who attended her as an adult are listed here:

### **Sir John Weir (1879 –1971)**

Sir John was of Scottish birth and received both medical and surgical degrees from the University of Glasgow. he became **President of the Faculty of Homeopathy** in 1923. He had

previously been Royal Physician to King George V, King Edward VII and King George VI and was the Queen's physician 1952-1968

**Dr Margery G. Blackie (1898-1981)**

Dr Blackie was Dean of Faculty at the Royal London Homeopathic Hospital from 1965- 1979. In 1968, she was appointed personal physician to Queen Elizabeth II.

**Dr Charles Kennedy Elliott (1919-1993)**

Dr Charles Kennedy Elliott was a British orthodox physician who converted to homeopathy, to become the homeopathic Physician of Queen Elizabeth II.

**Dr Ronald Davey (1943-)** Dr Ronald W. Davey, Physician to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was a world-renowned researcher and personal physician to HRH Queen Elizabeth II of England starting in 1986.

**Photo: The Queen with Dr Peter Fisher**



**Dr Peter Fisher (1950-2018)** Dr Peter Fisher was Director of Research at the Royal London Hospital for Integrated Medicine and served as homeopathic physician to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II for 17 years. An Honorary Consultant Rheumatologist at King's College Hospital and **President of the Faculty of Homeopathy**, in 2018. Dr Fisher also chaired

the World Health Organisation's working group on homeopathy and served on their Expert Advisory Panel on Traditional and Complementary Medicine.

**22nd October 1970- Faculty Congress, The Guildhall, London**

In 1970, The Queen attended The Faculty of Homeopathy's Congress at The Guildhall, in London. This was a wonderful demonstration of the superb relationship that the Queen and her then homeopathic physician, Dr Margery Blackie had. The Faculty was also honoured to welcome Her Majesty The Queen to the Gala Dinner, that evening.

An account of The Congress can be found in the 1970 British Homeopathic Journal. The following was written with reference to the Queen's attendance:

**Photo: The Queen receiving Members of The Faculty**



"The evening event was a reception at Guild Hall at which Her Majesty the Queen graciously consented to be present. We assembled at Guild Hall at about 8.30 p.m. Informal talk between groups was helped out by the serving of champagne. Her

Majesty arrived at 9.15 p.m. and many of the doctors taking part in the Congress were

presented. Her Majesty expressed great interest in the work they were doing and, in the Congress, specifically. The presentations were followed by an excellent buffet meal, and the Queen left about 10.15 p.m. We paid our respects to our President, Dr. Blackie, individually and then made our way back to our hotels.”

**Photo: The Queen, with Dr Blackie at Congress 1970**



In 1968 Dr Margery Blackie became the Physician to Her Majesty the Queen, the first woman to hold this position. The Queen accepted an invitation to this very special Congress, testament to their strong friendship and mutual respect. Margery Blackie was the most outstanding homeopathic doctor of her generation; admired by homeopathic and conventional physicians alike. Her sound medical practice and enthusiasm for homeopathy led to its increased acceptance

by the wider medical world. She was admitted to the Royal Victorian Order with the rank of Commander, in 1979 when she had just passed her eightieth birthday after her health declined.

**Closing thoughts**

It is no surprise that the Queen chose homeopathy and we will always treasure her advocacy. I recently wrote the following words for Simile to commemorate her Platinum Jubilee, which depicts her wise and noble demeanour perfectly and the connection to homeopathy experienced by herself and the Royal family who have used it judiciously for hundreds of years:

‘Homeopathy remains unique, refined and gentle as a therapy, not unlike the Queen herself. Many homeopaths are devoted to their profession; their expertise reflects years of dedication to study, thus the results in treatment reach the high standards expected by The Crown. It differs to conventional medicine, in that it is not a one size fits all treatment, rather, it is exclusive and deeply personal, tailored to one’s unique constitution. In addition, it is pure, essentially organic, resonating with nature at every level, something The Royal Family profoundly identify with. It is complex and vitalistic and requires a vision which most certainly looks outside the box. Putting it like this, it’s not difficult to understand the attraction and lifelong relationship; resonance of an almost divine nature abounds.’

We are profoundly grateful for the support of King Charles 111 as Patron of The Faculty of Homeopathy and wish him and the entire Royal family every strength and comfort at this sad time. His mother’s light will forever be an inspirational, guiding force for all who have encountered her presence in this world.

**Gill Graham**

[FeatureSimile@facultyofhomeopathy.org](mailto:FeatureSimile@facultyofhomeopathy.org)