

Scottish Charity promoting homeopathic practice

Dr Lee Kayne MRPharmS FFHom outlines the origins and work of the Scottish Homeopathic Research and Education Trust (SHRET) of which he is Chairman.

The Scottish Homeopathic Research and Education Trust (SHRET) is a registered charity, established in 1948 to support research, education and practice in homeopathy and allied fields worldwide.

In 1948, the Scottish homeopathic community, spearheaded by such luminaries of homeopathic practice as Dr John Paterson, Dr William Boyd, Dr Thomas Douglas Ross and the magnificently named Captain Kenneth Beatson Septimus Greig CBE, sought assurances that the newly formed National Health Service would include homeopathic services in its Scottish implementation as it did in England. In response, the Secretary of State for Scotland confirmed that under the NHS (Scotland) Act of 1947, the practice of homeopathy would be recognised in "any approved...hospital service" but that "facilities for homeopathic research, education and practice will be, at least in part, the responsibility of persons having an interest [in homeopathy]". Thus SHRET was duly constituted on 2nd September 1948.

The original Constitution is a wonderfully old fashioned document, with some particularly florid language for example noting that trustees may be removed should they be 'found lunatic' and giving the occupation of a witness to the trustee signatures, Diana Kennedy, as 'spinster'! These limitations aside, the founding trustees were wonderfully prescient about the way the practice of homeopathy might evolve in the years following the inauguration of the Trust. To specify that funds could be used for the "advancement of Homeopathy and other allied sciences" has allowed SHRET to fund projects such as art and music therapies among other complementary and integrated modalities.

In recent years, SHRET has funded a range of diverse projects such as advanced homeopathic teaching for pharmacists, helping homeopathic practitioners attend courses and conferences at home and worldwide, continuing professional education seminars, university study modules in homeopathy, bursaries in memory of Dr Hamish Boyd, a previous Chair, for first time attendees at Faculty Congress and establishing public clinics offering free or low cost homeopathic services in conjunction with Homeopathy UK.

In addition, SHRET is proud to be the custodian of the British Homeopathic Library, which employs a permanent librarian and boasts an extensive collection including some historically important books, audio tapes, journals and articles with several hundred items recently added as a donation by the world renowned homeopathic teacher and author Frans Vermeulen. The library is housed in the NHS Centre for Integrative Care in Glasgow and is available for public visiting by appointment. Contact details on our website.

There are currently five trustees, all homeopathic practitioners with backgrounds in medicine, pharmacy, nursing and veterinary science. We are keen to recruit new members for

the board and would be very pleased to receive nominations for anyone with an interest in homeopathy. Meetings are typically three times a year, in February, June and October and your location is unimportant as, like most organisations these days we meet via Zoom or using hybrid technology.

I do hope that in reading this overview you will agree that SHRET has a vital role in supporting homeopathy and of course, in order for us to continue this important work, we depend on donations and legacies. Many of those who we have helped with funding over the years have later donated to the charity and this, as with all donations we receive, is always very much appreciated. As you read this, if you feel that you might be in a position to support our work, we would be incredibly grateful. To do so, and for more information, please visit us online at www.shretchcharity.org

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SHRET
SCOTTISH HOMEOPATHIC RESEARCH & EDUCATION TRUST

DOING RESEARCH?
INVOLVED IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING?
NEED FUNDING TO ATTEND A COURSE?
LOOKING FOR INTERNATIONAL FUNDING?

SHRET is a registered charity (SC006557) established in 1948 to support research, education and practice in homeopathy and allied fields. For further information and details of how to apply for funding, please visit our website or contact us directly.

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