

Dr Edward Bach as a Freemason

This is a short account to support Francis's fascinating piece on the links between homeopathy and the Freemasons.



Dr Edward Bach (1886 –1936) was a British doctor, bacteriologist, homeopath, and spiritual writer, who was also a Freemason for some of his life. He was best known for developing the Bach flower remedies, a form of alternative medicine inspired by classical homeopathic traditions.

Despite the success of his work in orthodox medicine, he felt dissatisfied with the focus on disease by doctors, as opposed to looking at the 'whole' person, so he turned to alternative therapies. He believed, like Hahnemann, that illness is the effect of disharmony between the body and mind and that symptoms of an illness are the external expression of negative emotional states. In 1828 he began work on his own remedies made from plants.¹

Dr Bach was initiated into the Freemasons in 1918 and belonged to the London Warwickshire, Royal Hampton Court and Norbury lodges, when in London. In later years his membership lapsed but he retained a fondness for the institution and could always use his contacts when he needed a venue, or other favours. Information is quite sparse on his time with The Masons, due to the often-secretive nature of the Order. It is reported that Bach was given the Masonic moniker 'Royal Ancient Order of Buffaloes' and that he was a founder member of Bath Lodge by the pier in Cromer, where he spent many winters, working and treat-

ing people. Bath Lodge was referred to as a "A poor man's Masonic!" Bach would attend meetings there and it seems his presence and influence was important as 'Bath Lodge' which was jokingly called 'Bach Lodge' (for Bath to rhyme with Bach one assumes his name was incorrectly pronounced as in Johan Sebastian's and not as it should be, as in – batch) It is said that Masonic lodges at this time were not the often 'menacing' mysterious places we sometimes associate them with; rather they were social haunts, similar to 'glorified pubs.'²

On researching, his main contribution to The Masons was when he presented The Wallingford Lectures³ – 24th September 1936 in The Masonic Hall in Wallingford, Oxfordshire. The first lecture was delivered to the general public, the second to the Masons themselves, using words such as 'brethren', 'brotherhood' and 'order.' His message was clear in both; he outlined the simplicity of the system of flower essences he had formulated, stressing that that they were for use by everyone.

This was a very significant day and

date for Bach; it was his 50th birthday and the day his book *The Twelve Healers & Other Remedies* was published. He died shortly after these lectures, (in November 1936) having been diagnosed with cancer 19 years previously and given 3 months to live. His comparative longevity is attributed to his work and practising his art on himself. He left his work to be continued by his faithful friends. The message in the book, first spoken at the Wallingford lectures was "This work of healing has been done and published so that people like you can help yourselves either in illness or to keep well and strong."

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References

1. Dr Edward Bach Available online at : <https://www.bachcentre.com/en/about-us/history/dr-bach/> (Accessed 7th February 2022).
2. Edward Bach – A Fascinating insight Available online at : <https://www.creaturecomforters.org/edward-bach---a-fascinating-insight.html> (accessed 7th February 2022).
3. The Wallingford Lectures: Available online at: <https://www.bachcentre.com/wp-c> (Accessed 7th February 2022).

Faculty Vice-President steps down

On behalf of the Faculty, we would all like to thank Trish for her tireless commitment to the Faculty during several years of challenge, change and development. We are all delighted that Trish intends to continue to help steer the Faculty towards the next chapter of its long history. Trish's pragmatic approach and sage advice will always be valued and appreciated by those of us who work with her.

"It has been a privilege and a challenge to take on the Vice-President role against the background of so much Faculty growth and change. I felt the need to step up to support Gary and the Faculty Team in the wake of Peter's tragic passing and at a time of the need for us to recognise and realise the growth that he had set into motion.

Having a team with the aims of the Faculty firmly in mind who, with honesty and integrity can pull together, is vital, along with a skill mix needed to continue to drive forward. I feel now is the right time to give someone else the opportunity to be the Faculty's Vice-President."



We offer our support to all our colleagues and their patients in Ukraine.