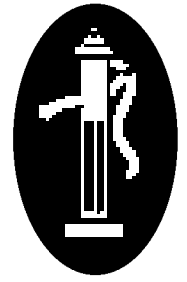




Broad Sheet

The newsletter of the John Snow Society



SUMMER 2006

Pumphandle Lecture 2006

"Water, Sanitation and Health - the view from 2006"

Jamie Bartram

Tuesday 19th September 2006, 5.15pm

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine



Jamie Bartram

Dr Jamie Bartram is the Coordinator of the Water, Sanitation and Health Programme at the World Health Organization. He has worked in diverse areas of public health and disease prevention, especially in relation to environment and health and water supply and sanitation. The Programme has provided international leadership in development and application of evidence based policy and good practice to water sanitation and hygiene for health.

Jamie/Dr Bartram was awarded the IWA (International Water Association) 'Grand Award' in 2004 and is an Honorary Professor at the University of Wales at Aberystwyth, UK. He was previously Manager, Water and Wastes at the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health in Rome and Head of the Environmental Health Division of the Robens Institute of the University of Surrey in the UK. He has worked in around 30 developing and developed countries worldwide.

About the John Snow Pub

Most members of the society know the story of the cholera epidemic in Soho in August and September 1854. Over a period of a few weeks, more than 600 people died within a few hundred metres of the corner of (what was then) Broad and Cambridge Streets. John Snow recognised the concentration of cases, and its implication that a water pump at this location was responsible for the epidemic. He then prevailed upon the local Council to remove the pump's handle – and hence his famous words in his book: "and because of what I said, the handle of the pump was removed." Though the epidemic was already on the wane, Snow's logic remains a model, and this remains one of the most famous incidents in the history of public health.

The John Snow Public House, known familiarly as "The John Snow" stands next to the site of the infamous pump. It has a long history as a pub, and was a tavern at the time of the 1854 cholera epidemic. Its name was changed to The John Snow about 1960, when it was owned by Watney's Brewery. Since then it has had a guest book for interested visitors, and has been an increasingly popular site for visiting scientists and public health officials from around the world. The pub was purchased by Samuel Smiths Brewery in 1990, and remains their property.

In 1992, Westminster Council set up a replica of the pump, suitably without a handle, at the corner of Poland and Broadwick Streets, about 50 meters east of the Pub. Those who know their history will recognise that this is not the site of the original pump, which stood on the south side of Broad (now Broadwick) Street, about 10 feet west of its intersection with Cambridge (now Lexington) Street. Indeed, a wall plaque on the side of the Pub indicates the true site, which is marked by a red granite kerbstone.

The Pub covers two of the five floors of 39 Broadwick Street, and retains a traditional décor. It displays maps and pictures about John Snow and his career in the first floor bar area, where Annual General Meetings of the John Snow Society take place.

Society members are always welcome at the Pub. If you require assistance, do not hesitate to ask the Manager, Nick Taylor, who will be happy to help. The Pub receives visitors from around the world, and all who honour John Snow are encouraged to sign the Guest Book, which is provided by the Society. This is normally kept on the ground floor, behind the entry-flap of the bar. Please look it over and sign it. You will recognise many signatures!

Nominations for John Snow Committee

According to our constitution the society's policies and dues are set by a steering committee, and proposals are placed before the Annual General Meeting, which takes place at the Pub, following the annual Pumphandle Lecture.

Current Committee members are: Prof Paul Fine (*Hon President*), Dr Ros Stanwell Smith (*Hon Secretary*), Prof Sandy Cairncross, Dr Mary O'Mahony, Prof Jimmy Whitworth, Dr Dilys Morgan and Prof Angus Nicoll, and Ms Janice Constable (*RIPH*).

Members are appointed for three years. In order that the Committee membership terms shall be staggered, at least two current members will step down in each of the next three years (PF + AN + MO in 2006). Members standing down may put themselves forward for re-election.

Nominations are invited for membership on the Committee. Only members in good standing (with an intact mug*) are eligible. A valid nomination will consist of a statement of no more than 54 words by the nominee, indicating eagerness to serve and vision for the Society. Nominations received by the Society's secretariat (hcumber@riph.org.uk) by 31 August will be eligible for vote at the AGM.

** Members are reminded that broken mugs (and hence membership standing), and lost membership cards, may be replaced at a cost of £5 and £2, respectively."*

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Tore Godal

Pumphandle Lecture 2005

"Everything is Impossible until it has been done"
Tore Godal

Public Health history walks in London

Members may be interested in a series of walks run by the History Centre at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). There are usually 2 walks per term, led by Dr Ros Stanwell-Smith and all start at the LSHTM, with different themes. The early evening 'Snow and Soho' walk is likely to run again next term - walk ends at the John Snow pub. Walks are free although a returnable deposit of £5 is requested to confirm a booking. If you'd like to be put on the circulation for walks in the series (e.g. to the Foundling Museum) please email Ingrid James (ingrid.james@lshtm.ac.uk)

Appropriately timed, on the 8th September, 2005, the 13th annual Pumphandle lecture was delivered at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine by Dr Tore Godal, entitled: "Everything is impossible until it has been done". The lecture was about vision, and acknowledged its title from the work of another visionary, Nelson Mandela.

The lecture focused upon the infectious disease burden in developing countries, and the introduction and impact of vaccines, starting with the introduction of the Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) in 1974 and the more recent contribution of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), of which Dr Godal was Executive Secretary, from 2000 to 2004.

The GAVI story is one of advocacy for vaccines to be produced for and made available to the world's poorest countries. There have been major successes since GAVI's establishment in 2000, with the creation of the Vaccine Fund, the stimulation of improved information systems and incentives through performance-based awards. Though much remains to be done (coverage remains embarrassingly low in some countries), the lecture presented examples of dramatic successes and a frank discussion of the

arguments and problems involved. Dr Godal closed by pointing out that one of the important lessons of John Snow was in his use of data to influence government action - as illustrated by his having convinced Westminster Council to remove the handle of the pump responsible for the Soho outbreak. Indeed, advocacy is an essential component of public health.

This was one of the most widely advertised lectures in history, with posters having been placed by society members as far afield as at the base of Ayers Rock in central Australia (as shown here) and at the source of the Nile in Uganda (as shown in the Society's website). It was well attended and encouraged energetic discussion before the traditional closure: a vote of thanks proposed by Professor Brian Greenwood, and the ceremonial removal, by the speaker, of the handle from the Society's pump. This was followed by the Society's AGM in the John Snow pub.



Dr Godal has since been appointed special advisor to the Prime Minister of Norway. His pumphandle presentation is available on the Society's website at: www.johnsnowsociety.org.

The Medical Detective John Snow and the Mystery of Cholera



By Sandra Hempel

Published 12th April 2006. £18.99 Hardback

This lively book tells the story of John Snow and cholera, drawing on 19th Century medical, political and personal records. The book was launched in April 2006 at St. James's Church Vestry in Piccadilly, the very place where Snow went to persuade the Parish guardians to remove the handle of the pump.

Scandinavian Chapter News

At the Nordic Water Supply Conference in Iceland in early June Freysteinn Sigurdsson, an Icelandic hydrogeologist was awarded the Nordic John Snow recognition "Pump Handle Award" 2006. This conference was designated to discuss all aspects of safe drinking water supply. Participants numbered over two hundred and came from all the Nordic Countries. In the Nordic countries drinking water is classified as food and waterworks as food processing companies. The main emphasis of the conference was on a preventive approach to secure safety of the water. Proceedings from the conference are available on the website www.samorka.is/nvk2006.

Freysteinn Sigurdsson has worked as a geologist and hydrologist at the Icelandic National Energy Authority for decades. His main task has been to find safe water for water supply in Iceland. He has with his work, including administration, research, counselling and teaching, had profound positive influence on secure and safe water supply in Iceland. He has been tireless in advising and teaching good practice in harnessing water and protecting the water sources and has as such given lectures both in Iceland and abroad. He has been the main specialist in advising the government on new legislation in the matter of water resources. A photo is on the Society's website.

San Francisco Chapter News

Each year, the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine teaches an epidemiology course on Designing Clinical Research for Pre-doctoral Students.

Approximately 30 MD, PhD, and Pharmacy students complete this one month intensive course in the summer term, and within the curriculum Dr. Tom Novotny provides a lecture on John Snow and his legacy in epidemiology. Those who complete the

course are awarded membership in the John Snow Society by the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and the completion of the course is celebrated at a local pub in San Francisco by the San Francisco chapter. They also receive detailed directions to the John Snow Pub in London so that they may visit the site of Snow's investigation and sign the guest book at the pub.

The John Snow Rose



Sadly Mr Douglas Gandy of Gandy's Roses Ltd. passed away this year but business is continuing. Gandy's Roses raised a rose with beautiful large exhibition-type flowers and named it after Dr John Snow. The flowers are white with a delicate shade of cream and the rose has a lovely sweet scent.

The John Snow Rose is available to purchase for £5.80 (please note delivery will not be until the autumn). Gandy's Roses Ltd. www.gandys-roses.co.uk
Tel: 01858 880398 Email: sales@gandys-roses.co.uk