URHP Education Officer's report 2022

New Members

Amanda Frescura is now a member of URHP having completed the application process.During the year we welcomed another three new full members and six student members.Three full and two student applications in process.

Training Courses

The **BSc (Hons) Clinical Herbalism at Lincoln College**, validated by the Open University and accredited by EHTPA continues to recruit students strongly as the only western herbal medicine degree course in the UK.Staffingstill needs augmenting and new posts have been advertised in October 2022.Clinical practice continues to be delivered by a mix of in person and online. Lincoln students come from all over the UK and beyond and are required to so short placements, preferably in a herbal clinical environment different from their teaching clinic experience. Students have bursary funds available to pay for this and URHP members could consider having a Lincoln student on placement with them. They are very well behaved and eager to learn!

Lincoln College also offer a 6 month **Introduction to Herbal Medicine** course for people wishing to dip their toe in the herbal river and to get a taste of the block learning model used on the BSc. A new intake may begin in February 2023 depending on numbers.Students who complete it often progress to the BSc.

The **BetonicaSchool of Herbal Medicine**, in Devon is still pursuing accreditation with EHTPA, having completed accreditation with NIMH

Chinese Herbal Medicine courses which are active include an **MSc in Chinese Herbal Medicine** at **The Northern College of Acupuncture** and a course run by the **White Crane Academy**. Both courses assume prior Acupuncture or TCM qualifications and White Crane in particular organise clinical training via students' own clinics. WCA are seeking ways to allow non-acupuncturists to apply for their Chinese Herbal Medicine course.

URHP Registrar's Report to 31 March 2022

Again this year we had a few members that had to be chased for renewals. This is now complete.

At the end of March we had 67 full members [including two honorary members], ten student members and nine Friends of the URHP.

Since then we have welcomed two new full members and two new student members. Sadly one of the Friends, a retired member, has passed away.

Six members did not renew but became "Friends".

During the year we welcomed four new full members and six student members.

At today's date we have three full and two student applications in process.

All certificates are now sent electronically and receipts issued on request.

Payments are almost all made via Bank Transfer or Paypal.

Members information is on the Google Drive.

Trixie Vorderman
URHP Registrar
22 September 2022

URHP ACCOUNTS YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2022

Opening Bank Account Balance:		**£**	£
	Paypal	4668.76	
	URHP	4814.70	
	URHP 2	413.67	
			9897.13
Income:			
	Subscriptions	5658.49	
	Donation	15.00	
	Conference	336.90	
	Interest	3.42	
			6013.81
Expenses:			
	AGM	575.00	
	EHTPA		
	Data Protection		
	Fees	112.23	
	Printing	942.00	
	Journal		
	Postage	82.68	
	Office	41.00	
	Registrar	1580.95	
	Travel & Expenses		
	Council Expenses		
	Website	253.70	
	Advertising	1080.00	
	Miscellaneous	300.00	
			4967.56
Closing Accounts Balance:			
	Paypal		2747.71
	URHP		7778.58
	URHP 2		417.09
			10943.38

Treasurers Report 2022

As you can see we remain financially sound. Expenditure mirrors last year and we have had new members joining. Quite a few have retired or ceased to practice but currently we remain solvent in regard to income. We can maintain the reduced fee of £100 for another year. We are assisted by still not paying any fees for EHTPA.

Our organisation is run very efficiently with mainly online council meetings, all documents and newsletter going out electronically and only 1 person (Registrar) paid for their work.

I am happy to continue as Treasurer

Liz Lyden 12.10.22

URHP Vice President Report 2022

Collaboration and communication between professional associations has continued to improve this last year with far more focus on what we can do together rather than on our differences.

EHTPA (European Herbal and Traditional Practitioners Association)

EHTPA has regular contact with Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority(MHRA) and the Department of Health and Social Care and plays a major role in meeting our obligations of voluntary self-regulation as well as being a voice for our profession. Where concerns have arisen with particular herbs used in herbal medicine, we will question the basis of those concerns, but we also have the duty to pass this information onto our members, hence some emails members get on these – though none have been of particular concern this year.

Accreditation of professional herbalists' training courses continues to be a hotly debated topic and EHTPA is trying to be very flexible in its approach to accreditation and is helpingnew course providersget through the process. There is also the need to promote pathways to becoming a herbalist as we need new herbalists to be entering the profession, but at a high standard. There are quite a few very basic courses that people are doing expecting that this is enough to practice professionally.

A series of seminars designed for post-graduates are being developed and these will be available to members via the EHTPA website (ehtpa.org). These will be useful to established herbalists as well as those who are newly qualified. The first one will be on the legal framework of herbal practice with future onesplanned on understanding blood test results and red flags.

Herbal Alliance

Herbal Allianceis further developing its work. Any herbal practitioner can now list their own practice on the Herbal Alliance website(herbalalliance.uk) and there have been some excellent seminars organised during the last year. However, the organisation was set up to be a place for conversation and collaboration rather than a provider of services so more involvement is still needed from individual herbalists. It has a number community action teams (CATS) including communications, research, education and supply. These need new people to join them who have more time to help move things forward as actions.Also any member can start a group if there are issues that they would like to work on.

A part-time coordinator – Karolina - has been taken on to help move things forward. You will have received the first edition of the journal – Herbal Eye which is full of useful articles and is beautifully produced.

I urge all members to contribute to and utilise Herbal Alliance in some way.

Lloyd Gee

URHP President's Report October 2022

Let yourself be silently drawn by the strange pull of what you really love. It will not lead you astray.

Rumi

What are we drawn to, as individuals and as an organisation? And where have we been pulled the past year? These are indeed questions to contemplate, perhaps even by a fire in the evening, as some of Autumn's chill sets in. For me, the season really lends itself to days spent in the bright sunshine or the pouring rain, observing the beauty, splendour and abundance all around me and reflective introspection as the light fades, while having gratitude for all I experience.

This year, as we look back on our personal resilience, determination, effort and courage we have placed in each day, in our own particular herbal worlds, I feel we can be very proud of ourselves in all we have achieved, all we have let go of and all we have created. In URHP life, these qualities ring true as well: connection with each other and with other PAs comes through as a strong theme throughout the year. There is much healthy power in unity and collaboration, and we have been demonstrating that to all, not just this year, but for many years in the past and no doubt, for years to come.

We positively thrive on the variety of knowledge held within our ranks, and this was demonstrated beautifully at our conference this year, with external speakers Andrew Mason and Christine Herbert, alongside our own members, Dr Andrew Patterson, Liz Lyden, Barbara Wilkinson, John Smith, Sandra O' Neill and Vicki Pitman, sharing their herbal wisdom with us. This gave a truly eclectic feel to the whole weekend. Our conference is our most valued and joyous occasion of the year and 2022 was no exception, with the delight of actually gathering in person again. We all left the venue buzzing with all we had absorbed at so many levels and a real sense of joy and hope in our hearts. There is a full description of the weekend, with photos, on our website. We are already planning next year's event at the Purley Chase Centre from 7-9th July, so do save the dates early, it's going to be a cracker!

We have continued with our 6 weekly Zoom Herbal Circle for members. This was originally set up during lockdown to support members, for a place to share insights and troubles, too. This has proved so popular, that we have carried on running it and all members who attend, thoroughly enjoy the connection and herbal sharing that this circle generates. This is certainly a place we have been 'pulled' to and have reaped the benefit of all that it creates.

We are fortunate, as a Register, to be a member of the EHTPA and it is under this umbrella that much work has continued this year. This work in the wider field of herbal medicine includes, for example, collaborating with the BHMA and the supplier Herbmark is now in place, under its Herbal Practitioner Supply Scheme, just part of the work needed to ensure herbalists can continue to access high quality herbal products from their suppliers. There is much relevant herbal information and latest research that is gathered by the EHTPA, which we cascade to our members..

As we do not have our own accreditation facility, we are grateful to be part of the EHTPA accreditation board and have a URHP council member working with this team. We highly value all that has been carried out by this board in the past 12 months, in ensuring the highest standards of education in both large and small herbal teaching institutions, and the flexibility required to achieve this. See Lloyd's report for more details about EHTPA work this year

We have been very happy to support The Herbal Alliance in all the ways we can, in the past year and look forward to contributing more to its growth and success.

We have always aimed to keep our costs as low as possible to support our members as best we can. This is how we have kept our membership fee extremely affordable for the past 3 years and helped our members to remain on the Register when the have been facing challenges and

financial hardship. We are pleased to say that we will be keeping the fee the same for 2023-2024. This is only possible because of all the dedication of members in voluntary roles within our council and those who carry out other key roles within the Register.

At this point, it's a wonderful part of this job to be able to thank all that work so hard within the council: To Lloyd, who has stood firm as Vice President for so many years now, and works so hard within the EHTPA and Herbal Alliance and has been the key person, along with Donald, in revamping our Code of Ethics, and much more besides; Liz, who works tirelessly as part of the team that produce our wonderful online herbal magazine, as well as monitoring all the CPD and always being the 'go to' when we have a tricky query that I don't know the answer to! Donald, who even though so busy in his role at Lincoln college, sits on the EHTPA accreditation board, together with being our Education Officer and dealing with new applicants; Trix, who works so efficiently in her role as registrar; Dilys, who has positively changed the speed and efficiency of communication to our members so much in the past year, together with taking minutes of all our meetings. She has Sandra shadowing her at present and we are so grateful that she will take over the role, when Dilys steps back in a year or so. Tina, with her bright and forward thinking energy, has been a real asset to the council since she joined. John remains our wonderful wise, elder of the council, and always with creative and interesting ideas for us to take on in our future work.

Thanks also to Dawn, who beautifully manages our Facebook and Instagram page. If any of you have IT skills or other experience in publicity, or would just want to help, and would like to be part of this team, please let Dilys know.

We would always hugely welcome any member to come along and observe our council meetings and to take part in any of what we do, if desired. You don't need to have any special skills to do this! So please do come along and get involved in being part of our unique and wonderful Register.

We have strong links to the Herb Society, due to the tenacity and passion of our member Barbara. We have continued to advertise in their magazine this year, which is a delightful publication and a joy to read.

The AMH and APA have continued to share their publications with us this year, for the benefit of all our members. It is this type of gentle connection that leads to stronger collaboration in the future.

We often talk about 'kitchen herbalism' in our 6 weekly herbal circle, and our role in educating the public on how they can use very simple methods in their cooking and what they choose to eat and grow, as well as herbs, to bring harmony and balance to their health and lives. Particularly at this time of year, with so much harvest out there and Nature telling us loud and clear that there will always be enough, it's perhaps time to take a leaf out of our grandparents and great grand parents book. Look back on their careful and timely practices, in order to move forward with a closer connection to the earth which provides us with everything we need. I, personally, feel drawn to making tinctures, syrups and glycerides of all that I find abundantly growing around me, while making chutneys and preserves to see me through the darker part of the year. And sharing this knowledge with my community. To me, this is what is quietly drawing me to what I truly love. What might be calling out to you?

Laura Yarham
October 2022