The Harveian Society of London
Founded 1831

"ESTO PERPETUE"

Lettsom House
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Front cover: *Doctor William Harvey*
Attributed to Daniel Mytens
Oil on canvas, circa 1627

Introduction

This booklet documents the history of the Harveian Society of London from its foundation in 1831 to 2018, its 187th year. It updates the history produced in 1981 under the Presidency of Dr Kevin Zilkha.

The authors of this booklet are Dr David Siegler (Trustee and President, 2014), Professor Mike Hughes (President, 2016), Dr Michael O'Brien (Archivist and President, 2001) and Commander Mike Flynn (Executive Secretary). Mrs Betty Smallwood (Executive Secretary) gave invaluable secretarial assistance.
Production: Professor M Hughes, Mr Doig Simmonds, Dr Micheal O'Brien, Cdr. Mike Flynn. There have been no major changes to the laws, administration, structure or programme format of the Harveian Society in recent years. Although many members are medically qualified, the membership also includes scientists and members of professions allied to medicine.

The Officers are:

President (elected for one year)
President–Elect
Vice Presidents, the two most recent ex–Presidents, two years each.
Honorary Treasurer, elected for three years, renewable once
Honorary Secretaries, elected for two successive years
Honorary Archivist, elected for five years, renewable once
8–12 Councillors, elected for three years, renewable once
Two Trustees, elected for five years, renewable once
Two Executive Secretaries.

Elections take place at the Annual General Meeting in October.

Meetings continue to be held at Lettsom House, 11 Chandos Street, London W1G 9EB, on the second Wednesday of the month from January to May, and in October and November, with a supper followed by a lecture from an invited speaker on a topic of medical or general interest. The first lecture of the year is named the Harveian lecture. The Buckston Browne – Gray Hill Dinner, occasionally lunch, is held in June at an outside venue. The Society attends the William Harvey Commemoration in Folkestone, Harvey's birthplace, on the first Sunday in June (WH died on 3rd of June, 1657), as guests of the Mayor and Corporation. There is a Christmas Party at Lettsom House in December.

William Harvey

Biography

William Harvey was born on April 1st. 1578 at Folkestone in Kent, the eldest of nine children, of Thomas Harvey, a yeoman sheep farmer, property and land owner. He married Juliana Hawke, but she died suddenly aged fifty. His second wife was Joan Hawke, a cousin of Juliana.

William attended nearby King's School, Canterbury where he excelled and was admitted to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge with a medical scholarship in 1593, where he studied rhetoric, ethics and logic. He graduated BA in 1597 and began to study medicine, but medical teaching at Cambridge was poor, largely based on the teachings of Galen. Harvey, therefore, took advantage of the College statutes permitting students to complete their medical studies in Europe and travelled to Padua in 1600, where Vesalius had demonstrated anatomy and Galileo was teaching mathematics, though Harvey never met him.

At Padua, the students were organised by their respective "nations", each represented by a Councillor and Harvey was elected to represent England. Fabricius ab Aquapendente was Professor of Anatomy and Surgery and taught dissection and anatomy in the famous anatomy theatre still visible today. In April 1602, Harvey presented himself for the final oral examination for his medical degree and qualified as Doctor of Medicine.

Harvey returned to England and married Elizabeth Browne, daughter of the eminent physician Lancelot Browne. He had a rapid rise through the ranks of the Royal College of Physicians, proceeding Membership, Fellowship, Censor, Treasurer and "elect", a senior fellow entitled to elect the President. In 1609, Harvey was appointed an assistant physician at St.Bartholomew's Hospital and six months later a full physician.

In spite of his medical qualifications and background, Harvey was more a general biologist and physiologist than a physician. He later worked on reproduction and in 1651 published *De generatione animalium*, translated into English in 1653.

It was a much less ground breaking work than *De motu cordis*, partly because he did not make use of the new science of microscopy, so he never saw an ovum or a spermatozoon.

The Civil War broke out in 1642 and as the King's Physician, Harvey accompanied the King to the battlefield. In 1642 at Edgehill he took care of the King's two sons and hid them under a hedge. The King and his close supporters took up residence in Oxford, where Harvey was elected Warden of Merton College in 1645; it was a post he did not relish, and he resigned after one year. The Royalists were defeated after six years of war and the King was executed in 1649. During the War, Cromwell's troops ransacked Harvey's London residence and destroyed his research papers.

William Harvey MD 1578-1657
Presented to the Harveian Society of London by
Mr. Buckston Brown 1925

In later life his private practice diminished. After his wife's death he lived with his brother Eliab who managed his financial affairs.
He bequeathed part of his fortune to the Royal College of Physicians and was elected College President in 1653, but declined on the grounds of age and infirmity. He suffered a stroke and died, aged 79, on June 3rd 1657 and was buried at Hempstead in Essex.

De motu cordis

William Harvey's *De motu cordis* is still considered by many to be the most famous book in the field of Medical Science. *De motu cordis* (1628) was printed in Latin, in Frankfurt, which was a major scientific publishing city of the time, but it was not translated into English until 1653.

A recommended modern translation and commentary by Gweneth Whitteridge, was published in 1976.

The full title of *De motu cordis* in English, is: *An Anatomical Disputation concerning the Movement of the Heart and Blood in Living Creatures*.

A disputation (Latin, exercitatio) is a display of skill in argument in support of a thesis. In this instance, the thesis was *The Circulation of the Blood;* the skill that Harvey displayed so brilliantly was to unify anatomical and physiological observations of his own and others with closely reasoned argument in support of his presumed flash of insight that blood was transported by the heart and blood vessels in two linked circulations.

William Harvey was 50 years old when *De motu cordis* was published. He had published many of his observations 12 years earlier in 1616 in a treatise called *Anatomical Lectures.* But, the final piece in the jigsaw, the concept of a double circulation, powered by the contraction of the heart, did not enter his mind at that time. In his only conversation with Robert Boyle, Harvey said it was the unidirectional valves in the veins that first induced him to think of the circulation of the blood. Fabricius, in Padua, had discovered the venous valves 50 years earlier in 1574, but he believed they were leaky and incompetent. Harvey showed by dissection that a probe would only pass through them if pushed towards the heart, but never if its direction was reversed. Famously, Harvey demonstrated unidirectional flow, which we have all done for ourselves, by emptying the forearm veins by stroking them with a finger.

De motu cordis opens with a dedication to King Charles I, and an Introductory Discourse, an historical review. Seventeen chapters follow; the argument is concise, about 120 pages of a typical paperback. Harvey's *De motu cordis* follows the classical Aristotelian inductive–deductive method:

a. observation (Chapters 2-7)
b. hypothesis (Chapter 8)
c. experimentation (Chapters 9-17)

Chapter 2 explores the mechanics of the heart beat in living animals; Harvey showed that the apex beat was due to systolic contraction, not diastolic relaxation, as was previously thought. Unravelling the nature of cardiac motion may have been, for Harvey, the starting point for his scientific curiosity which led eventually to the proposition that the heart and blood vessels act in a circular manner.

Chapter 3 relates ventricular systole to the arterial pulse.

Chapter 4 considers atrial contraction, called auricles by Harvey, and the beating of more primitive hearts in shrimps, snails, wasps, chick embryos, eels and frogs, most of which have a single ventricle

Chapters 5–7 turn to the lesser pulmonary circulation and the foetal adaptations of a foramen ovale and ductus arteriosus, so crucial to the concept of a double circulation.

Statue of William Harvey by C B Birch ARA (1886) in Terracotta. He is holding a heart in his left hand and a deer is curled up at his feet.

Harvey says *"the condition of embryos that have lungs but, as yet, make no use of them is the same as that of other animals that have no lungs at all"*. He pays attention to the pulmonary valve; its competence means that blood must flow through the lungs from the right to the left ventricle.

Chapter 8 is the summit of *De motu cordis* on which the observations of the first part have been focused: the proposal of a double circulation driven by the right and left ventricle; a pinnacle on which subsequent chapters shed their light.

It is sometimes said that Harvey proved that blood must pass from arteries to veins in a circle, though lacking an adequate microscope, he never saw the capillaries which connect them, but that he barely considered the purpose of the circulation. In other words, he was more concerned with the how, than the why. Nevertheless, Harvey says, at the end of Chapter 8: "*In many creatures, a vein does not differ from an artery by the thickness of its coat, but they are differenced by their office and their use …The vein contains blood that is more crude, spent and now become unfit for nutrition; the artery, blood that is concocted, perfected and alimentative*". Thus, Harvey is groping towards the function of the lesser circulation as an oxygenator and CO_2 eliminator, the reverse happening in the tissues perfused by the greater circulation, some two centuries before the processes of metabolism and respiration were understood.

The first half of *De motu cordis* (Chapters 2–7) is inductive reasoning, formulating a general theory from particular observations, whereas the second half is deductive, testing the theory by reference to particular observations. In Chapter 9, Harvey becomes the first person to calculate the human cardiac output; the quantity pumped per hour so much exceeds the blood volume of the body that the blood must continuously circulate.

In Chapter 11, Harvey applies ligatures to the living human arm. With a tight ligature, the distal pulse ceases, but the pulse proximal to the ligature strengthens, and the hand eventually cools. If the ligature is loosened somewhat, sufficient for the pulse to return, the arm and its veins swell due to venous congestion. These observations are consistent with blood being forced from arteries to veins.

Chapter 14 is famous for its description, with illustrations, of one way flow in the superficial veins of the forearm.

Chapter 15 observes that "*As all animals live by aliment inwardly concocted, it is necessary that the concoction and alimentation be perfectly accomplished. … The heart, alone of all the parts, contains blood not only for its private use in the coronary vein and artery, but also for the general use of the body ….. because*

the heart alone is so placed and appointed that from thence by its pulse it may dispense and distribute the blood equally to all the parts, and that according to the just proportion of the size of the channels of the arteries which supply each part". Although the language is unfamiliar, Harvey was aware that blood circulates for a purpose of nourishment and temperature control.

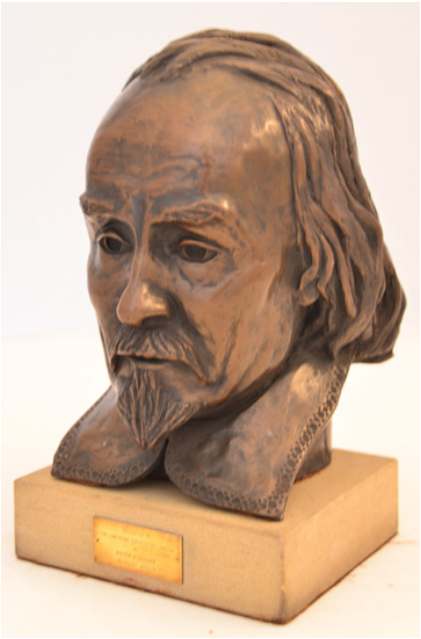
William Harvey was not the first to conduct *in vivo* research. Galen (129–199 AD) was famous for his studies of the nervous system and spinal cord, and for discovering the function of the phrenic and recurrent laryngeal nerves by sectioning them. In the centuries preceding Harvey, Aristotle, Roger Bacon, Copernicus, Galileo and Francis Bacon had formulated what we now call the Scientific Method of enquiry. Harvey's genius was to lead the way in applying this method of enquiry to living animals, including humans. *De motu cordis* will hold its place as the first example of the unravelling of the physiology of complex multicellular life.

Bibliography.

An anatomical disputation concerning ***The Movement of the Heart and Blood in Living creatures***.
Translated with Introduction and Notes by Gweneth Whitteridge.
Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1976. ISBN 0 632 00059 7.
(a copy is available for study in the library at Lettsom House)

Harvey's Legacy to Medicine

Harvey's discovery of the functioning of the heart and the circulation of the blood by experimentation can be regarded as the beginning of the end of reliance on tradition and authority, notably that of Galen, in medical science and practice. Harvey's insistence on proof, by observation and analysis, lives on in the 20th and 21st centuries in Cochrane's *Evidence Based Choices in NHS Treatment and Practice*. Harvey's work was responsible for the birth of "Clinical Science", in the words of Sir Thomas Lewis *"out of which physiology and pathology were afterwards born. Prompted by clinical observation and by dissection of the dead body, he proceeded farther by the method of experiment, using both Man and animals and harvesting and binding into one whole his abundant evidence"*. Thus, Harvey pioneered the study of health and disease by experimentation which led, later, to a means of studying the effects of treatment. Harvey's earlier work on animal dissection, comparative anatomy and embryology began to move the focus of study from structure to function.



Bust of William Harvey, presented to the Society by Peter Schurr, President 1975-1976

Harvey did not regard himself as a revolutionary, and in medical politics, particularly, he was a conservative and an establishment figure.

He was elected a Censor of the Royal College of Physicians of London four times, a position important in regulating medical practice and in disciplining of physicians falling below College standards.

As a senior College officer he supported the practice of learned Galenic medicine.

He realised the importance of dissection and inspection, but in his dissections he

never deserted Aristotelian "Categories" of description. The Categories arose out of Aristotle's philosophical writings and comprised ten qualities to describe any object. Mondino used them when teaching anatomy in Bologna in the early 14th century; he directed dissections and called out the categories at the appropriate point. The teachings were written down and became the most popular anatomical text until Vesalius published "*De humani corporis fabrica*" in 1543. The description of cardiac function in *De motu cordis* is regarded as being based on the Categories as modified by Vesalius.

Harvey's view of the circulation as transporting blood to the periphery, and separately to the lungs, returning it to the heart and repeating the cycle was regarded as subversive and his replacement of books and their inherited "authority" by experimentation and observation as "crack-brained".

His measurement of cardiac output and left ventricular function remain crucial to the investigation and management of cardiac disease and the response to therapy.

After much initial opposition, the concept of the circulation was generally accepted. Harvey realized the importance of demonstrating his experiments to eye-witnesses, including fellow physicians and the King. The Royal Society, founded shortly after his death, adopted this means of disseminating new knowledge by carrying out experiments in front of their Fellows at meetings.

Unfortunately for Harvey "*twas the greatest crucifying to him that he ever had in all his life*" [Aubrey] his writings and specimens "*de insectis*" were destroyed at his London house by Cromwell's troops while he was in Oxford as King Charles I's physician. His work continued at Oxford from 1642-6, and inspired a generation of physicians and scientists in that city. Physicians such as George Ent and Thomas Willis described themselves as "pupils of Harvey".

A group of experimentalists gathered in Oxford under the direction of the pioneer neuro-anatomist Willis, convened by John Wilkins, Warden of Wadham College. The group became known as the "Oxonian Sparkles" because of their intellectual brilliance; they included John Mayow, who demonstrated that animals could not survive in a bell-jar after air was evacuated, nor could a candle continue to burn, Robert Boyle, Robert Hooke, Christopher Wren and Richard Lower who noted the colour difference between arterial and venous blood.

William and his brother Eliab, a successful businessman and coffee importer,

drank coffee in Oxford before the London coffee houses became fashionable. He helped establish coffee as an aid to social discourse and an alternative to alcohol among men of letters and natural philosophers.

Portrait of William Harvey
English School 18th century

History of the Society and Lettsom House

On September 12th 1831 a group of twenty doctors, dedicated to improving their knowledge and advancing medical science, decided to form a society, which they called The West London Medical Society. The title was changed to The Harveian Society of London on September 26th 1831 and the first meeting was held on October 3rd 1831 at the Western General Dispensary, adjacent to what is now the eastern end of Westway. The first Presidents were the two consultant physicians to the Dispensary, Dr Anthony Todd Thompson MD (1778–1849) and Dr Marshall Hall MD, FRS (1790–1857). Meetings of the Harveian Society continued at the Dispensary until the end of 1831 and then moved to several sites before settling at The Medical Society of London's home, Lettsom House, in February 1951, where the meetings are held today.

Lettsom House, 11 Chandos Street, was built around 1808 for Sir Geoffrey Noel, nephew of the Earl of Gainsborough and MP for Rutland. He extended and refurbished the property from 1813–20. His son succeeded to the title in 1838, and his grandson, Charles George, Earl of Gainsborough, offered 10a–11 Chandos Street to the Medical Society of London on a 21 year lease in December 1872. The Society held its first meeting there in 1873, exactly 100 years after it had been founded by Dr John Lettsom FRS, a distinguished physician, scientist, philanthropist, abolitionist, and a Quaker. John Lettsom had opened the first dispensary in London in 1770 to provide basic medical services to the poor; by 1868 there were more than forty such dispensaries in London. The Western General Dispensary in Lisson Grove, Marylebone, part of this expansion, opened in January 1830. The boardroom of this Dispensary was used for the first meeting of the Harveian Society of London. After the move to 11 Chandos Street in 1873, the Medical Society of London named the property Lettsom House in honour of their founder. These properties, including 12 Chandos Street, were purchased by the Medical Society of London in 1928.

The Laws of the Society were first printed in 1832 and have been amended at 20–30 year intervals ever since. The Society remained exclusively male until 1956, when women were allowed to attend meetings as guests, only becoming full members in 1964 under the Presidency of Dr D Geraint James.

A great supporter and generous benefactor of The Society was Sir George Buckston Browne FRCS (1850–1945). Other benefactors have been Sir Norman Gray Hill and Dr Joseph Lister Boyd. See Benefactors of the Society (p.18).

Portrait of Sir George Buckston Browne by William Logsdaile (1928) oil on canvas

The Society has celebrated Harveian anniversaries with special symposia, such as the centenary of the Society in June 1931, the tercentenary of Harvey's death in June 1957, the 400th anniversary of Harvey's birth jointly with The Royal College of Physicians in 1978 and the 400th anniversary of Harvey's graduation from Padua University in April 2002 at the University of Padua and in London in June 2002.

The links that the Society has with schools in Folkestone, where Harvey was born, and Canterbury, where Harvey went to school, and the charitable work of the Society are described in Chapters 3 and 4.

The Society has a small library of the works of Harvey, biographies, Harveian lectures and related subjects. The Society owns a number of pictures of Harvey and his family, a terracotta statue of Harvey (page 5) and a bust (page 8).

The Society today has 180 members and meets monthly throughout the academic year, with a dinner followed by a lecture, occasionally a debate. The programme is chosen by the President and Council, and the President chairs the meeting wearing a chain of office (page 21). The Society holds a Christmas Party at Lettsom House in December

William Harvey and Folkestone

William Harvey was born in Folkestone on the corner of Church Street and Rendezvous Street, the eldest of seven boys. Despite moving away to King's School Canterbury and then to Gonville and Caius College at Cambridge, he did not forget his roots in Folkestone. He established a Library at Amen Corner to which he donated books and left £200 to the poor of Folkestone to erect a school (The William Harvey Grammar School – see below). Harvey's pestle and mortar are still held in Folkestone Museum.

In 1872, the medical fraternity in Folkestone recorded their astonishment that there was no lasting memorial to William Harvey in his birthplace.

An argument ensued between doctors and locals, the locals wanting a window in the Parish Church of St Mary and St Eanswythe, and the medical profession a statue. In the end, both came about; in 1881 an 8ft tall bronze statue of Harvey by Albert Bruce Joy was erected (see below) and in 1884 a Harvey window (glass by CE Kempe and stone tracery by Stallwood) was inserted at the west end of the nave, depicting Christ crucified and The Tree of Life, whose branches include four healing miracles recorded in the Gospels.The Mayor and Corporation of Folkestone and the Harveian Society of London annually commemorate William Harvey by processing to the memorial statue.

This occurs in early June, close to the anniversary of Harvey's death (June 3rd). The President and Members of the Harveian Society of London, in academic dress, with the Mayor of Folkestone, town councillors and representatives of the Harveian Grammar School, Kings School Canterbury and the William Harvey Hospital, process along the Leas (the seafront at Folkestone) to lay wreaths at the William Harvey statue.

William Harvey statue facing the Leas, Folkestone,
by Albery Bruce Joy (1871)

King's School Canterbury

William Harvey was at the King's School probably from 1588 to 1592.

No records survive of his schooldays or the school building of his time.

The former Almonry Chapel, was demolished in the 1860s.

Harvey has been celebrated at the King's School in various ways since the late nineteenth century. When the school magazine, *The Cantuarian*, started a series on 'King's School Worthies' in 1889, Harvey was the second to be honoured, after Christopher Marlowe. The School's scientific society was named the Harvey Society in 1892. The Harvey coat of arms was in one of several stained glass windows to decorate the Schoolroom in 1897, and a Harvey Laboratory was opened in 1905.

In 1978, as part of the Harvey quatercentenary celebrations, two trees were planted in the south-west corner of the Green Court by Sir Douglas Black, President of the Royal College of Physicians, and Sir Cyril Clarke, Past President of the College and of the Harveian Society of London. A girls' boarding house was named Harvey House in 1996; and with the move into a new building in 1999, Harvey House was opened by Professor Susan Greenfield, who was at that time Director of the Royal Institution. The Harvey Society, Harvey Laboratory, commemorative trees and Harvey House continue to flourish.

The Harvey Grammar School

William Harvey's principal link with The Harvey Grammar School is that he left the sum of £200 in his will 'for the best use of the poore' in Folkestone. The money was "to be bestowed by the advice of the Mayor thereof and my Executor". Harvey's executor was his younger brother, Eliab Harvey. In 1658, Eliab Harvey the elder and his son, also called Eliab, between them purchased Comb Farm, the rent from which was later to serve as an endowment, and also the site of the first school in Rendezvous Street, Folkestone. In 1674 Sir Eliab Harvey the younger, who was knighted for his services to the crown in the English Civil War, together with John Prestwood, a wealthy London merchant, drew up the Foundation Deed of the Harvey Grammar School. This provided £10 per annum to a schoolmaster who "*shall gratis teach Twenty Children of the poorer sort living at Folkestone to write and read English (and, if they be willing) the Latin tongue.*" For preference, the boys should be the sons of fishermen, fishing being the main trade in 17th century Folkestone.

In 1881 a statue of William Harvey was unveiled on the Leas; to mark the occasion, the Grammar School boys had a whole day's holiday. Stronger links with Harvey were forged after the Second World War by the Town Mayor, Alderman John Moncrieff, who was an old boy of the school and later Chair of Governors. The Annual Commemoration in June at the Harvey statue is now firmly established in the school calendar with representatives of the school participating in the Thanksgiving Service.

In 1974, the school's tercentenary, a wide range of events took place including a dramatic presentation about the origins of the school, an exhibition of documents connected with the foundation, and a commemorative dinner at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.

Old boys of the school, the Old Harveians' Association, have played a significant role in upholding the Harvey legacy. In 2008, the Association made a significant contribution to a memorial gateway and plaque at Harvey's birthplace in Church Street, Folkestone. The Association also hosted a luncheon at the school to receive The Harveian Society of London members and a delegation from the University of Padua. The "Harvey Lecture" was instituted in 2007 and has been delivered on a number of occasions by Presidents of the Harveian Society of London.

In 2018, 360 years after the purchase of Combe Farm from the legacy of William Harvey, his brother Eliab Harvey and nephew Sir Eliab Harvey, the Harvey Grammar School holds true to the founding principles of educating the brightest young men in the Folkestone area from all backgrounds at no cost to their parents.

Charitable Work of the Society

In 1954 the Society established the Harvey Essay Prize open to students at the William Harvey Grammar School; later the Folkestone School for Girls and Kings School, Canterbury were included. Annually the Society also provides charitable travel bursaries to medical students from a fund established by Dr Joseph Lister Boyd in 1982. This provides financial assistance for overseas electives. An additional travel fund was established to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Society. This fund was expended in total in 2016 and 2017, providing travel bursaries to junior doctors at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford, Kent. All recipients of bursaries are invited to attend a meeting of the Society and to present the results of their electives.

Benefactors of the Society

Sir George Buckston Browne (1850–1945) qualified from University College in 1872, with membership of the Royal College of Surgeons, having won medals in anatomy, chemistry, surgery and midwifery; but he never took the University degree. He became personal assistant to Sir Henry Thompson, a past President of the Harveian Society, an eminent urologist with the largest private practice for prostatic surgery in London. Sir Henry Thompson was distinguished socially, a connoisseur, an artist and a famous host; George Buckston Browne acquired these traits from his mentor, eventually taking over Sir Henry's private practice. Private practice urology made up his professional life; he never held a hospital appointment. He was a member of the Harveian Society of London for about 45 years, and gave the Harveian Lecture in 1901. Two of his distinguished patients were Robert Louis Stevenson and George Meredith. He retired in 1909.

After the death of his son, his only grandson and his wife, Buckston Browne devoted his time and money to University College Hospital, the Royal College of Surgeons, and other institutions, one of which was The Harveian Society. He was finally elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1926 and created a Knight of the Bath (KB) in 1934. The reason, in part, for this recognition was that he bought Down House, Charles Darwin's home in Downe, Kent in 1927 and, after refurbishment, presented it to the British Association for the Advancement of Science who, in turn, gave it to the Royal College of Surgeons in 1953; it now belongs to English Heritage. Buckston Browne financed a research farm for the College in the grounds at Down House, and endowed an annual Buckston Browne Dinner for the College.

In 1928, Buckston Browne endowed the Buckston Browne Prize (£100) for an essay and medal based on original work in memory of his son, killed in the First World War; it is awarded every three years.

The first dinner for members of The Harveian Society was held in 1856, and in 1928 Buckston Browne endowed an annual dinner for members which continues to this day. Following a bequest, in 1944, from Sir Norman Gray Hill, the dinner is known as the Buckston Browne – Gray Hill Dinner.

Buckston Browne Prize medal showing William Harvey. A rough translation of the inscription (attributed to Harvey) on the back: "No one will ever have observed that I have led an inactive life.

Lt. Colonel Sir Norman Gray Hill, Bart, MC (1894-1944) had a distinguished military career in the First World War (Military Cross and Bar).

He qualified at the London Hospital in 1923 and became a paediatrician, specializing in rheumatic heart disease and writing clinical papers about it. At the onset of the Second World War, Gray Hill was Deputy Medical Superintendent at Queen Mary's Hospital for Children at Carshalton. He was adored by his young patients. He was a keen amateur archaeologist; a Bronze Age burial urn he excavated is in the British Museum. He was killed on active service in 1944 and buried in the military cemetery in Catania, Sicily.

Dr Joseph Lister Boyd was President of the Harveian Society in 1964. He was Clinical Assistant in the ENT Department, University College Hospital, London. In 1982, he established bursaries for medical students to travel abroad to further their studies.

The Buckston Browne cup, presented to the Society by The Rt.Hon. Lord Riddell at the Buckston Browne dinner, June 9th. 1932. The inscription reads: The annual Buskston Browne dinner of the Harveian Society of London was founded by the donor in memory of his only son, Lt.Colonel George Buckston Brown DSO, who fell aged 43 in the Great War 1914-1918

Presidents of The Harveian Society of London

1831-32	Anthony Todd Thomson Marshall Hall
1832-33	William Stroud John Hope
1833-34	Sir David Barry J C Cox
1834-35	Benjamin Phillips Theophilius Thompson
1835-36	C J B Williams William Maclure
1836-37	John Clendenning Edgar Barker
1837-38	J S Campbell Henry Ancell
1838-39	William Macintyre George James Squibb
1839-40	George Sarmon Lilburn William Joseph Byam
1840-41	Anthony Todd Thompson Benjamin Phillips
1841-42	Thomas Hodgkin George James Squibb
1842-43	John Clendenning Edgar Barker
1843-44	Edward Murphy P Bennet Lucas
1844-45	William Stroud Michael Teevan
1845-46	William Macintyre George Webster
1846-47	Thomas Hodgkin Alexander Anderson
1847-48	Charles John Hare Sir John Erichsen
1848-49	Anthony Todd Thompson Edgar Barker
1849-50	Jospeh Ridge George James Squibb
1850-51	William Chown H Burford Norman
1851-52	James Nird Henry Obre
1853	Sir Richard Quain
1854	William Coulson
1855	Francis Sibson
1856	Francis H Ramsbottom
1857	Alexandre Ure

Chain and medallion worn by the President at meetings of the Society, presented by FW Cock MD, President 1906, in memory of his father: F Cock MD President 1876

1858	George Hmilton Roe
1859	Edward Hart Vinen
1860	Sir Henry Thompson
1861	Sir Edward Sieveking
1862	Weedon Cooke
1863	William Fuller
1864	Williams Adams
1865	J C Langmore
1866	W Tyler Smith
1867	J E Pollock
1868	Ernest Hart
1869	E Headlam Greenhow
1870	W F Cleveland
1871	Victor De Meric
1872	C Handfield-Jones
1873	Thomas Ballard
1874	James R Lane
1875	Sir William Broadbent
1876	F Cock
1877	T Carr Jackson
1878	W M Graily Hewitt
1879	Henry Charles Stewart
1880	Henry Power
1881	Henry Power
1882	W Hickman
1883	E Symes Thompson
1884	G P Field
1885	T Morton
1886	J Hughlings Jackson
1887	Edmund Owen
1888	William Sedgewick
1889	Thomas Buzzard
1890	Thomas Bryant
1891	Henry Cripps Lawrence
1892	Walter Butler Cheadle
1893	Sir Malcom Morris
1894	George Eastes
1895	Sir John Williams
1896	J Knowsley Thornton
1897	R H Milson
1898	Sir James Goodhart
1899	H E Juler
1900	W H Lamb
1901	David B Lees
1902	Sir William Watson Cheyne
1903	W Winslow Hall
1904	C Theodore Williams
1905	C B Lockwood
1906	F W Cock
1907	Sidney Phillips
1908	Sir D'Arcy Power
1909	C Buttar
1910	C M Handifled-Jones
1911	J E Lane
1912	H J Macevoy
1913	L G Guthrie
1914	J Jackson Clarke
1915	Edgar Bulleid
1916	Edmund Cautley
1917	Armand J McC Routh
1918	J Thoresby Jones
1919	James Taylor
1920	William Hill
1921	G de B Turtle
1922	Sir William Wilcox
1923	Sir Crisp English
1924	Reginald Dudfield
1925	Sir John Broadbent
1926	E Lamming Evans
1927	E Le Fevre Payne
1928	Herbert French
1929	D C L Fitzwilliams
1930	P Montague Smith
1931	Rt Hon Lord Horder
1932	Sir Cecil Wakely
1933	Lt Col E L Gowland
1934	A Hope Gosse
1935	Lionel E C Norbury
1936	Gilbert Orme
1937	A H Douthwaite
1938	Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson
1939	A D Morris
1940	Frederick Langmead
1941	W Zachary Cope

1942	A F Morcom
1943	John B Hunter
1944	John B Hunter
1945	Sir Cecil Wakely
1946	Glyn Hughes
1947	MacDonald Critchley
1948	E Granger Muir
1949	Desmond Macmanus
1950	Richard R Trail
1951	W E Tucker
1952	James Barnett
1953	Tom Hare
1954	R Cove-Smith
1955	Arthur Dickson Wright
1956	M C W Long
1957	Arthur Dickson Wright
1958	D A Imrie
1959	James L Livingstone
1960	T E Cawthorne
1961	E R Cullinan
1962	David N Matthews
1963	D Geraint James
1964	J Lister Boyd
1965	Rodney Smith
1966	P M Daniel
1967	L S Penrose
1968	N H Moynihan
1969	Selwyn Taylor
1970	V C Medvei
1971	Rt Hon Lord Hunt
1972	A Lawrence Abel
1973	R Duncan Caterall
1974	David Whitteridge
1975	Roger Williams
1976	Peter Schurr
1977	J P M Tizard
1978	Sir Cyril Clarke
1979	C Cameron-Mowatt
1980	Harvey White
1981	Kevin Zilhka
1982	John Marks
1983	James Mann
1984	Sir Reginald Murley
1985	Edith Gilchrist
1986	Sir Douglas Black
1987	Tom Bates
1988	Peter Hamilton
1989	David Denison
1990	Jeffrey Maccabe
1991	Maurice Lessof
1992	Merton Sandler
1993	Jenny Maclagan
1994	Stephen Lock
1995	Brian Gibberd
1996	David MacDonald Burns
1997	Robin Price
1998	Lindsay Symon
1999	E.B. Lewis (dec) Barry Hoffbrand
2000	Leila Lessof
2001	Michael O'Brien
2002	Oscar Craig
2003	Andrew Hilson
2004	Raymond Hurt
2005	Jennifer Pugh
2006	Robert Douglas
2007	Richard Cory-Pearce
2008	John Walker-Smith
2009	John Harcup
2010	Evan Stone
2011	Tom Sears
2012	Sally Gordon-Boyd
2013	David Thomas
2014	David Siegler
2015	Charles Polkey
2016	Mike Hughes
2017	Alison Twigley
2018	Catherine Sarraf

Harveian Lecturers

1875	Francis Sibson	On Bright's Disease and its Treatment
1876	James Lane	On Syphilis
1877	W M Graily Hewitt	On the Mechanical System of Uterine Pathology
1878	Hughlings Jackson	On the Diagnosis of Disease on the Nervous System
1879	Edmund Owen	Practical Points in the Surgery of Childhood
1880	James E. Pollock	On the Prognosis and Treatment of Chronic Disease of the Chest in relation to Modern Pathology
1881	Alfred Meadows	On Menstruation and its Derangements
1882	Henry Power	On Affections of the Eye in Medicine and Surgery
1883	Sir William Broadbent	On Prognosis in Heart Disease
1884	T Bryant	On the mode of Death in Acute Intestinal Strangulation and Chronic Intestinal Obstruction
1885	T Buzzard	On some varieties of Paralysis, dependent upon Peripheral Neuritis
1886	Sir John Williams	On Cancer of the Uterus
1887	Jonathan Hutchinson	On the Causes and Clinical Characteristics of the Diseases known under the name of Lupus
1888	W.B.Cheadle	The various Manifestations of the Rheumatic State, as exemplified in Childhood and early life
1889	J Knowsley Thornton	The Surgery of the Kidneys
1890	Sir Francis Champneys	Painful Menstruation
1891	Sir James Goodhart	Common Neuroses, the Neurotic element in Disease and its Rational Treatment
1892	G P Field	Pathology and Treatment of Suppurative Diseases of the Ear
1897	Henry Juler	Syphilitic Diseases of the Eye and its Appendages
1898	William Ewart	Disease, its Treatment, and the Profession of Medicine in 1899
1893	W H Corfield	Disease and Defective House Sanitation
1894	Herbert Page	Some Disorders of Nervous Functions due to Injury and Shock

1895	M Handfield-Jones	The Heart and its Relation to Pregnancy, Parturition, and the Puerperal State
1896	W F Cleveland	Induction and its association with the History and Progress of Medicine
1897	Henry Juler	Syphilitic Diseases of the Eye and its Appendages
1898	William Ewart	Disease, its Treatment, and the Profession of Medicine in 1899
1899	Sir William Watson Cheyne	The Surgical Treatment of Tuberculous Disease
1900	Robert Maquire	The Prognosis and Treatment of Tuberculous Disease of the Lungs
1901	Sir G Buckston Browne	Twenty-five Years' Experience of Urinary Surgery in England
1902	Alban H.G.Doran	Uterine Fibroids – Considered from a Clinical and Surgical Standpoint
1903	D B Lees	Treatment of Some Acute Visceral Inflammations
1904	C B Keetley	Plastic Surgery
1905	Sir Malcolm Morris	Some Modern Therapeutic Methods in Dermatology
1906	J S Risien Russell	Myelitis
1907	W J Gow	Caesarean Section – Ancient and Modern
1908	Sir Almroth Wright	Some Points in connection with Blood Coagulation
1909	A J Pepper	Thirty Years' Hospital Experience and Practice
1910	L G Guthrie	Remarks on Hydrocephalus
1911	C B Lockwood	Fractures of the Patella, and their Surgical Treatment
1912	T Claye Shaw	Material Obligations of Spiritualism and Allied Phenomena
1913	A P Luff	The Various Forms of Fibrositis and their Treatment
1914	Sir D'Arcy Power	English Medicine and Surgery under Edward III
1915	Sir St.Clair Thomson	Modern Methods in Rhino-Laryngology
1916	James Taylor	Nervous and other Medical Disorders as seen at an Eye Hospital

1917	J Ernest Lane	The Treatment of Syphilis
1918	Arthur Keith	Functional Anatomy of the Heart
1919	E M Corner	Nerves in Amputation
1920	Rt Hon. Lord Horder	Nerve Complications in Acute Infections
1921	Leonard Williams	The Thymus Gland in Everyday Life
1922	Sir Thomas Crisp English	Taking Stock from an Armchair
1923	W Hunter	Septic Anaemia, its Role in Medicine
1924	J E Frazer	The Heart before Harvey
1925	C S Myers	Industrial Fatigue
1926	Kinnier Wilson	The Epilepsies
1927	Sir Berkeley Moynihan	Diverticular of the Alimentary Canal
1928	Sir William Wilcox	Toxicology in its Application to Medical Practice
1929	Sir Ernest Graham-Little	The Medical Profession, The Voluntary Hospitals, and the De-Rating Bill
1930	E W Hey Groves	Should Medicine be a Mendicant?
1931	Sir Percy Sargent	The Romance of the Pituitary Gland
1932	Sir Bernard Spilsbury	Pulmonary Embolism
1933	William Wright	A Pre-Harveian Lecture on "The Anatomy and Physiology of the Central Nervous System
1934	F M R Walshe	Some General Principles in Treatment illustrated in the case of the Nervous System
1935	Sir Cecil Wakeley	The Pineal Gland in Health and Disease
1936	Major General Sir Hennry Letheby Tidy:	The Treatment of Gastric and Duodenal Ulcer
1937	Sir David Wilkie	The Experimental Outlook in Surgery
1938	Sir Arthur Hurst	Physical Basis of Biliousness, 'Wind' round the Heart": and some other Popular Medicines
1939	A Tudor Edwards	Modern Principles of Treatment in Bronchiectasis
1940	Arthur Morris	The Municipal Hospital
1941	John Taylor	The Coroner, the Doctor, and the Public
1942	Sir Lionel Whitby	The Hazards of Blood Transfusion
1943	Sir Thomas Dunhill	Short Oesophagus with Thoracic Loculus
1944	Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir Sheldon Dudley:	Naval Experience in relation to a National Health Service
1945	Lieutenant-General Alexander Hood:	Total Medicine

1946	Air-Marshal Sir Harold E Whittingham:	The Progress of Aviation Medicine in the Royal Air Force and its Application to Problems of Civil Aviation
1947	Rt Hon Walter Elliot	The Centaur: Science and Rulers
1948	Th. Alajouanine	Aphasia and Artistic Realization
1949	Sir Gordon Gordon-Taylor	The War Collection
1950	Sir Henry Cohen	Harvey and the Scientific Method
1951	Sir James Learmonth	The Surgery of the Spleen
1952	Sir John McNee	Infective Hapatitis: A Problem of World Health
1953	Geoffrey Keynes	William Harvey and his books
1954	A H Douthwaite	The Problems of Duodenal Ulceration
1955	Clarence Crafoord	Diagnosis and Treatment of Intra-Auricular Septal Defects
1956	John McMichael	A Prospect of Cardiology
1957	Sir Russell Brain	Some Disorders of the Cerebral Circulation
1958	Robert M. Kark	Bright's Disease Then and Now
1959	E B Chain	Recent Advances in Carbohydrate Metabolism
1960	Jan Waldenstrom	Macroglobulinaema
1961	Sir Zachary Cope	My Medical Case-Book for 1905
1962	M M Suzman	Long-Term Anticoagulent Therapy in Coronary Artery Disease
1963	F M C Crick	The Genetic Code
1964	P B Medawar	Do Advances in Medicine Cause Genetic Deterioration?
1965	Julius H Comroe	The Lung
1966	Gweneth Whitteridge	The Growth of Harvey's Ideas on the Circulation
1967	Lord Florey	The Missing Link
1968	A F Huxley	Theories of Muscle in the 19th and 20th Centuries
1969	Christian Barnard	Cardiac Transplantation: analysis of the Long-Term Results
1970	Joseph Needham	The Elixir and the Enchymoma: A Chinese Chapter in the Pre-Natal History of Biochemistry
1971	Sir John Wolfenden	Society and the Doctor

1973	Arthur Koestler	Man's Urge to Self-Destruction
1974	Sir Douglas Black	The Uses of Research
1975	Lord Goodman	Better Yesterday?
1976	J D Spillane	The Doctors of 1776
1977	Hans Galjaard	Genetic Diseases, Patients, Proteins and Prevention
1978	Lars Wenko	Prevention of Coronary Heart Disease
1979	A N Woodruff	Tropical Medicine
1980	Sir Alan Parks	Research and Development in Surgery
1981	Colin McEvedy	The Black Death
1982	Nicholas Ward	Smallpox finished. What next?
1983	W Feldberg	What Happened in the 30's that changed our Views of how the Nervous System Works?
1984	Cyril Luckham	A Strolling Player
1985	Sir Cyril Clarke	Learning from Butterflies
1986	Sir Christopher Booth	Clinical Research in the MRC
1987	Stephen Lock	The Steinach Operation
1988	Denis Noble	The Heart in Chaos
1989	David Marsden	Brain Transplants
1990	Sir John Dewhurst	Royal Births in British History
1991	Christine Hancock	The Nursing Revolution
1992	Anthony Clare	The Public Image of Psychiatry
1993	Salvador Moncada	Discovery and Biological Relevance of the L-Arginine:Nitric Oxide Pathway
1994	Iain Chalmers	Public Involvement in Research Assessing Health Care
1995	Dame June Lloyd	Managing Gene Therapy
1996	Sir Iain Prance	The Pharmocopoeia of the Amerindians
1997	Sir Roger Gibbs	The Wellcome Trust
1998	Sir Ludovic Kennedy	A life with the Written and Spoken Word
1999	Tim Cullinan	Scientific Imperialism
2000	Sir David Weatherall	Science, the Quiet Art
2001	J H Baron	The Gastroenterology of the Great
2002	Jane McCredie	Ariadne's Thread and the Labrynth of Congental Abnormalities

2003	Humphrey Hodgson	What Prometheus did next – New Cells for Old Livers
2004	John Wallwork	25 Years of Heart Transplantation
2005	Mark Walport	Identity and Indentification
2006	Charles Clarke	The Circulation at Altitude
2007	John Camm	"Curing" Cardiac Arrhythmias
2008	David Galton	Eugenics: Then and Now
2009	Francis Robicsek	Who Killed the Tailor of Paris: The Da Vinci Code of Aortic Valve Disease
2010	Rt Hon Lord Justice Ward	To Die or Not to Die?
2011	Colin Caro	The Circulation within the Circulation: Something Harvey may not have known
2012	Tom Arie	Alex Comfort, and Others: Divergent Talents
2013	Sylvia Lady Limerick	Healthcare in Conflict Zones: A Vital Concern of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
2014	Rosalind Stanwell-Smith	Imagination & Sanitation: Snow, Bazalgette and the History of London's Loos
2015	Anthony J Strong	The Cerebral Circulation – In Good Times and Bad
2016	Luke Howard	William Harvey's Legacy to Present-Day Cardiology
2017	Nicholas Finer	Obesity: Nature or Nurture- Implications for Prevention and Treatment
2018	Alison Twigley	To the Brink of Death and Back Again

Winners of the Buckston Browne Medal

1928	L R Fifiled	The Pathology, Diagnosis and Treatment of New Growths Originating in the Urinary Bladder
1930	C B Perry	Chronic Streptococcal Illnesses
1932	Sir Cecil Wakeley KBE CB and Laurence O'Shaughnessy	The Treatment of Shock by Intravenous Therapy

1934	L S Penrose	The Influence of Heredity on Disease
1936	R W Fearon	Nutritional Factors in Disease
1938	R T Payne	Phlebitis
1940	R Kemp	The Value of Periodic Medical Examinations in Middle Age
1942	E Jokl	The Evolution of Methods of Physical Training and the Best Scheme of General Application
1944	A C Frazer	The Use and Abuse of Sulphonamides
1946	Michael Kelly	The Treatment and Pathology of Fibrositis
1948	V C Medvei	The Mental and Physical Effects of Pain
1950	C J Gavey	The Management of the Hopeless Case
1952	Shelia Sherlock	Jaundice
1956	Ian McD G Stewart	Hypertension
1958	R N Tattersall	The Clinical Significance of Tiredness
1960	A E Read	Latrogenic Disease
1972	Derryck De Sa	Diseases of the Foetus and Their Prevention
1975	C D Marsden	The Damaged Brain, Can it be Made to Work?
1978	D J Coltart	The Significance of the Plasma Concentration of Digoxin in relation to the Myocardial Concentrations
1982	Mr Kris Chatamra	Research into Cirrhosis of the Liver
1985	Anne Greenough	Neonatology
1988	Prize not awarded	
1992	M Kemeny	Research into Allergies
1993	Lucillia Poston	Research into The Physiology of Small Blood Vessels
1994	AVH Schapira	Research into Disorders of the Mitochondrial Function
1999	N Fox	Neurological Research
2001	Satish Keshav	Research into Paneth Cells
2005	M Polkey	Contribution to Sleep and Ventilation Treatment for severe Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
2009	T Margrie	Research and Development of Concepts to better understand Learning and Memory in the Human Brain
2015	M Rodriguez-Carmona	Research into Colour Vision Science
2018	S McAdoo	Research into Renal Health

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Lettsom House, Chandos Street.
Former Residence of the Earl of Gainsborough

Entrance Hall
Lettsom House

Conference Room, Lettsom House

Eliab (nephew of W.H) and Dorothy Harvey
Painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller (1646-1723)
Both portraits are in the Conference Room

Professor Charles Polkey during his presidency

Professor Mike Hughes presenting Honorary Life membership to centenarian (104yrs) Dr Bill Frankland MBE

Presidents of the Medical Society of London, The Harveian Society of London and The Hunterian Society of London

Dr Alison Twigley during her Presidency

The Council Room, Lettsom House

The Medical Society of London Window in the Fellows Lounge, Lettsom House

2016 Harvey Memorial Celebrations in Folkstone

2018 Harvey Memorial Celebrations in Folkstone