



Lichfield Science & Engineering Society

LICHFIELD **GARRICK**
Theatre & Studio

CHAIRMAN

Carol Hannam

PATRON

Mr Ian Dudson CBE

HM Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire

PRESIDENT

Dr Zsuzsanna Nagy

MD, MA, DPhil

8:00 pm on Tuesday 7th June 2016

in the Studio Theatre of the Lichfield Garrick, Castle Dyke, Lichfield

THE HISTORY OF ASPIRIN

Dr Peter Sheldon
Leicester Royal Infirmary

Dr Sheldon is a consultant rheumatologist at Leicester Hospitals Trust and was formerly Clinical Senior Lecturer in Immunology at Leicester Medical School. He trained in Birmingham where he became interested in the work of William Withering, a fellow Salopian and physician and member of the Lunar Society, who pioneered research on the medicinal properties of plants. At around the same time the Reverend Edward Stone rediscovered the therapeutic effects of willow bark. Dr Sheldon is the author of two books on these men, *'The life and times of William Withering, his work, his legacy'* and *'The fall and rise of aspirin: the wonder drug'*.

The talk will begin by reference to the observations of Hippocrates, and information from various herbals. The seminal observation of the Reverend Edward Stone of Chipping Norton on the effect of willow bark on fevers, will be followed by the clinical use of willow bark in rheumatism, by Dr Maclagan in Scotland. The Bayer drug company was responsible for the synthesis and subsequent chemistry of salicylic acid, and acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin). The hints of toxicity and gastric problems and also the severe side effects in children (Reye's syndrome), which led to the downward trend in sales, will be described. The observation of the bleeding tendency of aspirin and its application in preventing coronary and cerebral thrombosis and the discovery by Professor John Vayne of its mechanism of action led to the concept of selective cyclo-oxygenase inhibition, with the good, the bad and the ugly aftermath of what promised to be a brilliant discovery. Dr Sheldon will also discuss the current use of 'baby' aspirin, and possible future use in colon pre-cancers.

For further information, please see our website at www.LSES.org.uk
Students and Members Free.

Visitors £5.00. Tickets are not issued in advance, please pay at the door.

Members must sign in. Those signing in before 7:50 pm will have precedence over all visitors.

This lecture is expected to finish by 10.00 pm.



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