

Plague Cottages and Pandemics

Alison discusses the history and beliefs of disease, starting with Aristotle and Galen and explains the differing beliefs about cures for disease over time. The events leading up to the Great Plague of 1665 are included in the early chapters, with lists of where the demolished and still standing pest houses are located.

The text then moves on to the care of those with smallpox and other infections, with the evolution from pest houses to isolation hospitals. Fever nurse training was introduced, specifically to train nurses to deal with infections like diphtheria.

Alison says “it was so interesting what the fever nurse role entailed, they were trained to undertake tracheostomies, if they were required for those with diphtheria.”

The story then moves to the present day and how we have faced the recent Covid 19 pandemic. The similarities and differences between 1665 and 2020 are debated, with final thoughts about how we should address future pandemics.

“A key difference, was the fact that in 1665 they knew not to house those infectious with the plague, in the hospitals. They understood the risks of spread and recognised the importance of health protection.

Alison’s book can be ordered through all major bookshops, retailing at £12.99.

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It is also available through online retailers, for example Amazon UK.

For a signed copy at the discounted price of £10.99, please contact Alison at:

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Alison also gives talks about the history of the plague, the pest houses and the evolution of medicine to the present day. Contact her on:

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