



THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON  
FOUNDED 1773

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Dear Fellow,

The next meeting will be held at 8.00pm on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 when Wendy Moore will speak on

**JOHN ELLIOTSON, THE SOCIETY DOCTOR  
WHO HELD VICTORIAN BRITAIN SPELLBOUND**

*Wendy Moore is an author and freelance journalist who has written on medical issues for many years for the Guardian, Observer, Times, Lancet, BMJ and numerous other publications. She gained the Diploma in the History of Medicine of the Society of Apothecaries in 1999 and won the Maccabean prize for the best dissertation that year. She has since written four non-fiction books on medical and social history. Wendy is a former fellow of the Royal Literary Fund and has lectured on aspects of history to groups and organisations throughout the UK and US.*

The lecture will cover the time when Queen Victoria ascended the British throne in 1837 and when a strange new idea wafted across the English Channel from France. In London, distinguished physician John Elliotson was the only British doctor to take mesmerism seriously. He researched the phenomenon and its medical potential to alleviate certain ailments and banish pain. Elliotson staged demonstrations on his patients at University College Hospital which drew huge crowds and created sensational headlines. Ultimately, however, his efforts brought him disaster and cast mesmerism – hypnotism - into the doldrums from which it never recovered. (Wendy’s book, *The Mesmerist*, tells the story of Elliotson’s battle to spread the work about mesmerism – hypnotism - in the face of furious opposition.)

There will be a Buffet Supper at **6.45pm**. The cost of the evening, to include the lecture and supper will be **£34 per person**. If you wish to attend the supper please send your cheque to reach the Registrar at the above address by **THURSDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018** accompanied by the attached slip or pay by Bacs and email to inform us you have done so. **Please note that orders cannot be accepted for suppers after 12 noon on the Friday before a Monday meeting.**

*Brigadier Ivan Houghton, MA MD BChir LLB LLM BSc  
Professor Clara Lowy MD MSC FRCP  
Honorary Secretaries*

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To The Registrar, 11 Chandos Street, London, W1G 9EB

I wish to attend the Buffet Supper on **22<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER 2018** and enclose my cheque payable to “The Medical Society of London” for..... ( **£34 per person** ) for myself and .....guest. **Bacs details Sort Code 20 36 88 Acct No 00756741 (Please put your name & date of supper as reference and email your intention to be present)**

I wish to attend lecture only.....E.mail address:.....

Daytime tel. no..... Name (Capitals).....

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