



THE HERB SOCIETY

Hilda Level was born 6th December 1880 and died on 15 April 1957

Her father was a teacher and she was well educated herself and considered studying medicine.

Hilda married an actor-manager, Carl Level and had two sons, he died leaving her alone with children.



Hilda Level

Her interest in the herbs lead her to research and write about them.

Hilda encouraged a revival in the popularity of herbs in the 1920-30s.

She had several books published in her life, and wrote as C.F. Level, taking her husband's name, but she was particularly interested in the medicinal uses of herbs and cooking, they include: The Magic of Herbs written in 1926, Herbal Delights, Green Medicine, Elixirs of Life, Compassionate Herbs, The Truth About Herbs, Herbal Delights, The Gentle Art of Cookery and Diet for Children.



In 1927 she opened the Culpeper shop in Baker street London, selling, herbs, cosmetics, and food, as time went on she opened several shops across the country.

In 1931 she collaborated with Maude Grieve and edited the book, The Modern Herbal, which is still on student reading lists today.



In 1941 an Act of Parliament was about to be passed to ban the sale of many herbal medications to the public. Hilda responded by lobbying the government and was successful in having the act amended so that people could continue to use herbs and consult herbalists.

From this she created a free members' club, calling it The Society of Herbalists. This permitted members to access herbs on joining the society which was a non-profit making organisation.



Hilda was a consultant herbalist with consulting rooms above and behind the shop. She also joined forces with many influential people including, Sir Albert Howard in his campaign for compost versus synthetic fertilisers.

1957 she died and her extensive library was sold.

The Culpepper shops declined with the introduction of chemist shops etc. and the society became a registered educational charity.

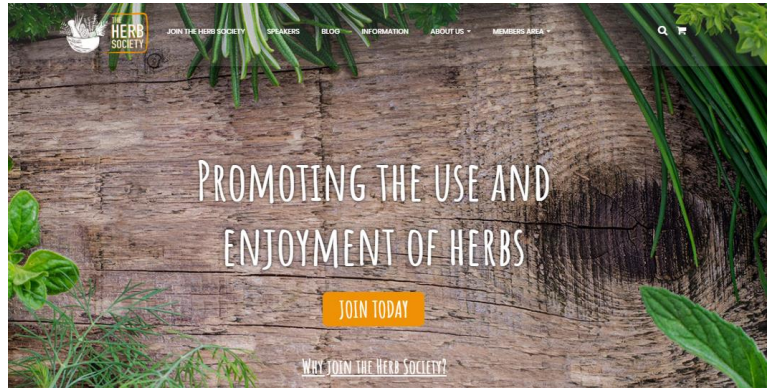
The Pharmacy Act was replaced by The Medicinal Act in 1968, which granted the freedom of choice of herbal remedies to the individual and the freedom to practice herbal medicine.

The name changed to The Herb Society to avoid being misunderstood as only being interested in medicinal herbs, rather than all aspects of herbs in 1977.

Today the charity is the only UK one, specifically about herbs.



The Herb Society logo evolving over time



Membership includes 3 magazines per year, which cover all aspects of herbs including herbal news from around the world, culinary, cosmetic, cultivation, folklore, craft, medicinal and history.

There is also an e-newsletter, access to a web site and members' page for archive material including back copies of the magazine, blog and book reviews, social media, some local groups operate around the country and there are many member benefits including discounts.

Both the Member's day and AGM move around the country to offer interest and opportunity for members to attend.

BOOK REVIEWS

Home > Book Reviews

As an educational charity we like to spend some of our time reading about what others have learned or done in the world of Herbs. Read reviews written by both Friends and Herb Society members here by clicking on the book cover.

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