

# In memory of Jerome Whitney

13 August 1934 – 5 August 2018

It is with tremendous sadness that we have to report the death of Jerome Whitney who, following a few months' ill health, died on 5th August.

Jerome was a true Renaissance man whose interests embraced politics, physics, history and geography as well as his two main passions, homeopathy and Druidism, that were evident in his funeral commemorations on 14th August.

The event was in two parts, the funeral itself at West Norwood Crematorium and the celebration of his life that followed at the Druids' House in London SE20.

The funeral was attended by around 80 people and included tributes to Jerome from the Druid Order Chief, David Loxley, from Jerome's daughter, Alex Moore, from his grandson Zach Moore and finally from his partner Sadia Razvi. This was accompanied by music from Ennio Morricone, Nina Simone and Aaron Copland and concluded with a moving recitation by the whole congregation of the Aramaic original of the Lord's Prayer.

This was followed by a celebration of Jerome's life where, after some food and drink, more than 70 people who had known him sat in a circle and took turns to share memories and reflections about him. Some people just spoke, others recited poems (often written by themselves) and this was accompanied by some wonderful musical performances. The emphasis throughout was not sadness at Jerome's passing – though that provided an unspoken underpinning to the whole day – but more the positive impact he has had, and continues to have, on our lives.

James Cadle

## Eulogy to Jerome

Jerome and I got together in 1987, having first met at his introductory class on numerology. His breadth of knowledge and ability to synthesise varied and opposing perspectives just blew my mind. In spite of the great age difference, we felt like spiritual comrades the very first day we met, and it was through him that I was introduced to the Druid Order. Astrologically speaking, ours was a predominantly 12th house relationship; meaning it was karmic, spiritual, transformative, private and hard to define in conventional terms. Aside from these challenges, we shared an irreverence for life and an eccentric humour that had us both falling about in tears of laughter.

Jerome was well known for his passionate, flamboyant, mischievous personality with a beaming smile that lit up the whole room. Underneath that leonine larger than life exterior was a reflective, gentle, poetic soul. But he was awkward and inhibited when communicating the sentiments of the heart, sometimes being misjudged as unfeeling and aloof. Yet sensitivity and compassion poured through his very presence, through a soulful look or a word of support and inspiration.

He had a heightened sense of justice and fairness. From an early age, he would leap to the defence of anyone being bullied, whilst others stood by. He used his position on the editorial team of the high school journal to question the purpose of competitive sports and argued for a more inclusive approach. Despite their best efforts, the college could not quieten him with inducements of privileged positions or memberships. He was a great admirer of Malcolm X, especially



Malcolm's eventual search for a more unified compassionate path.

Growing up on a farm during the Great Depression, on the poor soil of western New York state bordering Pennsylvania, life was tough. His father was brilliant and inventive but also impatient and exacting, with a sharp temper. The demands made on him from age five, to operate machinery and carry out tasks that an adult would find challenging, had a traumatic effect. And so he shut down his heart and carried the fear of not living up to expectations for the rest of his life. Aged 18, he defiantly declared he would not cry even if his mother or father died. Being so out of touch with his heart, his innate sensitivity, combined with his influential position, made him vulnerable to the personal ambitions and desires of his many admirers, yet he could read their motives, often better than they themselves.

But it was when operating through groups that he really shone and became razor sharp. He was able to attune to the aspiration of the group, encouraging people to think big and move out of self-limiting attitudes. That is why he endeavoured to introduce conceptual or right brain approaches to an educational system that was, and still is, stuck in left brain, disconnected, fact-based methods. His involvement with homeopathic education and professional development began soon after we met, when homeopathy was going through a renaissance. Privately, I was his confidante and sounding board whilst publicly he cut an often lonely path in his efforts to broaden classical homeopathy and steer the profession away from the shackles of external regulation onto a within-out, vitalistic and self-determining path.

Jerome often described his role as teacher and communicator, as travelling out to the farthest reaches and coming back to share what he had discovered. So

**Jerome reached a point where he was able to view his entire life as a neutral observer – this time, without any fear whatsoever**

▷ zealous was he in his questing that Thomas Maughan, former Chief of the Druid Order, once described him as a hungry fish chomping at the bait. As a young boy, he would wear out those around him by his constant questions. And his aunt would often describe the baby who couldn't keep still as 'scritch-y'. Despite his involvement with so many groups, he was never tribal minded or cliquy, remaining an enigma, even to his own family. He gave his knowledge generously and without any thought of personal ambition. Whilst compiling the information to pass on for his obituary, even I was astounded at quite how prolific he had been.

Many were attracted to Jerome's bright light but, in the latter years, he began to feel trapped by the public persona. And then last Spring, he truly entered into his dark night of the soul. The planet Uranus is known as the great awakener, through sudden unravellings and shocks that break through restrictions and re-orient the person on to a more authentic path. Its halfway cycle is the 'mid-life' crisis and, in Jerome's case, had arrived full cycle. Like a kind of living purgatory, Jerome reached a point where he was able to view his entire life as a neutral observer – this time, without any fear whatsoever. He actively took steps to cut himself off from certain people and situations until he could find a way of relating that served the whole person he was trying to become.

At the same time, his health quickly unravelled with heart failure, followed by liver and kidney failure. It seems that it was too late for him to transform his outer circumstances, with death being the only option, liberating him to move on to circumstances more suited to the person he was becoming. We were alone together in the final moments, and he transitioned in a manner that was poignant and felt complete. He chose a powerful vibrational opening just before midnight GMT, halfway between a lunar and solar eclipse, and with many planets in retrograde motion (retrograde planets turn us inwards to face our limitations and stagnation). In spite of the months of failing health, his passing came as a great shock because his radiant spirit had always seemed to defy age.

Many years ago, a psychic had told him his ancestral karma would end with him. And so, we can be assured that the awakening he achieved during life, with all of its veils of illusion, will bear rich fruit.

Sadia Razvi

### For Jerome, the lion-hearted

This man of courage will not  
 pay the Ferryman his two coins  
 nor cross the River Styx;  
 he has bathed in the cleansing waters  
 has honoured the Lady of the Lake  
 who let him keenly feel  
 the cut and thrust  
 the sword's sharp edge

This man of courage does not  
 go softly to the Elysian Fields  
 but takes with him fiery zeal  
 burns away the hampering dross,  
 battle scars of misjudgement  
 pride  
 words given voice instead of silence,  
 leaving the single essence – love.

This man of courage departs  
 to greet past teachers,  
 with loyalty,  
 to prepare himself  
 in the art of compassion,  
 his future learning for future students  
 those he will know  
 as part of himself.

For now we say 'Fare thee well  
 until we meet again.'

Kaaren Whitney

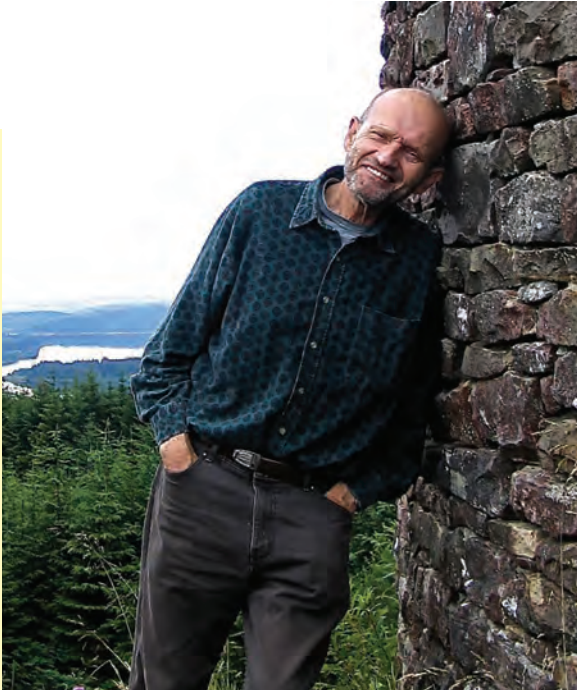
### A breath of fresh air

As Karin Mont wrote after hearing of Jerome's death on 5th August 'The homeopathy community has lost an understated giant'. Understated is a good word to describe his incredible contribution and productivity over the years. A list can be boring but just take a look at this:

Jerome held many positions including Module Leader and lectured in homeopathy extensively from 1983 at many colleges: Southern College, South Downs College, The Shamanic School, University of Westminster (BSc (Hons) Homeopathy); Thames Valley University (The Theory and Principles of Complementary Therapies); The Royal Marsden; University of Southampton; University of Central Lancashire; Finnish Institute of Homeopathic Medicine; Homeopathy College of Iceland.

He worked on curriculum development at both the London College of Classical Homeopathy (LCCH) where he was a member of the Academic Board, and the London College of Homeopathy where he also served as external examiner. At the University of Westminster he was a member of the writing team for the first BSc programme for Health Sciences and Homeopathy in England and Research Project Mentor for the same course. Also at UoW he was Module Leader for the Comparative Medicine BSc (Hons). He was on the Accreditation Working Group for Homeopathy Colleges and since 2009 was a member of the Editorial Board of the ARH Journal *Homeopathy in Practice*. He was one of the provers of new remedies in the meditative provings circle run by Janice Micallef FSHom.

From 2001 – 2007, Jerome was one of the leading lights in developing the Accreditation handbook for CORH, and he was a hugely important member of that



working group. He also participated in CORH council meetings, where, as Karin Mont described it, ‘I first became aware of his thoroughly enlightened approach – a breath of fresh air’. He was an active member of the Course Providers Forum, believing in a plurality and a creative breadth of homeopathic courses to keep homeopathy vital and progressive.

From 1997, for a year, he was on a Cable 17 TV phone-in – a series called *Complementary Therapies*, and he became an Associate Member of the Guild of Health Writers. Over the years he has thrilled campers with his presentations at the ‘Travelling Homeopaths’ Summer Camp as well as joining in enthusiastically with everything from tarot to the wood-fired sauna. Add to this his extensive writings and articles, and you might begin to have an idea as to the extraordinary way in which Jerome served our profession for so many years.

Born in 1934, he grew up on a farm in NY State / Pennsylvania border USA. His early life was one of hard work and amazing farm machinery. On his 80th birthday he showed us a series of photos of these incredible machines. Farm life set up in him a great fascination for nature and weather. His degree in maths and physics and his two MAs in Social History focused his interest in the nature of truth and reality. He was a great admirer of Malcolm X and wrote his thesis on ‘American Black Nationalism in the 20th Century’.

As well as doing graduate work, he was also ‘searching for gurus’. In 1970, he met Thomas Maughan, Chief of the Druid Order. In his own words, ‘I was so impressed with him and with the way he expressed the Druidic teaching and the role of Druids in society that I wanted more!’. He found he could merge scientific enquiry with philosophical aspiration in a life-long focus on meditation, self-development, group work, ceremony and healing including, of course, homeopathy. As Jerome put it, ‘The Druids teach how to both be practical and real in the world – as well as being spiritual’.

As a student of Dr Thomas Maughan and a member of his South London Group, he studied the two strands: homeopathy and druidic spiritual philosophy. The early founders of British contemporary homeopathic education, the Society of Homeopaths and much of today’s professional homeopathy all sprang from this double helix.

He was very clear that these turbulent times need to be seen as a transition. Transition from the old thinking of ‘polarity’ towards a new consciousness of ‘unity’ where we can begin to see the ‘unity within opposites’. Jerome saw Trump, Brexit, extreme weather and hung parliaments as being part of whatever it takes to break down the old institutions that are ‘beyond their sell-by dates’. Unfortunately, nature uses whatever is at hand as the means by which this change can be effected, but change is coming and Jerome said repeatedly, ‘it all depends on how fast we choose to make change in our own thoughts for this to come about’.

He was a Leo – born in August – and could burn with enthusiasm as well as anger. As one of the companions of the Druid Order said: ‘His boundless enthusiasm and fiery temper ensured it was always going to be an interesting journey’. When asked what he had most enjoyed about his life he said ‘The lovely people I have met – being with people who quest’.

Four days after he died Kaaren Whitney and I set up a meditation for him at 9pm in her beautiful tree circle in Suffolk. No sooner had we settled down to enjoy the tranquil Suffolk night, than the most almighty clanging and banging and screeching and clanking started up in the next field. It was the farmer harrowing, lights blazing and tractor roaring. It seemed that Jerome was not going to be going out quietly.

To see Jerome talking after the 2017 Autumn Equinox Ceremony: <https://vimeo.com/283317354>

Rix Pyke RSHom



**His early life was one of hard work and amazing farm machinery**

▷ **Infectious energy for the team**

*A good team comprises those with a common goal, and different – but complementary – skills. This is a good description of the HiP editorial team over the last ten years and so it is even harder to lose someone as special as Jerome.*

I first met Jerome when he joined our editorial team in 2009. He was independent in spirit and didn't belong to any professional organisation which meant he carried no political agenda – a refreshing trait – but he was nevertheless committed to the cause of homeopathy. He was a most original thinker, not influenced by what other people think, and a person of great integrity. Despite his seriousness, his mischievousness indicated a great sense of humour.

Our team discussions went well beyond journal post mortems and bouncing ideas off each other. With his innate wisdom, Jerome was truly inspirational and radiated positive energy. His enquiring and brilliantly sharp mind and joie de vivre were infectious. He was always ready to provide advice and perspective and happily shared his vast knowledge with others. He helped move the journal forward in so many ways. His comments on 'challenging' articles were always spot-on and often brought clarity to the most impenetrable.

He leaves a big gap in our small team but, more than anything, I will miss a wonderful individual, a most engaging personality, and I am extremely grateful that our paths crossed. As a team, I hope we will be able to recapture his energy and enthusiasm.

**Sabine Wolff-Counihan**

I first met Jerome at Martin Miles's fortnightly lectures in the '90s, got to know him better when I did the Guild of Homœopathy's course in Developmental Homœopathy in 2000-01 and, of course, in the last ten years. I have always had a particular fascination in the history and development of homeopathy, with a specific interest in the work of James Compton Burnett (the subject of my college thesis) so I have very much



enjoyed Jerome's recent writings. I have also appreciated his writing skill as so little work is necessary to prepare his articles for publication. Thank you, Jerome – you will always be with us.

**Meg Brinton MARH**

It has been a privilege to be a colleague of Jerome's on the editorial team of *Homeopathy in Practice* over the years. The contribution he brought to the table was highly original based on his eclectic career which covered not only homeopathy, but also numerous related spiritual fields.

Since the time he was one of the original students of Thomas Maughan all those years ago, he has maintained a strong and passionate position in the education of students in homeopathy and the promotion of the subject to a far wider audience. His detailed knowledge of the different editions of the *Organon* and the history of homeopathy in general combined to create a firm anchor for any discussion the team would have on any subject within this context.

This will be sorely missed as much as the twinkle in his eye while he revelled in the telling. I am sure everyone who came in contact with him will share similar memories and will retain a place in their homeopathic heart for his uniqueness in the profession and beyond.

**Elizabeth Adalian MARH**

**With his innate wisdom,  
Jerome was truly inspirational and  
radiated positive energy**

## Jerome was a learned man, and generously shared his knowledge with others

Jerome was my colleague as part of the editorial team of *HiP* and as teachers at Southern College of Homeopathy. He always had a twinkle in his eye, a wicked sense of fun, and generally a square of dark chocolate in his pocket which he would graciously share with me during meetings. My favourite memory of Jerome is how, when asked to discover the ley lines in an Icelandic national park, he produced from his backpack a pair of dowsing rods! As several of us commented at the time, who has dowsing rods in their bag? We had lip gloss and tissues! Spending time with Jerome was being in the company of greatness. I am eternally grateful to have been so blessed.

Jo Kettelman MARH

Ever since I first became involved with the ‘politics’ of homeopathy (over 20 years ago), Jerome has been there – an assured, calm, and confident presence amidst a sea of complex, sometimes diametrically opposed, perspectives. He had the ability and wisdom to see beyond the confusion so frequently created by the clash of multiple agendas, and concentrate on what really matters. When Jerome spoke out at meetings, he always had something valuable to contribute, and although he clearly held strong opinions on many issues, he never felt the need to impose his view of the world on others.

He had zero tolerance for injustice, but always endeavoured to focus his anger on the matter under consideration, rather than the individual creating the contention.

Jerome’s intellectual acuity, coupled with his deep knowledge of a whole range of subjects, was remarkable. He was a champion of homeopathy, and contributed to the development of our profession in so many different ways, including being a very active member of the *HiP* editorial team.

Jerome was a kind, generous and compassionate man, who had a well-developed sense of humour. He was also great company. It has been a privilege to work alongside Jerome. I shall really miss him, but his spirit most definitely lives on in the hearts and mind of those of us fortunate enough to have known him. RIP Jerome.

Karin Mont MARH

Hearing the sad news of Jerome Whitney’s passing I reflected on my memories of this great man.

At the HCPF meetings his passion for homeopathy shone through. I invited him to speak to my students and, knowing that I was just starting out, he generously waived his fee for doing so; his only request was to feed him well.

As part of the team working through the revised NOS, we travelled together to Birmingham and once took the wrong exit from the station giggling as we arrived an hour late for the meeting. Being in his presence was both fun and enlightening.

As part of the editorial team of *HiP* Jerome was a great contributor and after a hearty lunch would happily work his way through the biscuits – he loved his food!

I was unable to attend his funeral but felt his presence as I ‘linked in’ at the appropriate time. He was a wonderful, fascinating, much loved and respected man who will be greatly missed. I had the honour to know him and his memory will forever shine bright in my heart.

June Sayer MARH

Jerome was an active, dynamic man with a keen interest in politics and homeopathy, of course. Despite becoming a popular figure, Jerome remained somewhat of an outsider. This placed him in a neutral position, which he used to his advantage. It’s as if he wanted to bear witness to homeopathic events, and he became our ‘homeopathic historian’. A joke was made to the effect of ‘if Jerome wasn’t there, it didn’t happen!’

Jerome was a learned man, and generously shared his knowledge with others. His brain was a repository of knowledge and was like ‘Google for Homeopathic History’, as well as other subjects.

In 2016, Jerome gave a talk at the ARH conference on ‘The history of homeopathy in the UK’. He visually charted our history, and how homeopathy had evolved in the UK. The effect on the audience was mesmerising, everyone felt addressed and animated by it.

Jerome was inspiring to us all; he was beloved and admired by many for his determination and commitment to homeopathy. He will be missed by all.

Myriam Shivadikar MARH

□