



Bach Blüten für alle | Fleurs de Bach pour tous | Fiori di Bach per tutti | Bach Flowers for all

## History of the Bach Centre

narrated by Stefan Ball on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2016

during the visit of the 123bach educational trip group

written down by Caroline Sommer, Co-ordinator 38

Dr Edward Bach passed by Wallingford on his annual journey from Cromer heading towards the east together with Nora Weeks and stayed at a small inn, “The Lamb Hotel”, the present-day “Lamb Arcade”. It is assumed that the trip was intentionally planned this way, so that he could visit his daughter Bobby († probably in 2014), who lived in Cromer.

During a stroll in the streets of the neighbouring town, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Nora Weeks discovered the small house that stood empty for quite some time. They decided to rent it in 1934. Dr Edward Bach spent the last two years of his work and life in this house and treated patients from the surrounding area. He also distributed his flower tinctures through three homeopathic pharmacies, among them Nelsons in London, beyond the city limits of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell.

After Dr Edward Bach’s death in 1936 Nora Weeks, together with his good friends Victor Bullen and Mary Tabor carried on his legacy in the small house. Mary found inspiration to publish a roman à clef: „To Thine Own Self“.

The war was a long and harsh time for the Bach remedies, too; yet Nora Weeks and her aides did not lose heart. That’s when a newsletter appeared, which was enclosed with the products they created and bottled themselves, making the teaching of the Bach remedies easier to comprehend and helping disseminate it widely.

In order to preserve Dr Edward Bach’s legacy, a foundation was established in the 50s, which also bought the small house with the support of donations. The Flower Power movement helped increase awareness of the Bach Centre worldwide. Nora Weeks (†1978) and Victor Bullen (†1975) were growing older and a new generation with John Ramsell and his sister Nicky Murry provided support and ultimately took over from Nora and Victor. In the 80s Nicky withdrew from the Bach Centre and moved abroad.

Towards the end of the 80s and under the leadership of John Ramsell and his daughter Judy Howard Ramsell more than 80,000 stock bottles were being shipped worldwide every week and everything started growing too big. Production, bottling and shipping still lied solely in their hands. And alongside that, there simply was not enough time left to spread the teachings of the Bach system. In spite of all that, Judy held the very first course at the Bach Centre on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 1991.



Courses and training from novice to applicant for registered practitioner status with the Bach Centre, England

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Nelsons was granted a temporary distribution license in 1993. In 1994 the Bach Centre outsourced the remedies' production, but continued producing only the mother tincture. The production premises were converted into today's training rooms.

The idea of "Registered Practitioners BFRP" was born, aiming at recruiting people around the world, who would work according to Dr Edward Bach's principles. To ensure control, education occurred only in England initially. So that training could be offered in additional locations Nelson's help was asked for help. Together with Karen Chapman, a three-level training scheme was developed. Brazil and the USA were the first countries where courses were held outside England.

In 1996, Stefan Ball, whose wife already then worked for the Bach Centre, came as a temporary replacement of a colleague during her maternity leave; he ended up staying ever since. Already in the past, Stefan had occasionally been doing translation work for the Bach Centre, thanks to his French and Spanish language skills.

Until 2005 Keith Howard was the "remedy maker" at the Bach Centre and was also responsible for the production of the mother tincture. At that time, the Bach Centre opted to completely withdraw from the remedies' production and devote itself entirely to spreading the knowledge about the Bach system. Peter Warren, a long-standing employee of Nelsons, received extensive training to become the new "remedy maker" responsible for the mother tincture of the "Bach Original Flower Remedies" at Nelsons.

With Kathy's and June's assistance, both office staff, the Centre had sufficient time to offer counselling, as well. However, that was discontinued with their retirement.

In the past ten years, articles appear regularly in the local papers and magazines, shedding light upon the work and activities of the Bach Centre. Despite these efforts, the level of awareness within the immediate vicinity of the Centre is significantly lower than it is globally.

**Today May 6<sup>th</sup> 2016 the team involved with the work of the Bach Centre is:**

<http://www.bachcentre.com/centre/people.htm>

**Judy Howard-Ramsell** (since the mid 80s)

Judy is board member of the foundation "Dr Edward Bach Healing Trust" and has published several books. In her spare time she can be found riding her bicycle.

**Keith Howard** (since the 80s)

Keith is responsible for garden planning and maintenance work and is involved in several projects.

**Stefan Ball** (since 1996)

Stefan is the one responsible for the adherence to educational and examination standards for all Bach Centre approved courses globally, maintains the international register of practitioners, as well as the



Centre's website. He has published several books. In his spare time, Stefan appears with "The Bronsons" as their lead singer.

**Allan O'Connor** (since 2015)

Allan is the Bach Centre's gardener.

**Grace Blizard** (since spring 2015)

Grace is the person primarily responsible for the ground floor office; telephone, visitors, shop and mail.

The trainers Lynn Macwhinnie, Angela Davies and Patricia Campbell-Parker

**The global team**

Every single of the currently approx. 3,000 practitioners worldwide is a team member, conveying the Bach system knowledge to anyone who can't come to the Bach Centre.

