

**Field House, Bradford Royal Infirmary
November 25th 2003**

Osteopathy



**Andrew Taylor Still
Founder of Osteopathic Medicine**

Osteopathy

My name is Howard Thornton. I have been a practising Osteopath working in Bradford for 25 years treating local patients in my own practice.

Brief history of Osteopathy

The word itself comes from the Greek-osteo:bone, pathos: disease, The Practise began in America in the 19th century when an army doctor Andrew Taylor Still began looking at the power of the body to heal itself. He was disillusioned with medicine of his day, having watched three of his children die of meningitis.

He wanted to discover the cause of disease and stumbled across the idea that 'bones out of place' could damage blood and nerve supply, causing illness. He studied anatomy and the mechanics of musculo-skeletal systems, he pioneered the concept of 'wellness'- Osteopathy was born.

He opened the first school of Osteopathic Medicine in Kirksville, Missouri in 1892.

Osteopathy in the U.K. was introduced by Dr. Martin Littlejohn, who studied in Kirksville and opened the British School of Osteopathy in London in the 1920's.

Today the word 'Osteopath' is a protected title, all practising Osteopaths must be listed with the General Osteopathic Council and we must re-apply annually for our membership to be continued. We are subject to the same CPD requirements as many other professions are.

WHERE DO WE STAND IN RELATION TO THE NHS?

Currently, as I understand our present situation, osteopaths enjoy various relations within the NHS.

- Some have contracts established in the days of fund-holding practices and are paid for each patient session.
- Other osteopaths are employed by or contracted in as part of specialist departments in acute trusts.
- Some are employed directly by one of the many Primary Care Trust.

The status of Osteopaths within the NHS is ill-defined, currently we fall under the Allied Health Professional (AHP) banner, although we are not technically an AHP

(AHP's include physiotherapists, radiographers, podiatrists, dieticians, clinical scientists etc.)