



QUEEN MOTHER'S
CLOTHING GUILD
FOUNDED 1882

Annual Report 2023



HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

www.qmcg.org.uk
Charity Registration No. 211764



BUCKINGHAM PALACE
LONDON SW1A 1AA



Photo Credit: Alex Lloyd Photography

I was delighted to hear that over 70 QMCG volunteers came to St James's Palace in October 2023 to sort and allocate 37599 items of new clothing and bedding, 8222 of which were handmade. All of these items were then donated to 39 charities throughout England for distribution to their clients.

This unique charity continues to do such an important job giving invaluable help to many, including charities which provide support for women coming out of prison and women's refuges. A handknitted jumper or bedspread, new socks and bath towels help women regain their self-respect as they adjust to a new life.

Each year the Trustees, Executive Committee and Guild Friends work hard to raise significant funds to enable QMCG to continue to support so many charities. I hope that this vital work will continue for many more years.

HRH Princess Alexandra, The Hon. Lady Ogilvy, Patron



Trustees' Report For the year ended 31st December 2023

The Trustees present their accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the statement and notes to the accounts.

Purpose of the Queen Mother's Clothing Guild (QMG)

The aim of the Queen Mother's Clothing Guild is to make, buy and source new clothing, sleeping bags and linen and to distribute these items once a year to British charities, operating only in the United Kingdom, to help the vulnerable, the homeless and those in need.

Why our work is important

QMG is one of the oldest charities in the United Kingdom and, from its inception in 1882, its purpose has been to support those in need. QMG responds to requests from charities across the UK for new items they have difficulty in sourcing or funding themselves. QMG knows that the gift of brand-new clothing and linen provides not only warmth and comfort but, importantly, also helps to restore dignity and self-respect.

How we work

Our list of 57 supported UK charities includes refuges for women and children escaping violence, homeless shelters and outreach units, neonatal units and hospices providing respite and end of life care for children and adults - and many others. Each year we ask the charities that we support to complete a list of items they most need, and that will make a difference.

For over 140 years QMG supporters all over the country have been knitting and stitching and still continue to make beautiful handmade items for QMG to donate to charities.

The timing of our annual distributions works particularly well for charities helping the homeless as their need is greatest during winter months.

Where we work

QMG works with charities across the UK, but its main activities are in England and Scotland.

Public Benefit

In setting the objectives and activities of the charity, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidelines concerning public benefit. QMG continues to place great emphasis on its commitment to support other charities in their work, providing brand new clothing and linen to help where the charities have difficulty in sourcing these items themselves.

The public benefits of QMG's work are wide reaching through the varied charities it supports and can be seen as both direct and indirect in their nature. Direct, through the practical help that is given to the charities QMG supports in response to their actual needs. Indirect, through the positive effect of these donations of new clothing and linen on those who receive them, helping to restore their sense of self-worth and dignity - both essential to those facing hardship. Direct also through the friendship, purpose and sense of belonging that knitting and stitching gives to the many supporters all over the country.

Fundraising

Under the Charities Act 2016, all charities in England and Wales that spend more than £100,000 a year on fundraising are expected to make a voluntary contribution to the regulator's running costs.

As QMG spends considerably less than £100,000 a year on fundraising it is, therefore, not eligible to pay the voluntary contribution to the regulator's running costs that would be required under the Charities Act 2016.

Risk Assessment

Again this year, in making decisions, the Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission Guidance on public benefit, in compliance with section 4 of the Charities Act 2006, and have given due consideration as to how the activities of QMG contribute to its charitable status.

Trustees:	Teresa Myers - Chairman of Trustees until 20 th October 2023 Mary Guppy - Chairman of Trustees from 20 th October 2023 Sharon Stewart - Hon. Treasurer Ruth Briant - Executive Chair Diana Dix - from 4 th December 2023 Sallie Hawkins - from 4 th December 2023 Julia Knight Roisin Tierney - until 8 th September 2023 Helen Whitbread Matilda Woodford
Secretary to the Trustees:	Susan Wallace
Executive Committee:	Ruth Briant - Executive Chair Victoria Spendlove - Vice Executive Chair Sharon Stewart - Hon. Treasurer Julia Buckmaster Susan Hammond Donna Hart - from 14 th March 2023 Vicki Meakin Natalie Meehan Abigail Sarfaty Sherry Watson - until 14 th March 2023
Secretary:	Heather Mears
Charity Number:	211764
Registered Address:	22 Stamford Brook Road London W6 0XH
Independent Examiner:	Heyburn Bennett Ltd 9 Bridge Street, Walton on Thames Surrey KT12 1AE
Investment Advisors:	Rathbones: Incorporating Investec Wealth and Investment (UK) 30 Gresham Street London EC2V 7QN

The Compliance Committee meets regularly to ensure that the Governance document is kept updated and is used as a guidance framework for both the Executive Committee (EC) and Trustees. Both the Trustees and the EC received Compliance training during 2023.

All supported charities, existing and proposed, are regularly visited by members of the Executive Committee, and a record kept of the meeting. Guild Friends and Trustees are encouraged to join these interesting visits. Through these visits, either by Zoom or In Person, QMCG can gather information about the charities, their current needs, and how best the Guild can assist them. Importantly, visits help to guard against inappropriate use of QMCG donations and help us monitor whether our donations are relevant and reaching those we aim to help.

The other main areas of risk are QMCG's two annual events: Packing Week and the AGM. Public Liability insurance continues in place.

The Guild in Scotland Report

The links that Guild Ambassadors Clare Russell, CVO and Shona Docherty have built up with the Scottish charities over many years are invaluable in informing the Executive Committee's decisions about the annual allocation of different types of new clothing, knitting and bedlinen to a range of charities based in Scotland. This year, the Executive Chair enjoyed visiting 5 charities in the Glasgow area in April 2023. Later in the year, 2495 items of handmade and bought items were distributed to 18 charities across Scotland in time for the cold winter weather.

Chairman of the Trustees' Report

We held our AGM at The Lansdowne Club on May 17th. The meeting was well attended, and it was lovely to meet some of the new QMCG friends who came along for the first time. Sherry Watson retired from the Executive Committee and we thank her for all her hard work during the past three years. Donna Hart has joined the Executive Committee in her place.

In August Roisin Tierney retired both as a Trustee and as Chairman of the Compliance Committee due to ill health. We wish her well and thank her for the wonderful service she has given to QMCG since she joined us in February 2020. Roisin has known of QMCG for many, many years as she worked as a nursing sister at St James's Palace and has had to look after several of us suffering minor injuries during our many packing days at the Palace. We will miss her, both as a Trustee and as a valued member of the QMCG team. Roisin remains a Friend so we will continue to see her at future QMCG events.

In September Sherry Watson agreed to become Chairman of our Compliance Committee and we thank her for taking on this role which has become essential to all modern charities.

We held our two days' packing at St James's Palace in October. Our wonderful team managed a new form of unpacking and repacking all the 37,599 items for the 39 Charities in England we supported this year and in Scotland we supported 18. This new approach was commended by all and proved really efficient. Our guests appreciated the slimmed down version and enjoyed visiting the new look displays. Sadly, HRH Princess Alexandra was unable to join us this year, but her Private Secretary & Comptroller Mrs Diane Duke attended in her place and read out a short speech on behalf of Her Royal Highness. Including the Scottish distribution to charities 40,153 items were distributed to 57 charities in the whole of the UK.

Teresa Myers, Chairman of the Board of Trustees (until October 2023)

The above was written by Teresa Myers, our outgoing Chairman of Trustees who, sadly, due to personal reasons had to step down on October 20th. I would like to thank Teresa for all her hard work and dedication to the Guild. I was elected by the remaining Trustees to take over as Chairman from that date. In November we were delighted to welcome Diana Dix and Sallie Hawkins to The Board of Trustees and they attended their first Board meeting in December. They will both be very welcome members of the Board and I am sure will serve with extreme competence and enthusiasm!

As always, we continue to be extremely grateful for the continuing support of HRH Princess Alexandra. She has been and continues to be a wonderful Patron. Sadly, ill health has curtailed her visits to Packing Week recently.

A huge thank you also to the accountants Heyburn Bennett Ltd and Investec.

We would also like to say a very big thank you to all Friends of the Guild. At the time of writing we had 130.

This next year we hope to be even more successful in helping those in need. I am sure that with the dedication and hard work of each and every one of us we will continue to find ways of raising even more money year by year. Thank you to you all.

Mary Guppy, Chairman of the Board of Trustees (from October 2023)

Accounts For year ending 31st December 2023

Summary of income and expenditure account for the financial year ended 31st December 2023. Please refer to the separate signed Accounts 2023 document for more details.

In the current year, total income surpassed expenditure by £3,597. Our total income was £87,528 (2022 - £148,285) and our total expenditure was £83,931 (2022 - £108,991).

Donations and our Friends' subscriptions accounted for £50,329 of our annual income. Following the remarkable success of our fundraising events during our 140th anniversary in 2022, we depended on individual efforts by our Friends in 2023, raising £4,033. The sale of merchandise and knitted novelties generated £6,929.

We were delighted to be able to allocate £61,092 to purchase clothing and linen to benefit the charities we supported in 2023. Our operational expenses amounted to £22,420.

Our thanks go to all those individuals, organisations and grant-giving trusts for their ongoing support and contributions to our mission.

Sharon Stewart, Hon. Treasurer

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) b of the Charities Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. Which gives me the reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act,
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met;

OR
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mark John Heyburn

Mark John Heyburn
Heyburn Bennett Ltd
Chartered Certified Accountants and Registered Auditors
9 Bridge Street, Walton on Thames, Surrey KT12 1AE

Date: 16 FEBRUARY 2024

QUEEN MOTHER'S CLOTHING GUILD

Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Receipts					
Donations, Legacies and Grants	1	50,329		50,329	33,392
Fundraising	2	4,033		4,033	79,881
Other Charitable Activities	3	6,929		6,929	19,488
Gift Aid	4	2,711		2,711	789
Income from Investments	5	23,528		23,528	23,555
Sub total				87,528	148,285
Asset and investment sales					
Receipts from sale of investments	6	114,556		114,556	57,122
Sub total				114,556	57,122
Total receipts				202,084	205,407
Payments					
Purchasing of Clothing and Linen	7	61,092		61,092	59,424
Running Costs	8	22,420		22,420	43,124
Other Charitable Activities	9	420		420	6,443
Sub total				83,931	108,991
Asset and investment purchases					
Purchase of investments	10	101,129		101,129	49,218
Investment Administration charges	11	5,715		5,715	5,964
Sub total				106,844	55,182
Total payments				190,775	164,173

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Balances at Bank

Bank Current Accounts		76,736	73,139
Investec Wealth and Investment	12	14,779	7,021

Investment Assets

Investec Wealth and Investment	13	510,210	543,455
		601,725	623,615

Accumulated Fund

	601,725	623,615
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These accounts were approved by The Board of Trustees on 29th January, 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Mrs Mary Guppy
Chairman

Mary Guppy

Notes to Receipt and Payments Account

1 Donations, Legacies and Grants

Donations and Subscriptions	80,329	33,392
Legacies	-	-
Grants	-	-
	<u>80,329</u>	<u>33,392</u>

2 Fundraising Events

Raffle	2,025	6,055
Auction	-	34,834
Other Fundraising	2,008	38,792
	<u>4,033</u>	<u>79,681</u>

3 Other Charitable Activities

Sales of Aprons/Tea Towels/Bags	233	568
Sales of Notelets / Cards	480	1,316
Sales of Badges	10	60
Sale of China	1,029	1,182
Sale of Book	23	1,637
Donations for knitted items	5,175	5,610
Miscellaneous Income	-	125
	<u>6,929</u>	<u>10,488</u>

4 Gift Aid

	2,711	769
	<u>2,711</u>	<u>769</u>

5 Income from Investments

Main Fund	16,468	16,768
Mrs Pipe's Fund	7,058	7,187
Cash withdrawn from Portfolio	-	-
	<u>23,526</u>	<u>23,955</u>

6 Sale of Investments

Main Fund	80,189	39,985
Mrs Pipe's Fund	34,367	17,137
	<u>114,556</u>	<u>57,122</u>

7 Purchasing of Clothing and Linen

Purchase of Clothing and Linen	54,475	49,219
Purchase of Items distributed to Scottish Charities	6,617	10,205
	<u>61,092</u>	<u>59,424</u>

Notes to Receipt and Payments Account

	2023 £	2022 £
8 Running Costs		
Packing Week and AGM expenses	11,440	7,608
Fundraising Events	-	24,140
Printing/Stationery/Postage	1,620	1,786
Website & Communications	851	1,027
Insurance	763	701
Secretarial Fees	7,137	7,145
Miscellaneous Expenses	99	80
Bank Charges	510	637
	<u>22,420</u>	<u>43,124</u>

9 Other Charitable Activities

Purchasing of Merchandise	-	6,443
Archives	420	-
	<u>420</u>	<u>6,443</u>

10 Purchase of Investments

Main Fund	70,790	34,453
Mrs Pipe's Fund	30,339	14,755
	<u>101,129</u>	<u>49,218</u>

11 Investec Administration Charges

Main Fund	4,001	4,176
Mrs Pipe's Fund	1,714	1,789
	<u>5,715</u>	<u>5,964</u>

During the year Investec charged an additional £3,933 (2022 - £4,540) as a collective funds charge for managing the portfolios.

12 Investec Wealth & Investment Cash Balance

Main Fund	10,346	4,915
Mrs Pipe's Fund	4,433	2,106
	<u>14,779</u>	<u>7,021</u>

13 Investec Wealth & Investment Assets (at cost)

Main Fund	367,147	380,419
Mrs Pipe's Fund	153,063	163,038
	<u>510,210</u>	<u>543,455</u>

The market value of investments at 31 December 2023 was £602,756 (2022 - £605,294)

BENEFICIARIES 2023 (*Newly supported in 2023)

Charities in England	Neo Natal Units Supported
Age UK Wiltshire, Salisbury	Evelina, St Thomas's Hospital, London
Barons Court Project, West London	Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow
Berkshire Women's Aid	
The Carers Centre, Tower Hamlets *	
Changing Pathways, Essex	Charities in Scotland
CHESS Homeless, Chelmsford	AberNecessities, Aberdeen
Companions of the Order of Malta, Central London	Bethesda Hospice, Stornoway
Crawley Open House, West Sussex	Cameron House, Inverness
Croydon Refugee Day Centre, Croydon	Cardinal Winning Pro Life Initiative, Glasgow
Emmaus Brighton, East Sussex	CHAS Rachel House, Kinross
Emmaus Greenwich, London	CHAS Robin House, Balloch
Emmaus Hastings, East Sussex	Cyrenians, Aberdeen
GSTT Charity Samaritan Fund, London	Erskine Home, Renfrewshire
Home of Comfort, Southsea	Highland Hospice, Inverness
Kairos, South East London	Hungry Horse, Inverness
Leonard Cheshire St Cecilia's, Bromley	Kat's Second Edition (Supporting West End Community Centre) Ross-shire
Little Sisters of the Poor, St Peters, Lambeth	Kindness Street Team, Glasgow
Little Village, London	Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow
London City Mission, Central London	Simon Community, Glasgow
Manna Society, London	St Vincent's Hospice, Johnstone
Nelson Trust South West, Bristol *	Women's Aid, Dundee
Nelson Trust, Swindon	Women's Aid, Glasgow
Ollalo House, London	Women's Aid, Inverness
Pottergate Arc, Norwich	
Pram Depot, London	
Ronald McDonald House Charities, London	
Salvation Army Hoxton, East London	
Seaview, East Sussex	
Spitalfields Crypt Trust, East London	
St Anne's, Little Sisters of the Poor, North London	
St Hilda's House, St Hilda's Church, Ashford, Middlesex *	
St Luke's Hospice, Essex	
Stonepillow, West Sussex	
Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service	
The Upper Room, Central London	
Warming up the Homeless, Bexhill-on-Sea	
Your Place, East London	



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THANK YOU LETTERS

'... we help ladies...recently released from Bronzefield Women's Prison which is down the road from our church. We provide a safe place for them to live at St Hilda's House and help reintegrate them into society. We have used the items donated by QMCG to make our own 'Welcome Packs' ready for future tenants. Our current tenant was very pleased with her bundle and really appreciated the knitted blanket. She said she could use it on the sofa to keep warm. She liked the colours and pattern and said, 'This really brightens the place up and will keep me cosy in the cold months, I love the colours.'

St Hilda's House, St Hilda's Church, Middlesex

'Thank you to the Guild knitters. Your colourful creations have made such a difference whilst the temperature has plummeted. Another carer was already wearing the knitted hat on the zoom today. Some can't afford heating; you are literally keeping lives warm and tasty. Thank you'.

'I received a small blanket from the donations, and I am using it as a shawl for the cold evenings. It is beautifully made, and in soft wool so it is very comforting. Please thank the Guild for their kindness, I really appreciate the effort that has gone into making this, and very grateful that there is someone thoughtful enough to make it for carers'.

Carers Centre, Tower Hamlets

'Thanks to the support of the Queen Mother's Clothing Guild, we've been able to pass on blankets, sheets and pyjamas to families with babies and children under five, keeping them warm and snug at night, and reducing worry for London families surviving on very low incomes. Little Village and other baby banks are a ray of light for these families as we're giving them a gift at a time when they really need our help.'

Little Village, London

'Thank you for helping to end homelessness, one person at a time. I'd like to express our gratitude for the very generous donations received last week from the Queen Mother's Clothing Guild, to support people who have lost their homes.

Please convey our appreciation to all those who made your kind donations of blankets, towels, sleeping bags and warm clothing possible - all of which will be greatly appreciated by our residents. With the rising costs of living and winter drawing in, these warm layers will be more important than ever as residents come to us from the streets, and as we support them to move into their own homes.'

Your Place, East London

'On behalf of all of us here – especially the homeless people we see every day - a huge THANK YOU to you and everyone who made it all possible. The donations were incredible and are already flying off the shelves to the people who need them most. We just could not do what we do without QMCG and we are so very grateful.'

The Upper Room, London

'Thank you also for such incredible donations. They are exactly what our guests request - thermals, thick socks, tracksuit bottoms, sleeping bags, t shirts, underwear ... the list is endless. And we were also fortunate enough to receive some knitted items that you are so well known for. They are an array of wonderful colours and beautifully made. It will be such a treat for us to hand out these items to those who need them.'

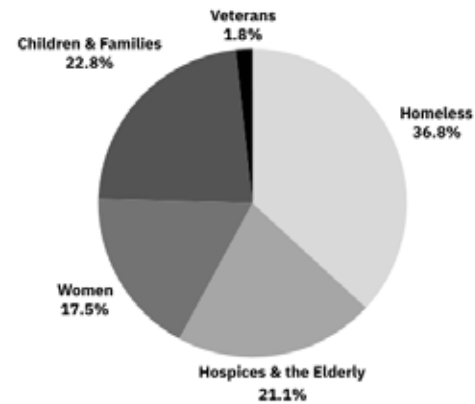
Companions of the Order of Malta, London

Everyone at St Vincent's Hospice is deeply grateful that you have chosen to continue supporting us, and I can confirm that the bedding has started to be used within our patient rooms. Each gift we receive helps us continue providing specialist palliative care and support services to patients and their families across the neighbouring communities of Renfrewshire and North Ayrshire. Your generosity means so much to all our staff, patients and their families – the bedding will make a real difference here.

St Vincent's Hospice, Renfrewshire

Charities supported by QMCG in 2023

- Homeless charities**
21 charities who support those who are homeless.
- Hospices and the Elderly**
12 hospices, care homes and day centres
- Women's charities**
10 women's refuges and support groups
- Children and Families**
13 charities supporting children and families including Neo-Natal units
- Veterans**
1 charity supporting Veterans



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