



QUEEN MOTHER'S  
CLOTHING GUILD  
FOUNDED 1882

# Annual Report 2024



HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

[www.qmcg.org.uk](http://www.qmcg.org.uk)  
Charity Registration No. 211764



Photo Credit: QMCG  
Our first QMCG Carol Service held at The King's Chapel of the Savoy on 4th December 2024.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
LONDON SW1A 1AA

The photograph showing friends and supporters enjoying QMCG's first Fundraising Carol Service in The King's Chapel of the Savoy is a good example of the "Guild family" coming together to raise funds to help people in need. The congregation included volunteer knitters and stitchers who over the years have given their time and skill to create unique handmade items, generous donors and supporters who have enabled QMCG to purchase more new clothes and bed linen, the Trustees and Executive Committee who manage the work of the Guild over the year, representatives from the charities we work with, and faithful QMCG volunteers who help by raising funds and giving their time at the annual Packing Week.

Although the Needlework Guild Prayer was written over 100 years ago, it still reflects an awareness of the positive impact new clothing can have on the well-being of people in difficult circumstances. The distribution in Winter 2024 of 37,352 items of new clothing and bed linen to 53 UK charities directly helps those who are feeling cold and vulnerable and can restore their sense of dignity and self-respect.

This is what the QMCG community does every year – enabling QMCG to carry out its vital work of giving people a loving gift of new clothes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexandra".

HRH Princess Alexandra, the Hon. Lady Ogilvy  
Patron



Patron: HRH Princess Alexandra, The Hon. Lady Ogilvy

Trustees: Mary Guppy - Chairman of Trustees  
Sharon Stewart - Hon. Treasurer  
Ruth Briant - Executive Chair  
Diana Dix  
Sallie Hawkins  
Julia Knight  
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 - until December 2024  
Donna Hart  
Vicki Meakin  
Natalie Meehan - until May 2024  
Abigail Sarfaty - until May 2024

Secretary: Heather Mears

Charity Number: 211764

Registered Address: 22 Stamford Brook Road  
London  
W6 0XH

Independent Examiner: Catrin Thornton, BSc ACA

Investment Advisors: Rathbones: Incorporating Investec Wealth and Investment (UK)  
30 Gresham Street  
London  
EC2V 7QN

## **Trustees' Report** **For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

The Trustees present their accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. 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 53 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, usually in the Autumn time, 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.

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.

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**

Soon after the dust had settled from our London-based Packing Week in October 2024, the Secretary and Treasurer started arranging for the donation of linen to a range of charities in Scotland. By December 2024, 7 charities received 832 items of new bedlinen, towels, slippers and dressing gowns based on their requirements, which members of the Executive Committee and Trustees had discussed with the charities during 2024.

At the same time, our tireless Guild Ambassador in Scotland, Shona Docherty, was gathering together over 1,300 handmade items from a team of 12 volunteer knitters based all over Scotland. These have now been distributed to 12 charities, and no doubt the kind knitters are already busily producing items for QMCG's distribution in Winter 2025.

In total we have helped 16 charities across Scotland in 2024. We have received many grateful emails from CEOs showing how much the QMCG donation is appreciated by the charity and their clients. Bethesda Hospice on the Isle of Lewis and Harris, NW Hebrides wrote: 'A main priority for us is to ensure the comfort of our patients, and this donation goes a long way to making this possible...so grateful for the lovely homemade items ..... which keep people warm in this cold weather...so thankful for the beautifully coloured blankets and cosy hats which keep our residents warm when they go out...These are essential items that are always needed in abundance in a setting such as Bethesda, and we are very grateful to you for donating these to us.'

**Ruth Briant, Executive Chair**

### **Chairman of the Trustees' Report**

The AGM was held at The Royal Automobile Club on May 15th, thanks to Trustee Diana Dix, and proved to be an excellent venue. The Reverend Canon Thomas Woodhouse, Chaplain of The King's Chapel of the Savoy, gave a very interesting and lively talk which was enjoyed by all. Natalie Meehan, Abigail Sarfaty and Susan Hammond retired from the Executive Committee. Thank you for your hard work over the past three years.

Packing Week in October was a joyous occasion with all hands on deck; each year it amazes me how much is achieved in such a short time. During the two days we sorted, packed and distributed 35,100 items to 37 Charities in England. Several members of the Royal Household attended View Day thanks to Trustee Matilda Woodford. It was so inspiring to meet the representatives of the charities who attended and listen to their stories. Sadly, HRH Princess Alexandra was unable to attend due to ill health, however her Private Secretary Diane Duke very kindly attended on both days. Including the charities we supported in Scotland, a grand total of 37,352 items were distributed to 53 charities throughout the UK in 2024.

We have had several very successful fundraising events this year organised by Linda Thompson and Susan Hammond. This included our first Christmas Carol Service at The King's Chapel of the Savoy, which we hope will become an annual occasion. It was a complete success and very well attended. Linda and Susan stepped down from the Fundraising Team at the end of December after a very successful term. Thank you for your hard work in raising funds for the Guild.

We continue to be extremely grateful for the support of HRH Princess Alexandra. She has been and continues to be a wonderful Patron. A huge thank you also to our Independent Examiner Catrin Thornton and Investec. I would also like to say how much we appreciate our loyal helpers, knitters and donors for their time and generosity which makes our wonderful charity what it is today.

**Mary Guppy, Chairman of Trustees**

## **Fundraising Report**

The Guild is so grateful to The Worshipful Companies of Drapers, Dyers, Glovers and Weavers for their continued support through generous grants that enabled us to purchase thousands of brand new items of clothing and bedding for distribution at Packing Week.

The Fundraising Committee organised three big events in 2024, raising over £14,000, starting with an evening champagne reception and guest speaker in Lord and Lady Hammond's home in May. Former Constable and Governor of Windsor Castle, Admiral Sir James Perowne KCVO, KBE, had everyone hanging on his every word talking about his time at Windsor with the late Queen and Duke of Edinburgh.

The second event in November, hosted by The Worshipful Company of Dyers in their stunning livery hall, was a sell-out wine tasting led by Former Yeoman of the Royal Cellars, Robert Large MVO, RVM. Fifty guests were expertly guided through a selection of champagnes, wines and port that The Queen Mother enjoyed at one of her last banquets at Windsor Castle.

The final event of 2024, in early December, was the Guild's first ever Carol Service led by Canon Thomas Woodhouse and held in the stunning King's Chapel of The Savoy, with which the Guild has a longstanding and close association. A wonderful opportunity for over 100 Guild Friends to gather together at the end of a busy year, while raising much needed funds. It is planned to make this an annual fixture in the Guild calendar.

A big thank you to the Guild Friends who organised individual fundraising events throughout the year including a bluebell walk cream tea, sponsored sock walk, church collection, Christmas wreath making and Christmas sales. Without active and successful fundraising throughout every single year, the Guild will not be able to continue our valuable work helping those in need.

**Linda Thompson and Susan Hammond, Fundraising Team**

## **Accounts For year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

**Summary of income and expenditure account for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. Please refer to the separate signed Accounts 2024 document for more details.**

The 2024 accounts show a positive financial performance for the charity. Total income increased to £94,748 from £87,528 in the previous year, while payments rose to £94,171 from £83,931.

Donations decreased to £36,259 from £50,329, primarily due to the absence of three significant one-off donations received in 2023. Fundraising saw a substantial increase to £24,288 from £4,033 with new events such as the Savoy Chapel carol concert, the Wine Event and a champagne reception with guest speaker. An increase in fundraising from our Friends also contributed to this total. The sales of our merchandise and knitted items generated £7,671. Investment income showed a modest increase to £24,110 from £23,526.

We were delighted to be able to allocate £58,407 to the purchasing of clothing and linen to benefit the charities we supported in 2024. Our operational expenses increased to £28,198 from £22,420. This increase reflects the investment in fundraising events, which yielded significant returns and expenditure on digitalising archives (funded by previous year's donations).

Overall the charity's financial health remains robust with a slight surplus and substantial reserves. Our thanks go to all those individuals and organisations 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**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed by



**CATRIN THORNTON BSc ACA**

Date:

April 6th 2025

## QUEEN MOTHER'S CLOTHING GUILD

### Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>	NOTES				
Donations, Legacies and Grants	1	36 259		36 259	50 329
Fundraising	2	24 288		24 288	4 033
Other Charitable Activities	3	7 671		7 671	6 929
Gift Aid	4	2 420		2 420	2 711
Income from Investments	5	24 110		24 110	23 526
<b>Sub total</b>				<b>94 748</b>	<b>87 528</b>
<b>Asset and investment sales</b>					
Receipts from sale of investments	6	104 365		104 365	114 556
<b>Sub total</b>				<b>104 365</b>	<b>114 556</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>				<b>199 113</b>	<b>202 084</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Purchasing of Clothing and Linen	7	58 407		58 407	61 092
Running Costs	8	28 198		28 198	22 420
Other Charitable Activities	9	7 566		7 566	420
<b>Sub total</b>				<b>94 171</b>	<b>83 931</b>
<b>Asset and investment purchases</b>					
Purchase of investments	10	24 085		24 085	101 129
Investment Administration charges	11	5 843		5 843	5 715
<b>Sub total</b>				<b>29 928</b>	<b>106 844</b>
<b>Total payments</b>				<b>124 099</b>	<b>190 775</b>

### Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

#### Balances at Bank

Bank Current Accounts		77 313	76 736
Investec Wealth and Investment	12	89 770	14 779

#### Investment Assets

Investec Wealth and Investment	13	437 228	510 210
		<b>604 311</b>	<b>601 725</b>

#### Accumulated Fund

	<b>604 311</b>	<b>601 725</b>
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These accounts were approved by The Board of Trustees on 28th February, 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs Mary Guppy  
Chairman



## Notes to Receipt and Payments Account

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>1 Donations, Legacies and Grants</b>		
Donations and Subscriptions	36 259	50 329
	<u>36 259</u>	<u>50 329</u>
<b>2 Fundraising Events</b>		
Raffle	5 286	2 025
Other Fundraising	19 002	2 008
	<u>24 288</u>	<u>4 033</u>
<b>3 Other Charitable Activities</b>		
Sales of Aprons/Tea Towels/Bags	484	233
Sales of Notelets / Cards	342	460
Sales of Badges	73	10
Sale of China	366	1 029
Sale of Book	42	23
Donations for knitted/donated items	6 364	5 175
Miscellaneous Income	-	-
	<u>7 671</u>	<u>6 929</u>
<b>4 Gift Aid</b>	2 420	2 711
	<u>2 420</u>	<u>2 711</u>
<b>5 Income from Investments</b>		
Main Fund	16 877	16 468
Mrs Pipe's Fund	7 233	7 058
Cash withdrawn from Portfolio	-	-
	<u>24 110</u>	<u>23 526</u>
<b>6 Sale of Investments</b>		
Main Fund	73 056	80 189
Mrs Pipe's Fund	31 310	34 367
	<u>104 365</u>	<u>114 556</u>
<b>7 Purchasing of Clothing and Linen</b>		
Purchase of Clothing and Linen	53 347	54 475
Purchase of items distributed to Scottish Charities	5 061	6 617
	<u>58 407</u>	<u>61 092</u>

## Notes to Receipt and Payments Account

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>8 Running Costs</b>		
Packing Week and AGM expenses	12 380	11 440
Fundraising Events	5 279	-
Printing/Stationery/Postage	1 348	1 620
Website & Communications	937	851
Insurance	809	763
Secretarial Fees	7 204	7 137
Miscellaneous Expenses	20	99
Bank Charges	221	510
	<u>28 198</u>	<u>22 420</u>

### 9 Other Charitable Activities

Purchasing of Merchandise	-	-
Archives/Book	7 566	420
	<u>7 566</u>	<u>420</u>

### 10 Purchase of Investments

Main Fund	16 860	70 790
Mrs Pipe's Fund	7 226	30 339
	<u>24 085</u>	<u>101 129</u>

### 11 Investec Administration Charges

Main Fund	4 090	4 001
Mrs Pipe's Fund	1 753	1 714

During the year Investec charged an additional £3,090 (2023 - £3,993) as a collective funds charge for managing the portfolios.

<u>5 843</u>	<u>5 715</u>
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### 12 Investec Wealth & Investment Cash Balance

Main Fund	62 839	10 346
Mrs Pipe's Fund	26 931	4 433
	<u>89 770</u>	<u>14 779</u>

This cash balance is included in the total fund in note 13 below

### 13 Investec Wealth & Investment Assets (at cost)

Main Fund	368 899	357 147
Mrs Pipe's Fund	158 099	153 063
	<u>526 998</u>	<u>510 210</u>

The market value of investments at 31 December 2024 was £612,282 (2023 - £602,756)

**BENEFICIARIES 2024** (\*Newly supported in 2024)

<b>Charities in England</b>	<b>Neo Natal Units supported</b>
Age UK, Wiltshire	Evelina, St Thomas' Hospital, London
Barons Court Project, London	Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow
Berkshire Women's Aid	
Changing Pathways, Essex	<b>Charities in Scotland</b>
CHESS, Essex	AberNecessities, Aberdeen
Companions of Malta, London	Bethesda Care Home & Hospice, Stornoway
Crawley Open House, West Sussex	Cardinal Winning Pro Life Initiative, Glasgow
Croydon Refugee Day Centre	CHAS Robin House, Balloch
Emmaus, Greenwich	CrossReach Oversteps Care Home, Dornoch
Emmaus, Hastings & Rother	Cyrenians, Aberdeen
Guy's and St Thomas' Charity Samaritan Fund, London	Erskine House, Renfrewshire
Home of Comfort, Southsea	HALO Highland Action for Little Ones, Inverness*
Kairos, South East London	Highland Hospice, Inverness
Leonard Cheshire St Cecilia's, Bromley	Kindness Street Team, Glasgow
Little Village, London	Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow
London City Mission, Central London	Seaforth Care Home, Sutherland*
Manna Society, London	Simon Community, Glasgow
Medaille Trust, London*	St Vincent's Hospice, Johnstone
Nelson Trust, South West (supporting refuges in Bridgwater, Bristol, Cardiff, Gloucester, Swansea)	Women's Aid, Dundee
Nelson Trust, Swindon	Women's Aid, Glasgow
Ollalo House, London	
Pottergate Arc, Norwich	
Pram Depot, London	
Project Linus, UK*	
Ronald McDonald House Charities, London	
Salvation Army, Hoxton, London	
Seaview, East Sussex	
St Anne's, Little Sisters of the Poor, North London	
St Hilda's House, Middlesex	
St Peter's, Little Sisters of the Poor, South London	
Stonepillow, West Sussex	
The Carers Centre, Tower Hamlets, East London	
Upper Room, Central London	
Warming up the Homeless, East Sussex	
Your Place, East London	



**QM  
CG**

**QUEEN MOTHER'S  
CLOTHING GUILD**

FOUNDED 1882

## THANK YOU LETTERS

### **Nelson Trust, Bristol**

'The recent donation from the Queen Mother's Clothing Guild including the lovely assortment of knitted items has been incredibly impactful for our community of women. These items have provided much-needed warmth and comfort, especially as the colder months approach. The sleeping bags have been distributed to those who are rough sleeping and on our Sex Worker's Outreach Programme. They have been a lifesaver for many of our clients and have offered a sense of security and warmth that is crucial during this time.'

The jogging bottoms and jumpers are being used daily by our clients, providing them with comfortable and practical attire for when they're in hospital, rough sleeping, or have little finances for luxury items such as clothing. They have been very well received and are not only comfortable but also help our clients feel more at ease and dignified.

The handmade knitted and crochet items have been distributed among our clients, adding a personal touch to the donations. They are particularly appreciated and are beautiful and unique. They bring a sense of warmth and care, knowing that someone took the time to make these items by hand. Our clients feel cherished and supported.

The variety of items donated has addressed multiple needs of our clients, from warmth and comfort to a sense of personal care. These donations have made a significant difference in women's daily lives.'

### **Nelson Trust, Bristol, Client Quote**

'Having fresh, high-quality towels makes me feel valued and cared for. It's the little things that make a big difference for me, that others wouldn't think about.'

### **Erskine House, Renfrewshire**

'We are indebted to QMCG for all their years of support for our veterans. Having such a generous donation of good quality linens each year is a great help to us, particularly during a cost-of-living crisis. Some of our residents arrive with very little so it's wonderful to be able to give them brand new bedding and towels. We also received many hand knitted jumpers, blankets, mittens, socks and hats that are created by QMCG knitters. Giving our veterans lovely handmade items, which are created especially for them is a lovely gesture. The continued support from QMCG is something we really appreciate, especially as the price of linen and household items continues to rise. We value your support very much.'

### **Stonepillow, West Sussex, Client Quote**

'I was freezing cold and very wet from the storm – I have been sleeping rough, I was so relieved to have thermals, new warm clothing and a dry sleeping bag from the Stonepillow Hub.'

### **Ollalo House, London**

'Our team was delighted to receive these thoughtful contributions, and they are sure to make a meaningful impact on those we serve. The feedback from our clients and staff has been overwhelmingly positive, and I'm pleased to share a few of their remarks:

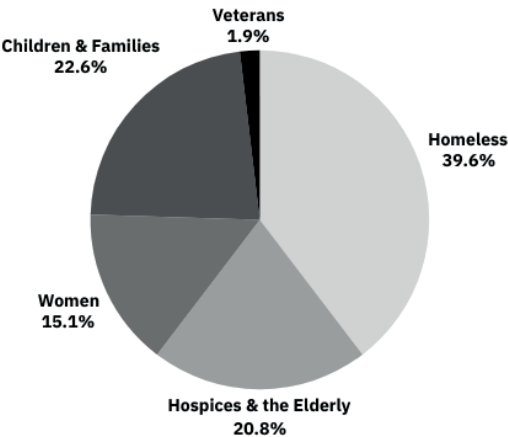
'The jogger and hoodie are really good, it's wonderful to feel warm and presentable. Thank you for making a difference in my life.' (client)

'The handmade items truly feel like gifts of kindness. Knowing someone crafted these with care means a lot to us.' (staff)


'These donations are more than just items—they bring comfort, dignity, and hope to our residents.' (staff)

# Charities supported by QMCG in 2024

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



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Father of all mercies++we are clothed++we are fed++  
we are sound in mind and body+. In gratitude for  
these great blessings we offer these material things  
to those less fortunate+. Add Thy blessings, we  
beseech Thee, to the work of our hands and hearts  
so that each garment may carry to the wearer not  
only decency and warmth, but courage, comfort, and  
hope for brighter days+.

Needlework Guild Prayer



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