

**THE QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB**  
**UK Registered Charity No. 232476**  
**Annual Report of the Committee for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

At the end of the year 2023 the total membership was 529 now made up of:

- 444 UK or European based Ordinary Members,
- 85 Rest of the world members.

These numbers include:

- 494 Adult Members,
- 2 Young Members,
- 8 Complimentary Members,
- 11 Honorary Members,
- 3 Legal depositories (one of which is the Natural History Museum Library),
- 5 Supporting Member organisations.
- 6 Organisations subscribing to the Journal

There were no nominations for Honorary Membership during this period 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023. During the same period we were notified of the deaths of the following members Derek Brown, John Millham, Brian Mooney, Philip Muston, Don Rutherford and Mr Keith Stringfellow.

### **Finances**

The Club's income for the year amounted to £57,110[1] (2022: £58,946) and expenditure £63,272 (2022: £57,056). This leads to a deficit for the year (and decrease of cash funds) of £6,162 (2022: surplus of £1,890). The Club's cash funds as of 31st December were £210,924 (2022: £217,086), and our investment assets £386,968.42 (2022: £357,215).

The decrease in income (as compared to 2022) was principally due to the substantial income in 2022 from a members' auction. The overall significant deficit was due to the Committee's decision to use income (particularly donated income) accrued during COVID to increase our charitable spend, as explained later on in this report.

### **Committee**

The Committee for 2023 was composed of

President:	Terence Hope
Vice President:	Steve Gill
Hon. Secretary:	Lisa Ashby
Meetings Secretary:	Paul Smith
Hon. Treasurer:	Stephen Parker
Journal Editor:	Phil Greaves / Alex Cunningham
Bulletin Editor:	Chris Thomas
Collections and Archives Officer:	Phil Greaves
Webmaster:	Peter Wyn-Jones
Membership Secretary:	Robert Ratford
Committee Member:	Grenham Ireland (also regional meetings)
	Graham Matthews

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**Meetings**

17<sup>th</sup> January, Gossip meeting – My Latest Acquisition

7<sup>th</sup> February, Gossip meeting – Capturing and Editing Video

Willem Cramer gave us an introduction to why one might want to use video. He described the hardware he used and emphasised the importance of a powerful computer to reduce the rendering time and avoid unexpected shutdowns. He talked about the software he used for capture (Motic Images Plus 3.0) and editing (DaVinci Studio) and about the use of accompanying sound. He demonstrated the results with his own short video clips.

25<sup>th</sup> February, Home Counties Meeting at Cobham

This was the third of a series of full-day meetings in the Home Counties that we hope will encourage more members to attend face-to-face events because they will not have to travel into central London. We were pleased to see some new faces as well as the regulars. It was held in the main hall of Church Gate House Centre, where the South Thames Discussion Group met for several years, adjacent to St Andrews Church in Cobham, Surrey. The hall has a kitchen where tea, coffee and biscuits were available when we arrived and during the afternoon.

11<sup>th</sup> March, Reading Convention

This year the Convention moved to Sonning Common Village Hall, a bit further from Reading. The Convention is now being run by the Quekett Microscopical Club, retaining the usual format of the morning devoted to exhibits and sales, followed by a break for lunch and then a talk in the afternoon.

25<sup>th</sup> March, Midlands Meeting Penkridge

1<sup>st</sup> April, Workshop – Epi-Illumination

Epi-illumination involves light reflected from the specimen, and is the normal illumination in metallurgical microscopy and the most common illumination used with stereomicroscopes. Reflections of the light source can be a problem, but can often be reduced using two polarisers or diffused illumination.

15<sup>th</sup> April, Lockington Meeting

22<sup>nd</sup> April, Gossip – South Coast Spring Meeting

We always had the door open so holidaymakers and villagers would often drop in for a look. To encourage this, posters were distributed around libraries and notices put in tourist offices and newsletters in Poole, Swanage and Langton inviting visitors to drop by. Posters were also passed to local schoolteachers to display.

29<sup>th</sup> April, East of England Meeting, Bradfield St. George

27<sup>th</sup> May, Joint Meeting with Bournemouth Natural Science Society & Museum (BNSSM)

The 3rd Joint Meeting of the BNSS and the QMC included an exhibition of microscopy which was well attended by members and members of the public. The meeting was available to family groups visiting the museum and a number of visiting members were able to discuss the finer points of the microscope and camera set ups on show. It was followed by an afternoon talk 'Spiders: a closer look at their special features – from eyes to spinnerets' from Dr. Jeremy Poole

10<sup>th</sup> June, Home Counties Meeting, Dagenham, Essex

The meeting at the Eastbrookend Discovery Centre had good transport links and lakes, woodland and grassland for collecting specimens.

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24<sup>th</sup> June, Gossip meeting – Polarised Light Microscopy

2<sup>nd</sup> July, Northampton Natural History Society – Annual Exhibition

11<sup>th</sup> July, Lecture – LV Martin. “Desktop Scanning Electron Microscopy” by Dr. Alex Ball.

12<sup>th</sup> August, Microscopium, The Microscopists’ Fair

Our first Microscopium at Letchworth Settlement in 2022 was a success, so we returned for the 2023 event. As always, Microscopium provided members and visitors with a good opportunity to dispose of surplus items and to acquire new kit, and also provided an excellent opportunity to meet old friends, make new friends, and gossip over tea and coffee and over lunch. An overtime ban on the trains and the ever-increasing cost of petrol may have kept some people away, but we still had a good crowd of buyers. As usual, there were bargains ranging from filters and bulbs for £1 to slide cabinets, a trinocular Zeiss PrimoStar and a huge Reichert Zetopan outfit.

23<sup>rd</sup> September, Midlands Meeting at Penkridge

October, Annual Exhibition of Microscopy - Quekex

The event was held for the third time at Elm Court Youth and Community Centre, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire. As usual, there were demonstrations and exhibits by members, displays of the photomicrographs, videos, slides and artwork submitted for awards, lectures, and plenty of gossip. In accordance with tradition, Club President Terry Hope opened the meeting by sounding the Quekett horn. The event and offered both online content and a physical event and saw good attendance at both.

- 11<sup>th</sup> October – Zoom only lecture  
Topic: Forensic chemical microscopy and the fun of figuring things out by Skip Palenik of Microtrace.
- 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – physical event with displays and awards.
- 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – lectures Fluorescence microscopy and its use in the life science by Nicola Lawrence, Deputy Imaging Facility Manager– Cambridge University and Condenser-free Differential Quantitative Phase Contrast (dPC) microscopy – measuring refractive index using LEDs by Dr. Kevin Webb, Associate Professor in Applied Optics and Electrophysiology, Faculty of Engineering – Nottingham University.

14<sup>th</sup> November, Lecture – MC Cooke Lecture. “Sticklebacks under the Microscope” Professor MacColl

Professor MacColl’s research interests include the population ecology of vertebrates, the ecology of freshwater fish (especially the stickleback) and fish parasitology. He teaches a second year residential ‘Biodiversity Field Course’ in Dovedale each year. The lecture was extremely interesting and covered various species from many parts of the world, and some horrible parasites that they are prone to contracting.

21<sup>st</sup> November, Gossip meeting – Dry Mounts in Slip Cases

Former Club President Carel Sartory gave a talk on his method of making slip cases or Plummer Slides for larger specimens. That is for use in mounting whole insects and the like and not tiny forams where such slides are commonly used.

9<sup>th</sup> December, Lecture and Christmas Quiz

The lecture was given by well-known Dutch microscopist Wim van Edmond on, photomicrography including time lapse video. The traditional quiz was prepared by Robert Ratford and provided an enjoyable end to the Club’s year.

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**Publications**

We have used our current printers for many years and used the same bulk mailing service throughout. Over the last couple of years we have had significant problems with delivery of overseas publications, this has resulted in a change of printer and mailing service for the last two publications of 2023. As a result overseas members are now receiving publications in a timely manner.

**Journal:**

Volume 44 parts 5 and 6, Summer and Winter 2023 respectfully were issued. Dr. Penny Thoyts unfortunately had to stand down as Editor early in 2023 due to pressures of work and Part 5 was edited by Phil Greaves. This issue was delayed in production while several contributors completed their articles and was finally issued in September. Several North American members experienced problems in receiving their copy, due to problems with the international shipment.

Dr. Alex Cunningham, a retired oceanographic scientist and Club member based in Glasgow, came forward to volunteer his skills as Editor for the Journal and the Winter issue of the Journal was produced by him, supported by Phil Greaves. Overseas members were able to confirm that the alternative postal arrangements made for this edition were successful.

**Bulletin:** The Bulletin provides a more magazine-like complement to the academic Journal. Numbers 84 in May and 85 in November 2023 were published with a good complement of our member's wonderful and varied contributions, and it looks as if the positive trends of diversity, number and locations of contributors are continuing. Due to mailing issues with our last printer with Bulletin No 84, we changed to the same printer used by the PMS for Bulletin 85, and this seemed to have resolved the mailing issues, apart from any due to address changes by members. We did have one hiccup in that the first mailing of Bulletin 85 had been mis-bound, resulting in a rather unusual pagination. The printers promptly responded and addressed the issue, sending out the correctly bound version as soon as they could, with profuse apologies. Such errors are extremely rare and some members might want to retain the unusual copy as a novel item, in addition to the corrected one!

**The Club on-line** (<https://www.quekett.org>)

The website continues to attract about 200 hits per day from a range of countries, mostly from the UK and US. The Programme page is usually the most popular with some of the Resources pages also well visited, the pages on digital photomicrography being especially sought after. With the advances in photographic techniques, for example much increased resolution of cameras, it is probably time to review these pages and get them updated: it is therefore proposed that a low-key drive is started to encourage those members (and others?) either to revise their existing contributions or to write new ones, and thus enhance the club's contribution to the field. Focus-stacking, shadowless illumination and dark-ground illumination seem to be popular topics.

The WordPress installation continues to work well and is now automatically updated, as are most of the plug-ins (which add functionality to the website) and the UpDraft Plus software, which backs up the entire site on a daily basis. The 'MiniOrange' plugin, which allows members to access all parts of the website via a single sign-on of their username and password, has been a useful part of the major revision of the membership system and, although expensive, provides a much simpler path for members to log in. It also has other, new (for 2024), benefits which will be explored to see how they serve our needs.

Assistance in keeping the website up to date this year has been provided by Alan Wood and Chris Thomas

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### **Collections and archives**

The bequeathed collection of mounted slides by the late Doug Richardson have now been fully photographed and records transferred into the Club's slide database. Now this work is complete, loan sets of slides from this collection will be made up in 2024 for members to borrow for personal use, in accordance with the wishes of the donor.

Rationalisation of historical books held in long-term storage at the Club's store room in the Natural History Museum was completed and those books deemed unsuitable for long term conservation in the Club's collections were offered for sale by postal auction at the end of 2023. This has raised funds to allow for professional conservation bookbinding and acid-free archival storage of a small core collection of rare historical books (some dating back to the 18th Century) which the Club plans to share with members by display at the Annual Exhibition and other events.

Possibly due to the increasing costs of postage, and the reduction in the number of meetings held in London, there have been no loans of slide sets or library books in 2023. The Club will continue to promote and develop the loan sets of slides, especially with new material from the Richardson collection, and will review longer-term options for the book lending library, which remains under-utilised.

### **Charitable / Outreach Activities**

As part of our outreach programme we had a stand at the following events:

- Saturday family morning at Oakdale library, Poole
- Geologists Association Festival of Geology
- MMC2023 Royal Microscopical Society Microscience Exhibition
- Wimbledon Common Nature Day.
- Practical Astronomy Show
- Amateur Entomologists' Society (AES) Members' Day
- Chinbrook Meadows Nature Discovery Day
- Warnham Local Nature Reserve excursion
- Grove Park Carnival
- Wimbledon Common Open Day
- New Scientist Live
- Super Science Saturday at Sidmouth Science Festival
- Chinbrook Meadows Apple Day
- National Honey Show
- British Entomological and Natural History Society (BENHS) Annual Exhibition
- World Microscope Day - a two day Zoom meeting featuring talks and demonstrations by amateur and professional microscopists. Everything was presented in 'real time'.

The QMC is currently providing the Stromness Museum in Orkney with a grant to catalogue and make accessible online, a valuable collection of more than 4,000 thin rock sections of rocks from the Orkneys, Scotland and rest of the world. This was in response to a visit to the museum by our Orkadian QMC member Alan Jones more than a year ago, written up in the Bulletin, and followed up by Chris Thomas. Promptly designated as the direct contact to the Stromness Museum for oversight of how our funding is being used, Chris visited Stromness and the Museum in September to provide valuable microscopy advice and to see the collection and work in progress. As it was the Orkney Science Festival during his visit, he and Stromness Museum contact Katy Firth also gave a public talk and visited two schools to engage in microscopy related activities with the enthusiastic students. Katy Firth will be reporting on the project later in 2024.

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*The Milton Microscopy Group of the Quekett (MIMIQ)* is a combination of regional meeting and outreach, i.e. open to anyone interested in microscopy. We had 3 key events in the latter half of 2023, which are attracting an increasing number of Cambridgeshire members and some now coming from further afield. Meetings are on a Sunday, roughly quarterly, from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

The September meeting topic was sands from around the world and included making your own slides either on cardboard or the usual microscopy slides from the wide variety of samples from the UK, the Mediterranean to Japan available.

In November, we were able to visit the Imaging Centre of the Gurdon Institute in Cambridge, courtesy of Dr Nicola Lawrence. We were able to see cutting edge bespoke fluorescence, confocal and flat sheet microscopes and have a go ourselves. The imaging facility provides a service to other research groups that would otherwise not be able to afford these highly expensive microscopes.

The events are funded by the Quekett through the payment of the hall fees.

*The Anglian Microscopy Group* The Anglian Microscopy Group, based in Crowfield, Suffolk, continues to enjoy considerable success with an average attendance at meetings of approximately 30 enthusiastic members. The group continues to be led by Robert Ratford, Gordon Brown and Stephen Durr with a number of regular attendees lending support. In 2023 the group held 12 meetings, including a field trip to Walton on the Naze to study and collect fossils, but the October meeting was regrettably cancelled due to severe flooding in the area. As in 2023 the group had a stand at the village fete, which was very well received by the local populace. As was expected when the group was formed the majority of those who attend are beginners and/or beekeepers, although as most have become regular attendees they are growing in experience. More and more of the regular attendees are choosing to become Quekett members and many join the Quekett Zoom meetings.

Because the group has been widely publicised and has an active Facebook group, the membership covers a very wide geographic area. The furthest travelled member makes the journey from Pontefract almost every month and others travel from Hertfordshire, Bedford, Peterborough, London, and West Norfolk.

The meetings have covered a very wide range of microscopy subjects and a programme has been developed by the leaders covering the next four years with no repetition. Each meeting comprises an introduction outlining theory and techniques, followed by a practical session where the aim is to ensure each member actually makes something they can take with them. The effect of this is most of the attendees continue this work at home between meetings and results are often to be seen on the Facebook group.

With the aid of a grant from the Quekett the group now has a 75 inch UHD interactive board and camera, which was unveiled by Wim van Egmond at the September meeting. This equipment has greatly improved the quality of the presentations and demonstrations and has allowed us to arrange for Carel Sartory to lead the December meeting from his home in France using Zoom. There are no plans to broadcast the normal monthly meetings over Zoom as the logistics of doing so are extremely difficult.

Overall the Anglian Microscopy Group has been a resounding success in 2023 and will no doubt continue to grow over time.

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Outreach events – as can be seen from the list above, members have continued to provide displays with a variety of organisations and at a variety of venues. There are some new events this year and we hope to have more in 2024. These displays depend on members providing the microscopes and expertise and are much appreciated by the public, including many families with children, who attend. We are grateful to these active members and encourage others to join us.

**Links to other organisations**

Where possible we continue to maintain dialogue with as many other microscopy groups as possible. Attendance at outreach events during the year has led to invitations to set up new events in 2024.

**Advice on Microscopes**

Many members and non-members alike use our Facebook page to share images and to enquire about the buying and selling of microscopes, or to ask for historical or technical information. We continue to provide advice to members' families when a member has died and they are not sure how to deal with a member's collection. In some cases members have made a bequest to the Club of items and these may be retained by the Club for use in outreach events or will be sold either in the Members Auction or at one of our sales events.

**Conclusion**

2023 has been an interesting but difficult year. Although we have had a full programme of events physical meetings have still not seen the return to pre Covid numbers, unfortunately this is something that other groups are also reporting. We have however continued to build and expand on our outreach events and end the year with members having been sent a new programme of events that includes longer in person events at the Natural History Museum which will include a practical element and we hope this will encourage greater attendance.

**Accounts for the period 01 Jan to 31 Dec, for the years 2023 and 2022, respectively.**

**(Receipts and Payments Basis)**

<b>Receipts</b>		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b><u>Gifts, Donations &amp; other voluntary receipts</u></b>			
Subscriptions:	Cheques	516.00	290.10
	Stripe	10,495.00	8,960.10
	Direct Debits	8,304.20	6,876.94
	via PayPal (Gross)	131.32	115.00
		<b>19,446.52</b>	<b>16,242.14</b>
Tax Reclaim: Gift Aid		0.00	1,446.30
Interest from G.Owen Trust Fund		31,626.05	24,571.87
Bequests		0.00	0.00
Monetary Donations		0.00	0.00
Sale of Bequeathed or Donated Items		571.70	589.00
		<b>32,197.75</b>	<b>26,607.17</b>
<b>Section Total:</b>		<b>51,644.27</b>	<b>42,849.31</b>
<b><u>Receipts from Trading Activities</u></b>			
Sale of Journal		0.00	33.00
Journal CD / DVD		86.12	89.79
QMC Sale of QMC Publications		351.53	774.87
Club Merchandise		0.00	0.00
Microscopy Material		110.00	0.00
Auction Sale of Surplus QMC Items		440.00	0.00
		<b>987.65</b>	<b>897.66</b>
<b>Section Total:</b>		<b>987.65</b>	<b>897.66</b>
<b><u>Receipts earned from Assets</u></b>			
Bank Interest		1,291.57	94.92
Dividends		3,186.12	3,350.65
		<b>4,477.69</b>	<b>3,445.57</b>
<b>Section Total:</b>		<b>4,477.69</b>	<b>3,445.57</b>
<b><u>Other Receipts (not counting as "Gross Income")</u></b>			
Members' Auction Sale of Deceased Members' Property		0.00	11,753.11
Re-Presentation of Rejected Cheques		0.00	0.00
		<b>0.00</b>	<b>11,753.11</b>
<b>Section Total:</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>11,753.11</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>57,109.61</b>	<b>57,109.61</b>
		<b>58,945.65</b>	<b>58,945.65</b>



## Payments

All expenditure relates to events and tasks carried out on behalf of and for the benefit of the Club's objectives

		2023	2022
<b>Payments directly for charitable purposes</b>			
<u>NHM Rent &amp; Hire:</u>	Store Room	1,194.00	1,194.00
	Meeting Rooms	0.00	0.00
	Exhibition	122.38	194.96
Digitisation of slides		0.00	0.00
Additional Exhibition Expenses		215.44	131.52
QMC Regional Meetings: Venue Hire		2,040.17	1,432.50
Microscopium: Venue Hire		295.00	295.00
External Storage of QMC Property		3,269.40	2,657.51
RCS Quekett Slide-Catalogue Project		0.00	0.00
Grants to Other Organisations		5,318.20	1,712.00
Donations to Other Organisations		16,003.83	3,220.00
Membership of The Society of Biology		0.00	0.00
Sponsorship of MiSAC Competition		0.00	0.00
MiSAC Subscription		750.00	750.00
		<b>29,208.42</b>	<b>11,587.49</b>
<u>Staffing of QMC</u>	Hire of Services and Equipment	5,948.91	2,198.20
<u>Stands by QMC</u>	Accommodation Expenses	0.00	0.00
<u>Members at</u>	Travelling Expenses	183.58	182.69
<u>Science</u>		<b>6,132.49</b>	<b>2,380.89</b>
<u>Exhibitions</u>			
<u>Elgar Birthplace</u>	Museum Fees	0.00	0.00
<u>Museum Project</u>	Members' Accommodation Expenses	0.00	0.00
	Donations of Microscopy Equipment, Books and Materials, for Educational Purposes	0.00	0.00
	Journal Printing	7,859.00	11,591.00
	Journal P & P	1,038.59	2,711.51
	Editors expenses	0.00	0.00
	Purchase of Image Copyright	0.00	0.00
	Bulletin Printing	3,543.81	4,960.55
	Bulletin P & P	2,186.60	0.00
	Bulletin editors expenses	377.21	0.00
	Web Master's Expenses	86.73	280.07
	Website Annual Right-to-Use License	861.96	54.12
	Website Development	2,887.20	2,601.87
	Purchase of Capital Equipment (C.E.)	801.66	985.98
	Expenses incurred in acquiring C.E.	2,159.40	0.00
	Purchase of Books for QMC Library	0.00	0.00
	Production of New Publications	0.00	757.03
	Administration of Existing Publications	40.00	0.00
	Tools and Material for Workshops	40.08	54.65
	Consumable Items	6.00	0.00
	Maintenance / Refurbishment	0.00	0.00
		<b>21,888.24</b>	<b>23,996.78</b>
<b>Section Total:</b>		<b>57,229.15</b>	<b>37,965.16</b>

**Payments for publicity, fund raising,  
management & administration**

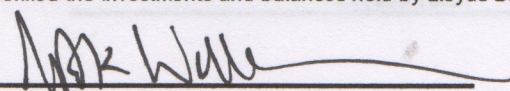
<b><u>Bank &amp; Professional Charges</u></b>			
	Independent Examination of Accounts	456.00	432.00
	Stripe/Worldpay Charges	368.14	538.13
	Go Cardless/Direct Debit Charges	107.48	0.00
	Subscription Receipts: PayPal Charges	19.31	53.20
	Members' Auction Sale: PayPal Charges	0.00	0.00
	Sale of QMC Publications: PayPal Charges	0.00	0.00
		<b>950.93</b>	<b>1,023.33</b>
	Public Liability Insurance	259.95	266.71
	Production of Promotional Material	0.00	0.00
	Subscription Manager: Fees	2,131.20	4,500.00
	Expenses	0.00	0.00
	Other Work	0.00	5,530.17
	Administration of Investments	0.00	0.00
<b><u>Excluding Postage, Travel and Accommodation Expenses</u></b>	President's Expenses	41.80	54.50
	Secretarial Expenses	412.20	208.34
	Treasurers Expenses	0.00	0.00
	QMC Librarian's Expenses	0.00	0.00
	Sales Officer's Expenses	916.45	707.89
	Other Officers Expenses	256.75	353.60
	Officers and Other Members Postage Expenses	0.00	0.00
	Officers and Other Members Travel Expenses	121.55	309.35
	Officers and Other Members Accommodation Expenses	0.00	0.00
	Other Member's Expenses	259.10	94.29
	Attendance of Officers on Training Courses	0.00	0.00
	Expenses Incurred for Business Meetings	0.00	0.00
	Additional Expenses for Meetings	127.62	161.96
	Administration of Members' Auction Sale	530.00	660.90
	Refunded Membership Subscriptions	35.00	0.00
		<b>5,091.62</b>	<b>12,847.71</b>
<b>Section Total:</b>		<b>6,042.55</b>	<b>13,871.04</b>



**Other payments**  
(not counting as "Expenditure")

Auction Sale: Proceeds Returned to Members' Estates	0.00	5,114.37	
Resale Purchase	0.00	0.00	
Rejected Cheques / Direct Debits	0.00	0.00	105.00
<b>Section Total:</b>	<b>0.00</b>		<b>5,219.37</b>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>63,271.70</b>	<b>63,271.70</b>	<b>57,055.57</b>
<b>AVAILABLE FUNDS</b>	<b>2023</b>		<b>2022</b>
Total Funds at Beginning of Year	217,086.36		215,196.28
Net of Receipts/Payments to Date	-6,162.09		1,890.08
	<b>210,924.27</b>		<b>217,086.36</b>
<b>Cash Funds:</b>			
Current Account	7,192.38		8,313.68
Stripe	1,117.02		2,081.86
Paypal account	1,672.36		1,639.88
Inst.Access Acct	100,942.51		105,050.94
1 Year Bond	100,000.00		100,000.00
<b>Total Cash Funds</b>	<b>210,924.27</b>		<b>217,086.36</b>
<b>Less Uncleared</b>	<b>0.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Uncleared</b>	<b>0.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Cash Funds</b>	<b>210,924.27</b>		<b>217,086.36</b>
	<b>Value of Funds at Year End</b>		<b>Value of Funds at Year End</b>
<b>Investment Assets</b>	<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>
Lion Trust (was Architas)	191,458.42		174,037.69
Aberdeen Multimanager Funds (For Capital Growth)	195,510.00		183,177.01

I have examined the above statement of receipts & payments and compared them with the vouchers in the possession of the treasurer and find them to be correct.  
I have also verified the investments and balances held by Lloyds Bank plc.

Signature: 

Members' Honorary Auditor

Date: 24 1 2024



Charity number: 232476

**QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB**  
**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB**

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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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**QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB**  
**LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**Status**

The governing document of the charity is the Constitution and Rules of the Quekett Microscopical Club (as amended 2007).

**Trustees**

Mr Stephen Parker  
Mr Philip Greaves  
Dr Christopher Thomas  
Mr Paul Smith  
Mr Grenham Ireland  
Mr Robert Ratford  
Mrs Lisa Ashby  
Mr Steve Gill  
Mr Graham Matthews  
Mr Peter Wyn-Jones  
Professor Terence Hope  
Mr Alex Cunningham

**Secretary**

Mrs Lisa Ashby

**Charity number**

232476

**Business address**

31 West Park  
Mottingham  
London  
SE9 4RZ

**Independent examiner's**

Bradshaw Johnson  
Croft Chambers  
11 Bancroft  
Hitchin  
Herts  
SG5 1JQ

**QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB**  
**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

The Committee are pleased to present their annual report for the year ended 31 December 2023.

**Membership**

At the end of the year 2023 the total membership was 529 now made up of:

- 444 UK or European based Ordinary Members,
- 85 Rest of the world members.

These numbers include:

- 494 Adult Members,
- 2 Young Members,
- 8 Complimentary Members,
- 11 Honorary Members,
- 3 Legal depositories (one of which is the Natural History Museum Library),
- 5 Supporting Member organisations.
- 6 Organisations subscribing to the Journal

There were no nominations for Honorary Membership during this period 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023. During the same period we were notified of the deaths of the following members Derek Brown, John Millham, Brian Mooney, Philip Muston, Don Rutherford and Mr Keith Stringfellow.

**Finances**

The Club's income for the year amounted to £57,110 (2022: £58,946) and expenditure £63,272 (2022: £57,056). This leads to a deficit for the year (and decrease of cash funds) of £6,162 (2022: surplus of £1,890). The Club's cash funds as of 31st December were £210,924 (2022: £217,086), and our investment assets £386,968.42 (2022: £357,215).

The decrease in income (as compared to 2022) was principally due to the substantial income in 2022 from a members' auction. The overall significant deficit was due to the Committee's decision to use income (particularly donated income) accrued during COVID to increase our charitable spend, as explained later on in this report.

**QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB**  
**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**Committee**

The Committee for 2023 was composed of

President:	Terence Hope
Vice President:	Steve Gill
Hon. Secretary:	Lisa Ashby
Meetings Secretary:	Paul Smith
Hon. Treasurer:	Stephen Parker
Journal Editor:	Phil Greaves / Alex Cunningham
Bulletin Editor:	Chris Thomas
Collections and Archives Officer:	Phil Greaves
Webmaster:	Peter Wyn-Jones
Membership Secretary:	Robert Ratford
Committee Member:	Grenham Ireland (also regional meetings)
	Graham Matthews

**Meetings**

17<sup>th</sup> January, Gossip meeting – My Latest Acquisition

7<sup>th</sup> February, Gossip meeting – Capturing and Editing Video

Willem Cramer gave us an introduction to why one might want to use video. He described the hardware he used and emphasised the importance of a powerful computer to reduce the rendering time and avoid unexpected shutdowns. He talked about the software he used for capture (Motic Images Plus 3.0) and editing (DaVinci Studio) and about the use of accompanying sound. He demonstrated the results with his own short video clips.

25<sup>th</sup> February, Home Counties Meeting at Cobham

This was the third of a series of full-day meetings in the Home Counties that we hope will encourage more members to attend face-to-face events because they will not have to travel into central London. We were pleased to see some new faces as well as the regulars. It was held in the main hall of Church Gate House Centre, where the South Thames Discussion Group met for several years, adjacent to St Andrews Church in Cobham, Surrey. The hall has a kitchen where tea, coffee and biscuits were available when we arrived and during the afternoon.

11<sup>th</sup> March, Reading Convention

This year the Convention moved to Sonning Common Village Hall, a bit further from Reading. The Convention is now being run by the Quekett Microscopical Club, retaining the usual format of the morning devoted to exhibits and sales, followed by a break for lunch and then a talk in the afternoon.



**QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB**  
**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

25<sup>th</sup> March, Midlands Meeting Penkridge

1<sup>st</sup> April, Workshop – Epi-Illumination

Epi-illumination involves light reflected from the specimen and is the normal illumination in metallurgical microscopy and the most common illumination used with stereomicroscopes. Reflections of the light source can be a problem but can often be reduced using two polarisers or diffused illumination.

15<sup>th</sup> April, Lockington Meeting

22<sup>nd</sup> April, Gossip – South Coast Spring Meeting

We always had the door open so holidaymakers and villagers would often drop in for a look. To encourage this, posters were distributed around libraries and notices put in tourist offices and newsletters in Poole, Swanage and Langton inviting visitors to drop by. Posters were also passed to local schoolteachers to display.

29<sup>th</sup> April, East of England Meeting, Bradfield St. George

27<sup>th</sup> May, Joint Meeting with Bournemouth Natural Science Society & Museum (BNSSM)

The 3rd Joint Meeting of the BNSS and the QMC included an exhibition of microscopy which was well attended by members and members of the public. The meeting was available to family groups visiting the museum and a number of visiting members were able to discuss the finer points of the microscope and camera set ups on show. It was followed by an afternoon talk 'Spiders: a closer look at their special features – from eyes to spinnerets' from Dr. Jeremy Poole

10<sup>th</sup> June, Home Counties Meeting, Dagenham, Essex

The meeting at the Eastbrookend Discovery Centre had good transport links and lakes, woodland and grassland for collecting specimens.

24<sup>th</sup> June, Gossip meeting – Polarised Light Microscopy

2<sup>nd</sup> July, Northampton Natural History Society – Annual Exhibition

11<sup>th</sup> July, Lecture – LV Martin. "Desktop Scanning Electron Microscopy" by Dr. Alex Ball.

**QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB**  
**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

12<sup>th</sup> August, Microscopium, The Microscopists' Fair  
Our first Microscopium at Letchworth Settlement in 2022 was a success, so we returned for the 2023 event. As always, Microscopium provided members and visitors with a good opportunity to dispose of surplus items and to acquire new kit, and also provided an excellent opportunity to meet old friends, make new friends, and gossip over tea and coffee and over lunch. An overtime ban on the trains and the ever-increasing cost of petrol may have kept some people away, but we still had a good crowd of buyers. As usual, there were bargains ranging from filters and bulbs for £1 to slide cabinets, a trinocular Zeiss PrimoStar and a huge Reichert Zetopan outfit.

23<sup>rd</sup> September, Midlands Meeting at Penkridge

October, Annual Exhibition of Microscopy - Quekex

The event was held for the third time at Elm Court Youth and Community Centre, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire. As usual, there were demonstrations and exhibits by members, displays of the photomicrographs, videos, slides and artwork submitted for awards, lectures, and plenty of gossip. In accordance with tradition, Club President Terry Hope opened the meeting by sounding the Quekett horn. The event and offered both online content and a physical event and saw good attendance at both.

- 11<sup>th</sup> October – Zoom only lecture  
Topic: Forensic chemical microscopy and the fun of figuring things out by Skip Palenik of Microtrace.
- 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – physical event with displays and awards.
- 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – lectures Fluorescence microscopy and its use in the life science by Nicola Lawrence, Deputy Imaging Facility Manager– Cambridge University and Condenser-free Differential Quantitative Phase Contrast (dPC) microscopy – measuring refractive index using LEDs by Dr. Kevin Webb, Associate Professor in Applied Optics and Electrophysiology, Faculty of Engineering – Nottingham University.

14<sup>th</sup> November, Lecture – MC Cooke Lecture. "Sticklebacks under the Microscope" Professor MacColl

Professor MacColl's research interests include the population ecology of vertebrates, the ecology of freshwater fish (especially the stickleback) and fish parasitology. He teaches a second year residential 'Biodiversity Field Course' in Dovedale each year. The lecture was extremely interesting and covered various species from many parts of the world, and some horrible parasites that they are prone to contracting.

## QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

21<sup>st</sup> November, Gossip meeting – Dry Mounts in Slip Cases

Former Club President Carel Sartory gave a talk on his method of making slip cases or Plummer Slides for larger specimens. That is for use in mounting whole insects and the like and not tiny forams where such slides are commonly used.

9<sup>th</sup> December, Lecture and Christmas Quiz

The lecture was given by well-known Dutch microscopist Wim van Edmond on, photomicrography including time lapse video. The traditional quiz was prepared by Robert Ratford and provided an enjoyable end to the Club's year.

#### **Publications**

We have used our current printers for many years and used the same bulk mailing service throughout. Over the last couple of years we have had significant problems with delivery of overseas publications, this has resulted in a change of printer and mailing service for the last two publications of 2023. As a result overseas members are now receiving publications in a timely manner.

#### **Journal:**

Volume 44 parts 5 and 6, Summer and Winter 2023 respectfully were issued. Dr. Penny Thoyts unfortunately had to stand down as Editor early in 2023 due to pressures of work and Part 5 was edited by Phil Greaves. This issue was delayed in production while several contributors completed their articles and was finally issued in September. Several North American members experienced problems in receiving their copy, due to problems with the international shipment.

Dr. Alex Cunningham, a retired oceanographic scientist and Club member based in Glasgow, came forward to volunteer his skills as Editor for the Journal and the Winter issue of the Journal was produced by him, supported by Phil Greaves. Overseas members were able to confirm that the alternative postal arrangements made for this edition were successful.

**Bulletin:** The Bulletin provides a more magazine-like complement to the academic Journal. Numbers 84 in May and 85 in November 2023 were published with a good complement of our member's wonderful and varied contributions, and it looks as if the positive trends of diversity, number and locations of contributors are continuing. Due to mailing issues with our last printer with Bulletin No 84, we changed to the same printer used by the PMS for Bulletin 85, and this seemed to have resolved the mailing issues, apart from any due to address changes by members. We did have one hiccup in that the first mailing of Bulletin 85 had been mis-bound, resulting in a rather unusual pagination. The printers promptly responded and addressed the issue, sending out the correctly bound version as soon as they could, with profuse apologies. Such errors are extremely rare and some members might want to retain the unusual copy as a novel item, in addition to the corrected one!

**QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB**  
**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**The Club on-line** (<https://www.quekett.org>)

The website continues to attract about 200 hits per day from a range of countries, mostly from the UK and US. The Programme page is usually the most popular with some of the Resources pages also well visited, the pages on digital photomicrography being especially sought after. With the advances in photographic techniques, for example much increased resolution of cameras, it is probably time to review these pages and get them updated: it is therefore proposed that a low-key drive is started to encourage those members (and others?) either to revise their existing contributions or to write new ones, and thus enhance the club's contribution to the field. Focus-stacking, shadowless illumination and dark-ground illumination seem to be popular topics.

The WordPress installation continues to work well and is now automatically updated, as are most of the plug-ins (which add functionality to the website) and the UpDraft Plus software, which backs up the entire site on a daily basis. The 'MiniOrange' plugin, which allows members to access all parts of the website via a single sign-on of their username and password, has been a useful part of the major revision of the membership system and, although expensive, provides a much simpler path for members to log in. It also has other, new (for 2024), benefits which will be explored to see how they serve our needs.

Assistance in keeping the website up to date this year has been provided by Alan Wood and Chris Thomas

**Collections and archives**

The bequeathed collection of mounted slides by the late Doug Richardson have now been fully photographed and records transferred into the Club's slide database. Now this work is complete, loan sets of slides from this collection will be made up in 2024 for members to borrow for personal use, in accordance with the wishes of the donor.

Rationalisation of historical books held in long-term storage at the Club's store room in the Natural History Museum was completed and those books deemed unsuitable for long term conservation in the Club's collections were offered for sale by postal auction at the end of 2023. This has raised funds to allow for professional conservation bookbinding and acid-free archival storage of a small core collection of rare historical books (some dating back to the 18th Century) which the Club plans to share with members by display at the Annual Exhibition and other events.

Possibly due to the increasing costs of postage, and the reduction in the number of meetings held in London, there have been no loans of slide sets or library books in 2023. The Club will continue to promote and develop the loan sets of slides, especially with new material from the Richardson collection, and will review longer-term options for the book lending library, which remains under-utilised.

**QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB**  
**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**Charitable / Outreach Activities**

As part of our outreach programme we had a stand at the following events:

- Saturday family morning at Oakdale library, Poole
- Geologists Association Festival of Geology
- MMC2023 Royal Microscopical Society Microscience Exhibition
- Wimbledon Common Nature Day.
- Practical Astronomy Show
- Amateur Entomologists' Society (AES) Members' Day
- Chinbrook Meadows Nature Discovery Day
- Warnham Local Nature Reserve excursion
- Grove Park Carnival
- Wimbledon Common Open Day
- New Scientist Live
- Super Science Saturday at Sidmouth Science Festival
- Chinbrook Meadows Apple Day
- National Honey Show
- British Entomological and Natural History Society (BENHS) Annual Exhibition
- World Microscope Day - a two day Zoom meeting featuring talks and demonstrations by amateur and professional microscopists. Everything was presented in 'real time'.

**QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB**  
**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

The QMC is currently providing the Stromness Museum in Orkney with a grant to catalogue and make accessible online, a valuable collection of more than 4,000 thin rock sections of rocks from the Orkneys, Scotland and rest of the world. This was in response to a visit to the museum by our Orkadian QMC member Alan Jones more than a year ago, written up in the Bulletin, and followed up by Chris Thomas. Promptly designated as the direct contact to the Stromness Museum for oversight of how our funding is being used, Chris visited Stromness and the Museum in September to provide valuable microscopy advice and to see the collection and work in progress. As it was the Orkney Science Festival during his visit, he and Stromness Museum contact Katy Firth also gave a public talk and visited two schools to engage in microscopy related activities with the enthusiastic students. Katy Firth will be reporting on the project later in 2024.

*The Milton Microscopy Group of the Quekett (MIMIQ)* is a combination of regional meeting and outreach, i.e. open to anyone interested in microscopy. We had 3 key events in the latter half of 2023, which are attracting an increasing number of Cambridgeshire members and some now coming from further afield. Meetings are on a Sunday, roughly quarterly, from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

The September meeting topic was sands from around the world and included making your own slides either on cardboard or the usual microscopy slides from the wide variety of samples from the UK, the Mediterranean to Japan available.

In November, we were able to visit the Imaging Centre of the Gurdon Institute in Cambridge, courtesy of Dr Nicola Lawrence. We were able to see cutting edge bespoke fluorescence, confocal and flat sheet microscopes and have a go ourselves. The imaging facility provides a service to other research groups that would otherwise not be able to afford these highly expensive microscopes.

The events are funded by the Quekett through the payment of the hall fees.

*The Anglian Microscopy Group* The Anglian Microscopy Group, based in Crowfield, Suffolk, continues to enjoy considerable success with an average attendance at meetings of approximately 30 enthusiastic members. The group continues to be led by Robert Ratford, Gordon Brown and Stephen Durr with a number of regular attendees lending support. In 2023 the group held 12 meetings, including a field trip to Walton on the Naze to study and collect fossils, but the October meeting was regrettably cancelled due to severe flooding in the area. As in 2023 the group had a stand at the village fete, which was very well received by the local populace. As was expected when the group was formed the majority of those who attend are beginners and/or beekeepers, although as most have become regular attendees they are growing in experience. More and more of the regular attendees are choosing to become Quekett members and many join the Quekett Zoom meetings.

**QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB**  
**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Because the group has been widely publicised and has an active Facebook group, the membership covers a very wide geographic area. The furthest travelled member makes the journey from Pontefract almost every month and others travel from Hertfordshire, Bedford, Peterborough, London, and West Norfolk.

The meetings have covered a very wide range of microscopy subjects and a programme has been developed by the leaders covering the next four years with no repetition. Each meeting comprises an introduction outlining theory and techniques, followed by a practical session where the aim is to ensure each member actually makes something they can take with them. The effect of this is most of the attendees continue this work at home between meetings and results are often to be seen on the Facebook group.

With the aid of a grant from the Quekett the group now has a 75 inch UHD interactive board and camera, which was unveiled by Wim van Egmond at the September meeting. This equipment has greatly improved the quality of the presentations and demonstrations and has allowed us to arrange for Carel Sartory to lead the December meeting from his home in France using Zoom. There are no plans to broadcast the normal monthly meetings over Zoom as the logistics of doing so are extremely difficult.

Overall the Anglian Microscopy Group has been a resounding success in 2023 and will no doubt continue to grow over time.

Outreach events – as can be seen from the list above, members have continued to provide displays with a variety of organisations and at a variety of venues. There are some new events this year and we hope to have more in 2024. These displays depend on members providing the microscopes and expertise and are much appreciated by the public, including many families with children, who attend. We are grateful to these active members and encourage others to join us.

**Links to other organisations**

Where possible we continue to maintain dialogue with as many other microscopy groups as possible. Attendance at outreach events during the year has led to invitations to set up new events in 2024.

**QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB**  
**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**Advice on Microscopes**

Many members and non-members alike use our Facebook page to share images and to enquire about the buying and selling of microscopes, or to ask for historical or technical information. We continue to provide advice to members' families when a member has died and they are not sure how to deal with a member's collection. In some cases members have made a bequest to the Club of items and these may be retained by the Club for use in outreach events or will be sold either in the Members Auction or at one of our sales events.

**Conclusion**

2023 has been an interesting but difficult year. Although we have had a full programme of events physical meetings have still not seen the return to pre Covid numbers, unfortunately this is something that other groups are also reporting. We have however continued to build and expand on our outreach events and end the year with members having been sent a new programme of events that includes longer in person events at the Natural History Museum which will include a practical element and we hope this will encourage greater attendance.



## QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

### INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 set out on pages 13 to 14.

#### **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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis of independent examiners' report**

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 the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning 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 examiners' statement**

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

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Neil Harding FCA  
Bradshaw Johnson  
Chartered Accountants  
Croft Chambers,  
11 Bancroft  
Hitchin  
Herts SG5 1JQ



Date: 18 March 2024

**QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Receipts	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £
<b>Functional Analysis</b>		
Gifts, donations & other Voluntary receipts	51,644	42,849
Receipts From Trading Activities	988	898
Receipts from Assets	4,478	3,446
Sub-total	<u>57,110</u>	<u>47,193</u>
Other receipts (not counting as "Gross Income")	-	11,753
<b>Total receipts</b>	<u><u>57,110</u></u>	<u><u>58,946</u></u>
<b>Payments</b>		
<b>Functional Analysis</b>		
Payments directly for Charitable Purposes	57,229	37,965
Payments for publicity, fundraising, Management & administration	6,043	13,871
Sub-total	<u>63,272</u>	<u>51,836</u>
Other payments (not counting as "expenditure")	-	5,219
<b>Total Payments</b>	<u><u>63,272</u></u>	<u><u>57,056</u></u>
Net of Receipts/(Payments)	(6,162)	1,890
Cash funds brought forward	217,086	215,196
<b>Cash funds carried forward</b>	<u><u>210,924</u></u>	<u><u>217,086</u></u>

**QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

<b>Cash Funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds 2022 £</b>
Current Account	7,192	8,314
Stripe	1,117	2,082
Deposit Account	100,943	105,051
One Year Bond	100,000	100,000
PayPal Account	1,672	1,640
	<b>210,924</b>	<b>215,196</b>
Less Uncleared	-	-
<b>Total Cash Funds</b>	<b>210,924</b>	<b>215,196</b>

<b>Investment assets</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds Year End Value</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds Year End Value</b>
Lion Trust (was Architas) (For Income)	191,458	174,038
Aberdeen Multimanager Funds (For Capital Growth)	195,510	183,177

**Assets Retained for the Charity's Own Use**

Computer & Peripherals to assist in Club Management  
Library of Books for loan to & reference by members  
Library of Microscope Slides for loan to & reference by members  
Video Library for loan to & reference by members  
Microscopes & accessories for use by members  
Digital camera & printer for recording the slide collection  
Data Projector for use with Power Point Applications

Signed on behalf of the Trustees on 30 January 2024 by:



Stephen Parker – Honorary Treasurer