

Charity number: 232476

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

CONTENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Page
Legal and administrative information	1
Annual Report of the Committee	2 - 10
Independent examiner's report	11
Receipts and Payments	12
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	13

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Status

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

Trustees

Mr Philip Greaves
Dr Christopher Thomas
Mr Paul Smith (to August 2024)
Mr John Gregory (from November 2024)
Mr Robert Ratford
Mrs Lisa Ashby
Mr Peter Wyn-Jones
Professor Terence Hope
Mr Alex Cunningham
Dr Frank Leaver (from April 2025)
Professor David Furness (from April 2025)
Mr Jonathon Palmer (from April 2025)
Mr Kirit Gordhandas (from March 2024)

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 2024

The Committee are pleased to present their annual report for the year ended 31 December 2024.

At the end of the year 2024 the total membership was 511 now made up of:

- 423 UK or European based Ordinary Members,
- 88 Rest of the world members.

These numbers include:

- 475 Adult Members,
- 4 Young Members,
- 5 Complimentary Members,
- 12 Honorary Members,
- 3 Legal depositories (one of which is the Natural History Museum Library),
- 5 Supporting Member organisations.
- 7 Organisations subscribing to the Journal

There following nominations for Honorary Membership were received and approved for the period 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024, Ray Trapmore, Cherry Trapmore and Stephen Parker. During the same period we were notified of the deaths of the following members John Delly, Steven Ettlinger, Terry Hardy, Brian Wilkinson and Paul Smith.

Finances

The Club's income for the year amounted to £75,164 (2023: £58,946) and expenditure £36,570 (2023: £63,272). This leads to a surplus for the year (and increase of cash funds) of £38,594 (2023: deficit of £6,162). The Club's cash funds as of 31st December were £249,518 (2023: £210,924), and our investment assets £412,379 (2023: £386,968).

The Committee

The Committee for 2024 was composed of

President:	Terence Hope
Vice President:	Vacant
Hon. Secretary:	Lisa Ashby
Meetings Secretary:	Paul Smith (until Aug 2024) / John Gregory (from Nov 2024)
Hon. Treasurer:	Kirit Gorhandas
Journal Editor:	Alex Cunningham
Bulletin Editor:	Chris Thomas
Collections and Archives Officer:	Phil Greaves
Webmaster:	Peter Wyn-Jones
Membership Secretary:	Robert Ratford
Committee Member:	Grenham Ireland and Graham Matthews (until Mar 2024) then Vacant/Vacant

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Meetings

16th January, Gossip meeting – My latest acquisition

10th February, Practical meeting – Crystal melts and deep mounts

Led by Chris Thomas and held at the Natural History museum. Attendees were able to make vitamin c crystal melt slides, as well as some deep mounts. There was also the opportunity to make a feather mount using the copper tape method devised by Michael Horwood.

24th February, Home Counties meeting Surrey

Arranged by Joan Bingley at St Andrews Church Hall, Cobham. This year participants were provided with a talk from Bevil Templeton-Smith on Art photography using a microscope. Followed with a short talk on stereo microscopes by Robert Ratford. As last year members had lunch together, the afternoon was a gossip session.

5th March, Gossip meeting – Hairs

Led by John Gregory at the Natural History Museum we were able to see how to dry mount hairs, use loca and make impressions in loca.

5th March AGM

This followed the Gossip meeting and including the Annual and Financial Reports.

9th March, Spring Sale – Sonning Common

This meeting is now getting established as our second sales event in the year and was well attended.

6th April, Practical meeting – Stains and staining

Led by Terry Hope at the Natural History Museum. The meeting was a hands on session where members were able to try staining pollen, cheek swabs and blood smears. There was also a small display of gossip items.

13th April, Lockington meeting

20th April, South Coast Open Meeting

Our joint meeting with the Postal Microscopical Society

14th May, Gossip meeting – Victorian slides

Members showed off Victorian slides as well as some of the recently restored books from the Club Library this was followed by the Presidential Address.

14th May, Presidential Address

Terry Hopes first Presidential Address 'Going Dutch'

8th June, Home Counties meeting

Naze Discovery Centre

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

15th June, Joint Meeting with Bournemouth Natural Science Society & Museum (BNSSM)

The fourth 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

29th June, Excursion – Keston Common, Bromley

Microscopes were set up in the Village Hall and pond samples were brought back for examination.

7th July, Northampton Natural History Society – Annual Exhibition

9th July, Lecture – M C Cooke. Easily Identifiable Tiny Fungi by Dr Fay Newbery (Royal Horticultural Society, London). Dr Newbery is a plant pathologist, diagnosing diseases on garden plants. She is particularly interested in diseases caused by fungi, both in UK garden plants and in our wild flora.

23rd July, Gossip meeting – Diatoms, finding, collecting, cleaning and viewing.

This meeting was held via Zoom and the introduction to the subject provided by Mike Samworth who many members will know from the Postal Microscopical Society.

6th August, joint lecture with Bournemouth Natural Science Society

Peering inside the black box of Forensic Entomology, By Dr Katheren Brown.

3rd August, Warnham Local Nature Reserve excursion

This was the thirteenth Quekett excursion to Warnham Local Nature Reserve on the outskirts of Horsham, West Sussex, hosted by the Friends of Warnham Local Nature Reserve.

12th August, Microscopium, The Microscopists' Fair. We again took up residence at The Settlement in Letchworth. As always, Microscopium provided members and visitors with the chance to pick up some bargains and even some freebies with the chance to chat with friends old and new.

17th September, Gossip meeting – Converting to LED

Led by Gordon Brown this was a zoom only event.

October, Annual Exhibition of Microscopy - Quekex

The event was held for the fourth 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. This year saw a number of new entrants to the awards and displays. The event and offered both online content and a physical event and saw good attendance at both.

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

15th October – Zoom only lecture - Recreating J B Dancers Microphotograph technique, By Mark Osterman.

19th October – physical event with displays and awards.

19th October – Touched by Porlific Virtue, By Prof Rob Kessler, University of Arts London. The good the bad and the Algae. By Prof Chris Howe, Dept of biochemistry Cambridge University.

12th November, Lecture – L V Martin Lecture. "The Ted Kellock slide collection" Katy Firth

Katy spoke to us on behalf of Stromness Museum who had been the recipients of a grant to digitise the Ted Kellock collection.

3rd December, Gossip Meeting – Dark ground illumination
Delivered by former Club President Carel Sartory.

14th December, Lecture and Christmas Quiz

The lecture was Heroes don't always win which was delivered By Phil Greaves. This was followed by our traditional Christmas quiz devised and presented by Robert Ratford.

Publications

With our new printer, overseas members are now receiving publications in a timely manner.

Journal:

Volume 44 parts 7 and 8 were issued in the course of the year and for the most part successfully delivered. A separately printed index was sent out with part 8 (Winter 2024), which concluded the volume. The editor (Alex Cunningham) would like to thank all authors for the high quality of their contributions, and for their tolerance of the occasionally draconian editing process.

Bulletin: The Bulletin provides a more magazine-like complement to the academic Journal. Numbers 86 in May 2024 and 87 in January 2025 were published with the continued excellent complement of our member's wonderful and varied contributions, the positive trends of diversity, number and locations of contributors are continuing. Printing and mailing of the Autumn 2024 Bulletin was delayed until January 2025 to avoid the Christmas posting and also combine mailing with the Journal, to be more cost effective for members.

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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

The website is our shop window to the world. It continues to provide a wealth of information on many aspects of microscopy written by enthusiasts, many of whom are acknowledged experts in their fields, and it thus complements the Bulletin and Journal as principal sources of microscopical information. It also provides near-real-time updating of the Club's functions and events and allows members to verify times and locations of meetings as well as to read reports of events soon after they have taken place. In this respect thanks are due to members who have provided notification of events and information, particularly Alan Wood for his furnishing of fulsome reports for members who could not attend an event.

There is always room for more reports: so if you have been to a QMC event and can provide a brief note/photographs of what/where/what happened for inclusion in the Meeting Reports section of the website, you would be doing a service to your fellow members, publicising the Club, and earning my grateful thanks. Please send items to webmaster@quekett.org.

The website has over 1100 pages: some are more popular than others. The website as a whole receives just under 200 hits per day (Fig 1).

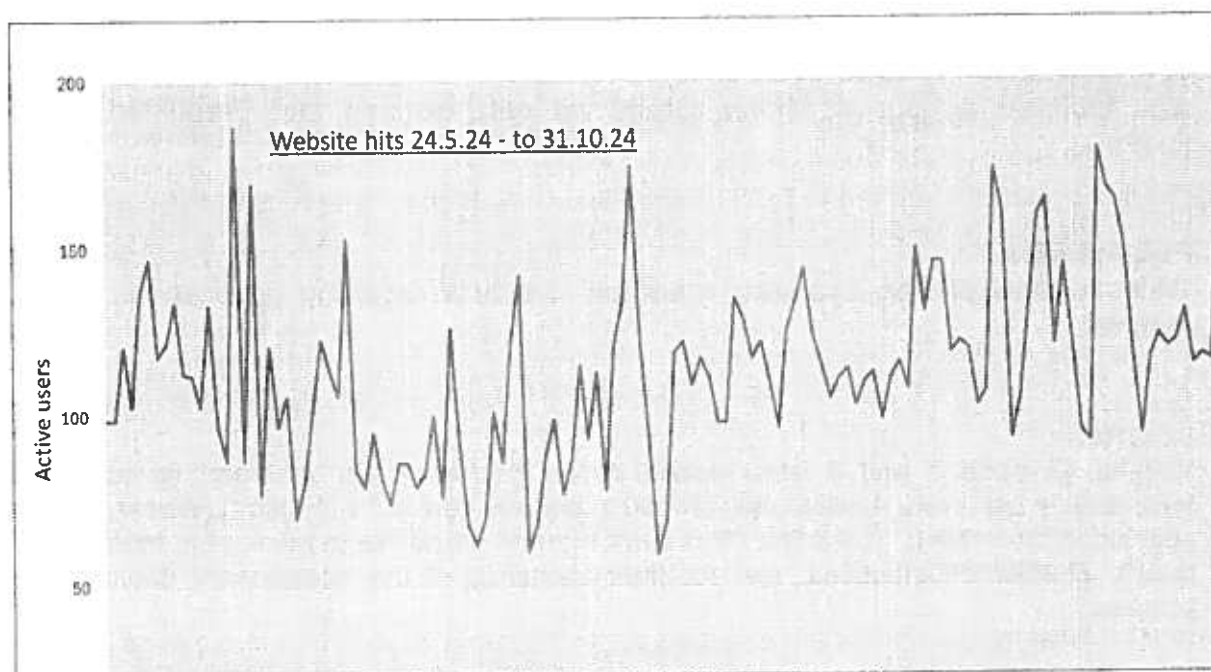


Fig 1. Hits 24.05 24 - 1.10.24

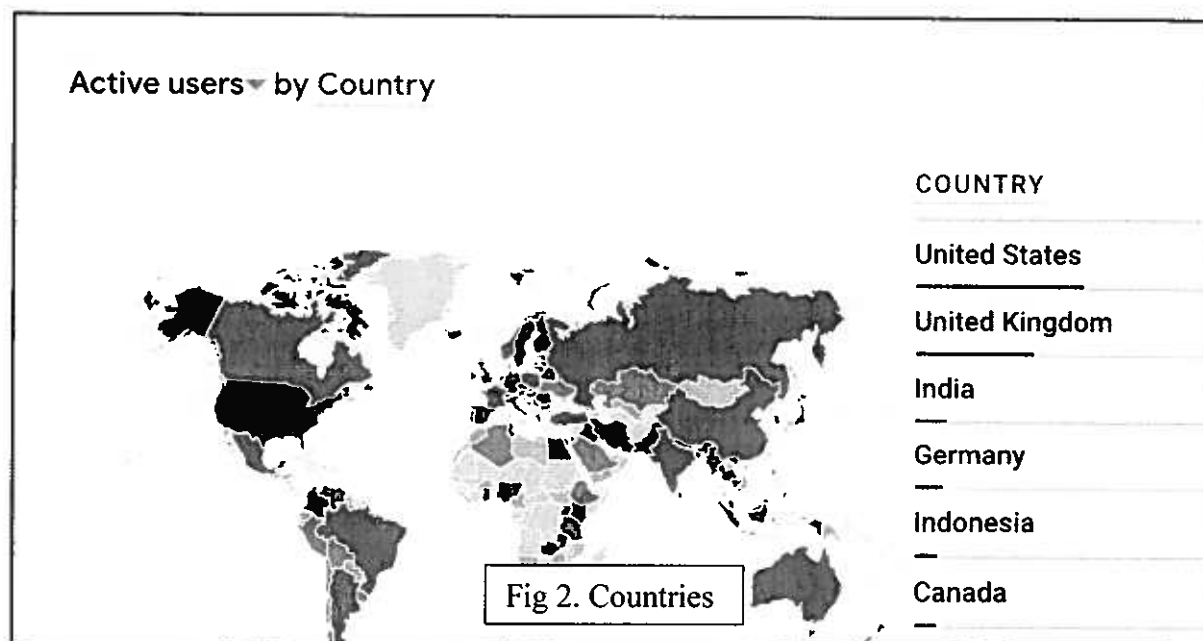
Apart from the Home, Login, and Programme pages, those most visited areas are on digital photomicrography and searches for methodology for particular microscopes. While gratifying to see these pages are well-used, it would be good to see other pages being visited.

Most visitors continue to come from the US, India and Germany, as well as the UK (Fig 2).

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024



We continue to use Ionos for hosting the website, Updraft Plus for backup (every 24 hours) and Vimeo for hosting videos. These services and others combine to give a cost (for 2024/25) of about £1300. We also keep a contingency fund with web developers in Oxford who are expert in WordPress-based websites, but such services are expensive and we do not use them lightly.

We are always looking for new ideas for the website: this year on the Programme page we have included brief notifications of some other clubs' meetings, as we are keen to promote microscopical interaction between clubs.

Collections and archives

Work to catalogue and conserve the Club's collections and archives has continued throughout 2024, although access to our store room at the Natural History Museum was severely restricted in the latter part of the year due to essential building repair works.

The Collections team has responded to several requests for access to papers from our Journal and to slides in the collections from academic workers, both at the Museum and further afield; in particular Graham Matthews has been fully documenting our slides of mites by A. D. Mitchell for taxonomic research.

A major investment was made in professional conservation bookbinding of our small 'core' collection of rare and historical books on microscopy, some dating from the 1780's and early 1800's. The work was carefully carried out by the Wyvern Bindery in Hoxton and consisted of re-stitching, re-backing, new acid free end papers where necessary and a bespoke (card) case has been constructed for each of the books to ensure protection during storage.

Work to improve the Slide Loan Set scheme for members has been delayed by the building works at the Museum but we aim in early 2025 to make more of the Richardson Collection of microscope slides available for postal loan. There were three postal loans during 2024.

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Outreach

Club activities where we take our microscopes to public events have been less extensive this year as we have lost some of our regular volunteers. However, as long standing activities have been suspended, new ones have emerged. A very successful collaboration with Tim Fullick, a Club member and volunteer at Down House, led to a weekend display celebrating Darwin's microscopical studies. A very welcome volunteer for this was Jay Holmes from the USA who joined more local members to entertain some 400 visitors. We will be repeating this collaboration in 2025.

Other events attended included:

- A science display at Poole central library in collaboration with the Bournemouth Natural Science Society.
- A Saturday morning family microscopy event at Oakdale local library, Poole.
- Geologists Association Festival of Science.
- Wimbledon Common – three events Nature Day, Open Day and the Nature Club.
- Chinbrook meadows Nature Discovery Day.
- Grove Park Carnival.
- National Honey Show.
- A photomicroscopy workshop in collaboration with the charity Positive Lives.
- Warnham Local Nature Reserve excursion.
- Wimbledon Common Nature Day, Open Day, Nature Club and Weekend of Nature.
- Sussex Biological Recorders Seminar.

Our two national and international events, the exhibition at New Scientist Live and the Internet linked World Microscope Celebration with its transmission of live talks and demonstrations highlighted the Club commitment to amateur and professional microscopy. Thanks are due to all members who volunteer for these events and an invitation is extended for new members to join in.

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 2 events in the 2024, as family circumstances prevented Chris Thomas running one of the sessions. In addition to the meetings in Milton, the group also ran a highly successful full day at the Norris Museum for a second year, on World Microscope day, and have been invited back for 2025. Attendance is variable, with a core of members close to Cambridgeshire members and some now coming from further afield. Meetings are on a Sunday, roughly quarterly, from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

We had meetings on Animal hairs and on Leaf epidermis prints.

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

The Anglian Microscopy Group

Based in Crowfield, Suffolk, the group has now been operating as an outreach project for three years during which time we have maintained an average attendance at meetings of over 30 enthusiastic members. The group is led by Robert Ratford and Gordon Brown, Stephen Durr having stood down for personal reasons, and an increasing number of regular attendees lend support.

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

In 2024 the group held 12 meetings, details shown below;

- January - Sand and microfossils
- February - Crystals and Polarised light
- March - Basic Microscopy Refresher session on setting up & using microscopes.
- April - Cutting thin sections of plants on the microtome
- May - Algae
- June - Pseudoscorpions & compost safari
- July - Pollen, its development, function, and structure
- August - Mounting of insect legs and wings
- September - Mites, concentrating on Varroa destructor
- October - Marine plankton (Sunday meeting to avoid Quekex)
- November - Dissecting owl pellets
- December – Christmas plant sections

As in previous years the group manned a stand at the village fete, where we were able to use the interactive board provided by the Quekett to show Pseudoscorpions and other interesting live displays. This was extremely well received and the stand was very busy for the full afternoon.

In October we helped at New Scientist live and once again we provided a demonstration of microscopy at Ipswich Museum, which brought in two new members who have become regular attendees. We continue to publicise the group at every available opportunity, often via the very active Facebook group, and membership comes from far and wide, members travelling from Hertfordshire, Bedford, Peterborough, London, Essex, Norfolk, as well as those from Suffolk. More and more of the regular attendees are choosing to become Quekett members and many join the Quekett Zoom meetings.

Overall the Anglian Microscopy Group has been a resounding success in 2024 and will no doubt continue to grow over time.

Links to other organisations

Wherever possible we continue to maintain links with other organisations and share the details of these with others.

Advice on Microscopes

Facebook continues to provide a good source of information and advice. Additionally many members contact us after events asking to put in touch with speakers or other members to share or continue conversations.

Advice from the Club extends to members' families when a member has died and they are not sure how to deal with a member's collection. Bequests continue to be received and these items 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.

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Conclusion

2024 has been an exceptionally busy year for the Committee and one where we are acutely aware that our resources are stretched. If we are to continue to provide a full programme of meetings and outreach we will need to recruit more committee members and more outreach volunteers.

Despite this we have had a successful year making new contacts and taking microscopy to new audiences.

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 2024 set out on pages 12 to 13.

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

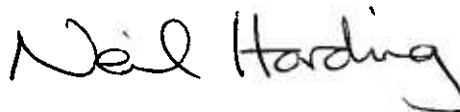
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity, and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items 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: 9 July 2025

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Receipts	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £
Functional Analysis		
Gifts, donations & other Voluntary receipts	61,396	51,644
Receipts From Trading Activities	5,951	988
Receipts from Assets	5,733	4,478
Sub-total	73,080	57,110
Other receipts	2,084	11,753
Total receipts	75,164	58,946
Payments		
Functional Analysis		
Payments directly for Charitable Purposes	28,971	57,229
Payments for publicity, fundraising, Management & administration	5,957	6,043
Sub-total	34,928	63,272
Other payments	1,642	-
Total payments	36,570	63,272
Net Receipts/(Payments)	38,594	(6,162)
Cash funds brought forward	210,924	217,086
Cash funds carried forward	249,518	210,924

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £
Cash Funds		
Current Account	26,286	7,192
Stripe	1,015	1,117
Deposit Account	117,299	100,943
One Year Bond	103,109	100,000
PayPal Account	1,809	1,672
	249,518	210,924
Less Uncleared	-	-
Total Cash Funds	249,518	210,924

	Unrestricted Funds Year End Value	Unrestricted Funds Year End Value
Investment assets		
Lion Trust (was Architas) (For Income)	204,685	191,458
Aberdeen Multimanager Funds (For Capital Growth)	208,054	195,510

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 22 May 2025 by:



Stephen Parker – Acting Honorary Treasurer

