Charity number: 232476

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Status

The governing document of the charity is the Constitution and Rules of the Quekett Microscopical Club (as amended 2025).

Trustees	Mr Philip Greaves Dr Christopher Thomas Mr John Gregory 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
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 2025

The Committee are pleased to present their annual report for the year ended 31 December 2025.

At the end of the year 2025 the total membership was 549 now made up of:

- 453 UK or European based Ordinary Members,
- 96 Rest of the world members.

These numbers include:

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

There were no nominations received for Honorary Membership. During 2025 we were notified of the deaths of the following members Howard Lynk, Professor Maurice Moss and Michael (Spike) Walker

Finances

The Club's income for the year amounted to £62,877.55 (2024: £75,164) and expenditure £68,064.49 (2024: £36,570). This leads to a deficit for the year of £5,186.94 (2024: surplus of £38,593). The Club's cash funds as of 31st December were £244,331.30 (2024: £249,518), and our investment assets £446,629.00 (2024: £412,379).

Grants

This year grants totalling £17,234.86 were provided for Imperial College for the continuation of the Arctic Flora research, Friends of Chinbrook Meadows for outreach equipment, to The Plankton Project for improved imaging equipment and The portable SEM project.

The Committee

The Committee for 2025 was composed of

President:	Terence Hope
Hon. Secretary:	Lisa Ashby
Meetings Secretary:	John Gregory
Hon. Treasurer:	Kirit Gorhandas until 30th April 2025, vacant until year end
Journal Editor:	Alex Cunningham
Bulletin Editor:	Chris Thomas
Collections and Archives Officer:	Phil Greaves
Webmaster:	Peter Wyn–Jones
Membership Secretary:	Robert Ratford
Committee Members:	David Furness, Frank Leaver and Jonathan Palmer

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Meetings

14th January, Gossip meeting – My latest acquisition.

8th February 2025 – workshop with a presentation explaining the different types of stains, how they work, how they can be prepared, and how to use them. Followed by a practical session.

22nd February, Home Counties meeting Surrey. Arranged by Joan Bingley at St Andrews Church Hall, Cobham. Talks in the morning followed by lunch and a gossip with exhibits in the afternoon.

4th March, Gossip meeting – "Your go to equipment" Zoom only event allowing members to share their pick of their equipment.

8th March – Spring Sale followed by AGM. This second sale of the year is now becoming more established in our programme and was followed by our AGM.

19th April – Lockington meeting. Gossip meeting and excursion with the emphasis on fresh water biology.

20th April, South Coast Open Meeting. Our joint meeting with the Postal Microscopical Society

13th May, Gossip meeting – Stained sections. This gossip meeting was held in the Angela Marmont Centre in the Natural History Museum in London. This was followed by the Presidential address "The Gain In Brain Lies Mainly In The Stain" from Terry Hope.

24th May 2025 – Happisburgh Fossil Hunt Excursion. Looking for fossils in the blue clays at the cliff base, Wenn Evans Centre, Blacksmiths Lane, Happisburgh, Norfolk, NR12 0QY and local beaches.

7th June - East Hangborne. Gossip meeting on "Rocks, minerals and microscopes" with displays of equipment, specimens and techniques.

21st June, Excursion – Keston Common, Bromley. Microscopes were set up in the Village Hall and pond samples were bought back for examination.

8th July, Lecture – L V Martin Lecture. "Moss Safari" given by Dr Andrew Chandler-Grevatt

22nd July – Marine Micro-algae presented by Elizabeth Beston.

2nd August, Microscopium, The Microscopists' Fair. 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.

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

9th August – Excursion to Warnham Common Nature Reserve. Our 14th visit to this popular site and an opportunity for members to collect and then study samples in the Discovery Hub.

16th September, Gossip meeting – "Common mineral and rock components of sand". This was a zoom meeting which included a presentation by Julian Gray. Julian Club member and President of the Geological Society of the Oregon Country.

October, Annual Exhibition of Microscopy – Quekex25. Held at Elm Court Youth and Community Centre, Potters Bar. 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.

> 8th October – Our opening Quekex25 lecture over Zoom, Single plane illumination microscopy" Given by Professor Ted Kinsman
>
> 11th October – physical event with displays and awards. Including a lecture on the "Adaptability of Bryophytes" by Joan Bingley, which was also available via Zoom.

11th November, Lecture – M C Cooke Lecture. "Thomas Henry Huxley" by Ann Barrett, Archivist, Imperial College.

2nd December, Gossip Meeting – "How good is my key?". A live microscopy session using QI (Quekettier Intelligence) in test-driving a novel Plant Identification Key developed by Chris Thomas.

13th December, Lecture and Christmas Quiz. The lecture was "A box of Delights" which was delivered By Tony Pattinson. This was followed by our traditional Christmas with Yuletide conundra, puzzles and riddles by Robert Ratford.

Publications

Journal:

The first two parts of Volume 45 (Summer and Winter) were issued in the course of 2025. Both parts contained a varied and stimulating selection of papers, including some substantial reviews that would have graced a professional publication. Design and printing were carried out to a very high standard by Suffolk Digital, and their delivery, especially to overseas addresses, worked remarkably well. Information regarding the Journal on the Quekett web site has been upgraded with the generous help of our web master. The editor (Alex Cunningham) would like to thank everybody who contributed to the Journal during the past year, and looks forward to welcoming articles from both new and established authors in 2026.

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Bulletin:
The Bulletin provides a more magazine–like complement to the academic Journal. Numbers 88 in May 2025 and 89 in November 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. The Spring 2026 edition will be the last under Chris Thomas' editorship, with the baton being handed over to Andrew Scott. The two have been communicating sharing the preparation of the last Autumn and the current Spring edition.

The Club on–line
(https://www.quekett.org/)
The website continues to provide a wealth of information on many aspects of microscopy and it complements the Bulletin and Journal as principal sources of microscopical information. Through its Programme and What's New? pages 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.

The website has almost 1200 pages: some are more popular than others. There were about 42 thousand users in 2025 at between 100 and just under 200 hits per day, though after some events there is often a spike in the number of views (Fig 1).

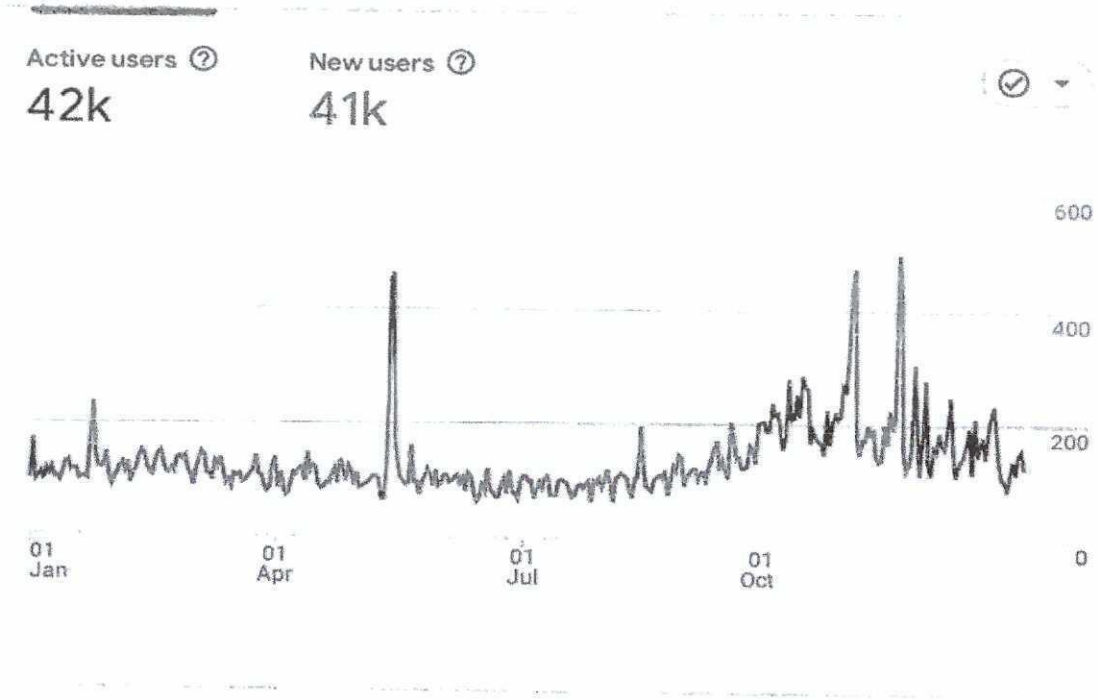


Fig 1. Hits 1.1.2025 – 31.12.2025

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 too. Most external visitors in 2025 came from the US, China and Singapore as well as the UK (Fig 2).



Active users by Country

COUNTRY	ACTIVE USERS
United States	10k
China	8.4k
United Kingdom	7.4k
Singapore	2.4k
India	1.4k
Germany	1.2k
Indonesia	1.2k

Fig 2. Website users 2025 (out of approx. 42k)

While pages on Links to download microscope instruction manuals, brochures and catalogues, and Recommended books on microscopy and microscopes were very popular in terms of number of hits, visitors spent most time on the Programme, and on the Starting Digital Photomicrography pages

We continue to use Ionos for hosting the website, Updraft Plus for backup (every 24 hours) and Vimeo for hosting videos. We keep a contingency fund with web developers in Oxford who are expert in WordPress-based websites.

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

A small team of volunteers has continued to work on cataloguing and conservation of the Club's collections and archives in 2025 with the aim of making the core collections of slides and relevant historical documents and images available with a searchable database on the internet. With this in mind a review of available web platforms for museum collections has been undertaken and an initial trial of one system has commenced.

The Club has received donations of microscopes and other equipment from several sources during the year which have been evaluated as not required for Club activities and have consequently been either sold at regional sales meetings or allocated for members' postal auction. Income generated from these sales is used by the Club to further its charitable aims.

A donation of importance was received from the family of John McArthur and relates to the field microscope designed by him. The donation includes engineering drawings, trial and prototype engineered components, sales correspondence and photographs and is currently being evaluated and organised for imaging and digitization; an article on the collection will be published in the Journal.

There were no requests for loans of slide sets during 2025.

Outreach

Club activities where we take our microscopes to public events have been less extensive this year though we have still been able to continue some of the long standing activities. Our relatively new collaboration with Tim Fullick, at Down House, led to our second weekend display celebrating Darwin's microscopical studies. We expanded the event this year by using 'Darwin's laboratory' a modest building in the garden used by the gardeners who cleared a room for us. So we were able to have a variety of microscopes and displays in the indoor room along with a more interactive display in the laboratory where children could handle microscopes and make slides. This worked well with many of the 400 or so visitors walking down the garden path. We have been asked to repeat the event in 2026 – 22/23 August but need volunteers to provide this extensive display.

Other events attended included:

- A science display at Bournemouth central library in collaboration with the Bournemouth Natural Science Society.
- Geologists Association Festival of Science.
- Bournemouth Natural Science Society & Museum
- Chinbrook meadows London River Week
- Keston Ponds Excursion
- Grove Park Carnival.
- National Honey Show.
- Warnham Local Nature Reserve excursion.
- Christchurch Mansion Ipswich
- Wimbledon Common Nature Club

We had to turn down a number of invitations to events, particularly several relating to ecology initiatives, due to a lack of volunteers.

Our two national and international events, the exhibition at New Scientist Live and the Internet linked World Microscope Day Celebration with its transmission of live talks via Zoom and Events at the Norris Museum and Liverpool World Museum; highlighted the Club's commitment to amateur and professional microscopy. The Zoom talks are available on the club website. As always volunteers are invited to join us with these events.

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The Milton Microscopy Group of the Quekett (MIMIQ) had two key events in the past year. One was a shared event where three members of Cambridge Open Studios came to practice using microscopes as an inspiration for artists. The second was our now annual feature of hosting the Public on the Saturday closest to World Microscope Day at the Norris Museum is currently awaiting a new program for 2026. We also took on material in the form of partial development models, photographs and papers from the estate of Dr. John Norrie McArthur (1901–1996), inventor of the McArthur microscope, which is currently being evaluated by QMC archives. This year, the aim is to have a couple of outreach events again, including World Microscope Day at the Norris Museum.

The Anglian Microscopy Group Based in Crowfield, Suffolk, the group has now been operating as an outreach project for four years during which time we have maintained a healthy attendance at meetings with more new members joining during 2025. The group is led by Gordon Brown and Robert Ratford and we have regular attendees who contribute to sessions and lend support with setting up and packing away at the end of the sessions. In 2025 the group held 12 meetings, details shown below:

In 2025 the group held 12 meetings, details shown below;

- January - Microscope setup & Microfossils. This was a refresher session on microscope setup and maintenance followed by making deep cell mounts of microfossils, forams and sand.
- February – Blood smears. The meeting comprised a short presentation by Robert and Gordon on the structure and function of the various components of blood followed by a session of making blood smears and staining them using Parker black Quink.
- March - Phase contrast, DIC & Blood part 2. Because we had somewhat disappointing results in February we tried blood smears again in March. The first part of the day was spent covering the contrast enhancing techniques of phase and DIC and helping those with phase contrast systems to get the best from them, followed by a repeat of blood staining.
- April – Eastern Counties meeting. A gossip and demonstration session with personal sales of equipment and materials followed by a sit down lunch with a talk in the afternoon. This was a joint meeting between the Eastern Counties Microscopy Study Group, the Iceni Microscopy Study Group, and the Anglian Microscopy Group.
- May – Lichens under the microscope workshop. This was a joint workshop between the Anglian Microscopy Group and the Suffolk Naturalists' Society looking at lichens with a presentation by Dr Anthony Speca followed by collection of specimens from the area around the village hall and microscopy.
- June - Flower dissection and pollen tube microscopy. A practical microscopy session building on the techniques that we have covered in previous sessions. Members brought flowers to the meeting and Robert gave a short talk on pollen tube growth followed by a demonstration on how to make slides to observe this. Members also made stained pollen slides and UV resin prints of petals.

- July - Bee Mating talk & Bee Sperm slide making. Following a review of the meetings that are planned for the future, Gordon introduced the meeting and gave a review of the news relating to the club. Bill Morris had some resources that were available to members. The meeting covered aspects of Honey bee mating. The main focus was Drones and sperm analysis. Jeremy Quinlan gave a talk about Honey bee mating and Gordon showed a video. Peter Sunderland showed members how to dissect a drone. Members were then shown how to prepare slides of bee sperm.
- August – Freshwater life and pond dipping. Bill Morris gave a talk about freshwater life and showed several short videos. Members visited a local pond immediately adjacent to the hall where we have permission to sample at any time. The water level was low on this occasion but samples were taken using extendable poles and taken back to the hall for further study.
- September - Plant Trichomes Staining and mounting. Bill Morris had some mahogany strips that were available to members for making slides. There was a presentation on the variety and classification of trichomes. Members were shown how to stain Silver Berry leaf trichomes using Wacker 3A, Saffronin or Toludine Blue. They were then provided with a wide variety of leaves and stems to prepare slides of Trichomes.
- October - Fungi identification and microscopy. Robert gave a presentation on fungal microscopy and showed a video on how to make suitable slides from the various parts of the fungi that had been collected by members. A huge variety of fungi were on display, all collected by group members. John Gregory gave a short talk on moulds, their identification and importance
- November – Trace evidence and hair. A presentation on trace evidence covering types with the evidence on hair and it's identification and a demonstration of making casts of hair cuticle. Followed by Slide making.
- December – Seeds and Plummer slide making. A presentation on Seeds, their production by plants, their importance and germination. Following the presentation members made Plummer slides using 3D printed slides produced by one of the members

As in previous years the group manned a stand at the village fete in July, using 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 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.

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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
We continue to be active online with Facebook continuing to provide a good source of information and advice. Members contact us after events asking to put in touch with speakers or other members and members of the public continue to contact us either to use resources (articles and/or images) or with requests to attend or provide events.

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.

Conclusion
2025 has been a difficult year with the committee being understaffed in some areas. This has been balanced by three new ordinary committee members joining us. As well as this the long needed review of the Constitution was completed and the updated version agreed by members.

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 2025 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 Act

  have 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: 14 April 2026

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Receipts	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £
Functional Analysis		
Gifts, donations & other Voluntary receipts	51,595	61,396
Receipts From Trading Activities	554	5,951
Receipts from Assets	10,729	5,733
Sub-total	**62,878**	**73,080**
Other receipts	-	2,084
Total receipts	**62,878**	**75,164**
Payments		
Functional Analysis		
Payments directly for Charitable Purposes	61,727	28,971
Payments for publicity, fundraising, Management & administration	6,338	5,957
Sub-total	**68,064**	**34,928**
Other payments	-	1,642
Total payments	**68,064**	**36,570**
Net Receipts/(Payments)	-5,187	38,594
Cash funds brought forward	249,518	210,924
Cash funds carried forward	**244,331**	**249,518**

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

Cash Funds	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £
Current Account	12,570	26,286
Stripe	1,025	1,015
Deposit Account	128,350	117,299
One Year Bond	100,000	103,109
PayPal Account	2,217	1,809
Cash in hand	169	-
	244,331	**249,518**
Less Uncleared	-	-
Total Cash Funds	**244,331**	**249,518**

Investment assets	Unrestricted Funds Year End Value	Unrestricted Funds Year End Value
Lion Trust (was Architas) (For Income)	219,517	204,685
Aberdeen Multimanager Funds (For Capital Growth)	227,112	208,054

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 14 April 2026 by: Lisa Ashby

Lisa Ashby – Acting Honorary Treasurer