

Tuesday, 6th September 2016: 7.30pm

AMOEBA PROTEUS – LIVE OBSERVATIONS OF CULTURED SAMPLES by Mike Gibson. You've seen the pictures, now is your opportunity to see the real thing, live, up close and personal through the microscope – what's more, you'll get to take home a sample to culture it yourself.

Tuesday, 20th September 2016: 7.30pm

ILLUMINATION: ANOTHER LOOK AT LIGHTING & CONTRAST TECHNIQUES by Mike Asquith and Mike Gibson. Lighting and the enhancement of contrast are crucial to viewing all microscopic subjects to the best advantage. This is a chance to examine ways in which you can extend the capabilities of your microscope and get more out of it.

Tuesday, 4th October 2016: 7.30pm

PLANT GALLS by Les Larkman and John Haughton. Galls are a unique interaction between insects and plants. A introduction to galls, then slide preparations and mounting of samples. Bring your own, or samples can be supplied.

Tuesday, 18th October 2016: 7.30pm

FUNGI AND FUNGAL SPORES UNDER THE MICROSCOPE by Les Larkman and John Haughton. Fungi are unique in their construction and the way they reproduce and spread their spores. Bring your own fungi, or samples can be supplied.

Tuesday, 1st November 2016: 7.30pm

MY FAVOURITE MICROSCOPE - BRING, SHOW & TELL. We all have our preferred microscope, whether we own one or many! Your chance to speak about and display a microscope of your choice. Great for beginners to learn what is available and which ones work the best.

Tuesday, 15th November 2016: 7.30pm

'GENETIC MODIFICATION' by guest speaker Professor Peter Lillford (Univ. Birmingham). Prof. Lillford has had a distinguished career in industry and academia, and is an eminent authority in food and materials science. You can expect an interesting, lively, amusing and provocative approach to this controversial subject.

Tuesday, 6th December 2016: 7.30pm

YOUR CHRISTMAS DINNER - THE MEAT (PART I) by Mike Asquith. An introduction to the structure of muscle: Mike will talk about the structure of mammalian and avian muscle, and there'll be a chance to examine some prepared slides from the society's large collection.

Tuesday, 20th December 2016: 7.30pm

YOUR CHRISTMAS DINNER - THE MEAT (PART II) by Mike Asquith. Bring your own samples of muscle tissue (chicken legs etc). A combination of microscopy and food (to be looked at and consumed in our pre-Christmas meeting).

Tuesday, 3rd January 2017: 7.30pm

ENTOMOLOGICAL WORKSHOP (PART I) - FLEAS: by Tim Newton. There are over 60 different species of flea found in the UK, and in this first session Tim will show you various species, and outline the differences between mammal and avian fleas. In addition to using mounted material, he will

explain how to make slides of fleas, using a supply obtained from a local vet. This evening will see you preparing your own slides of fleas.

Tuesday, 17th January 2017: 7.30pm

ENTOMOLOGICAL WORKSHOP (PART II) - FLEAS: by Tim Newton and Mike Gibson. They will show you how to make a flea slide. They will demonstrate the use of a range of mountants to enable you to make your own slide and take it away with you.

Tuesday, 7th February 2017: 7.30pm

FORAMINIFEROUS SANDS OF THE WORLD by Mike Gibson. In this session we shall be having another look at a selection of sand slides from the Douglas Richardson & Gordon Osborne collections. The society is the proud holder of one of the largest sand collections in the country.

Tuesday, 21st February 2017: 7.30pm

PLANT STRUCTURE & FUNCTION: CORMS & BULBS (PART I) by Mike Asquith. There will be an introductory talk on the differences between the structure and function of corms and bulbs, followed by the chance to study some of the society's large collection of prepared slides illustrating these two different structures.

Tuesday, 7th March 2017: 7.30pm

PLANT STRUCTURE & FUNCTION: CORMS & BULBS (PART II) by Mike Asquith. A look at fresh Corms and Bulbs: Bring your own samples and explore for yourself these interesting and important structures. Mike will demonstrate how to make and stain temporary slides of these often overlooked items.

Tuesday, 21st March 2017: 7.30pm

STUFF FROM YOUR HOME UNDER THE MICROSCOPE by Mike Gibson. This will be a fascinating chance to look at things from your kitchen and medicine cabinet. These include pills and potions from the humble aspirin to sodium bicarbonate, with particular reference to polarisation techniques. A good opportunity to learn how to convert cheaply even the simplest microscope to a polarising microscope.

Tuesday, 4th April 2017: 7.30pm

OWL PELLETS & BAT DROPPINGS by Mike Gibson. The best way to tell what the animals ate is to see what indigestible parts are voided as waste. Dissection and observation of samples. Pellets and droppings will be available. Including practical instruction on slide preparation and permanent mounting techniques.

Tuesday, 18th April 2017: 7.30pm

PLANT STRUCTURE & FUNCTION – ROOTS by Mike Asquith. A look at the roots and related underground structures of plants: A brief introduction followed by a look at prepared slides of roots from the society's large collection.

Tuesday, 2nd May 2017: 7.30pm

VICTORIAN SLIDES AND MOUNTERS (PART I) by Tim Newton and Mike Gibson. An introduction to some of the notable microscopists of the Victorian era: There will be a presentation by Tim and Mike and a chance to look at a

selection of their slides from the Society's collection, augmented by some of Tim's entomological collection.

Tuesday, 16th May 2017: 7.30pm

VICTORIAN SLIDES (PART II) by Tim Newton and Mike Gibson. Another chance to view some of the slides from our own collection and others: Tim will be setting up a couple of microscopes using illumination methods favoured by our Victorian forebears, including the use of a 'bull's-eye' lens, to enable us to see the slides as they would have seen them. Then he will show you how to reproduce these effects on more modern microscopes - demonstrating such techniques as dark ground, critical oblique and condenser-less illumination.

Tuesday, 6th June 2017: 7.30pm

POND LIFE (PART I), ALGAE INCLUDING DESMIDS: by Mike Gibson. We shall reveal the structure and forms of these amazing (and surprisingly common) plants. Please bring your own samples if you have them.

Tuesday, 20th June 2017: 7.30pm

POND LIFE (PART II) - ROTIFERS AND OTHER ANIMALS by Mike Gibson. During this session we concentrate on the microscopic animals found in our ponds and puddles including water butts, gutters and even bird baths! Bring your own samples if you can so we may compare what is available from different habitats.

Sunday, 25th June 2017: 10.00am -4.00pm

THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF MICROSCOPY, Including sales, exhibits, talks and Photo competition: This is another opportunity to meet with fellow microscopists and enthusiasts from around the country and also to see what's on offer in the way of sales items. Why not bring along an exhibit of your own? Sales and exhibits in the morning and lectures in the afternoon. Please contact Mike Gibson for further information.

Tuesday, 4th July 2017: 7.30pm

DIATOMS (PART I) – AN INTRODUCTION by Mike Gibson. If you've never seen these beautiful plant life forms now's the chance to find out more. A unique feature of diatoms is that they are enclosed within a cell wall made of silica and called a *frustule*, which show a wide diversity in form, but are usually almost bilaterally symmetrical - hence the group name. Learn how to view clearly these often difficult subjects under the microscope.

Tuesday, 18th July 2017: 7.30pm

DIATOMS (PART II) by Mike Gibson. In this session we show you how to prepare and make permanent slides of these beautiful plant life forms. Also how to adjust your microscope for the best lighting and contrast.

Tuesday, 1st August 2017: 7.30pm

STAINING, AN INTRODUCTION by Mike Asquith. One way of highlighting the different structures of a sample is by means of staining. Mike gives an introduction to some of the theory of staining with demonstrations.

Tuesday, 15th August 2017: 7.30pm

PRACTICAL SLIDE STAINING by Mike Asquith. This will be an excellent chance to experiment and get 'up-close and dirty' with different types of stain. It will certainly be an interesting, and perhaps a very colourful evening.