

Tuesday 5th September 2017: 7.30pm

**VISUAL ILLUSIONS CLOSE-UP** by Mike Gibson. The world is not always as it seems and this also applies to what we see when looking through a microscope or lens. Be prepared to be amazed and puzzled by the images on offer!

Sunday 10th September 2017 10am to 4pm

**FLUORESCENCE MICROSCOPY WORKSHOP** – a one day joint meeting with the Quekett Microscopical Club. Guest speakers and presenters. Limited places are available. You must book your place by contacting Mike Gibson on stmarysmrg@yahoo.com

Tuesday, 19th September 2017: 7.30pm

**MOSES & LICHENS** a meeting led by Mike Gibson and Russ Sharp. A short presentation, followed by a practical session when we can bring our own samples of mosses or lichens and/or examine specimens from the society's collection under the microscope.

Tuesday, 3rd October 2017: 7.30pm

**RHEINBERG ILLUMINATION** by Mike Gibson and Mike Asquith. – Bring some colour into your microscopic world. With the aid of these very cheap and simple optical staining techniques which can be used with most microscopes. Bring your own sweet wrappers!

Tuesday, 17th October 2017: 7.30pm

**MACRO & MICRO FUNGI** by Mike Gibson and John Houghton. An introduction to these unique and varied organisms followed by a practical session looking at samples of different fungi under the microscope. Bring your own fungi samples if you can, or we can supply a selection on the night.

Tuesday, 7th November 2017: 7.30pm

**MICRO-ORGANISMS IN YOUR FOOD – (1)** by Mike Asquith. The meeting is led by a very experienced professional from the food industry. An introduction to the rôle of bacteria and fungi in specialist foods, along with some edible examples.

Tuesday, 21st November 2017: 7.30pm

**MICRO-ORGANISMS IN YOUR FOOD – (2)** by Mike Asquith. The meeting is led by a very experienced professional from the food industry. A practical session, where you may bring your own samples to study under the microscope. We will make slides from the samples to show different staining and mounting techniques.

Tuesday, 5th December 2017: 7.30pm

**HERBS & SPICES (1)** by Mike Asquith. An introduction with some prepared samples/slides. This meeting will concentrate mainly on culinary herbs in their many forms and varieties.

Tuesday, 19th December 2017: 7.30pm

**HERBS & SPICES (2)** by Mike Asquith. Bring your own samples (fresh and dried) of herbs and spices for a spicy run-up to Christmas. Bring a few nibbles for the mid meeting Christmas eats.

Tuesday, 2nd January 2018: 7.30pm

**FRACTAL GEOMETRY** by Mike Holmes. A mathematical introduction to some of these amazing forms and examples present in the world around us. Size is no indication of complexity or beauty. Come to the meeting and be amazed.

Tuesday, 16th January 2018: 7.30pm

**OPTICS & THE MICROSCOPE** by Mike Asquith, Mike Gibson and Mike Holmes. Today we explore some of the mathematical theories and formulae that underpin our knowledge and understanding of lenses and the eye. A good opportunity to find out the principles of how microscope optics work and what numbers to look for when buying equipment.

Tuesday, 6th February 2018: 7.30pm

**THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF LEATHER** by Philip Warner. A fascinating insight into some of the amazing examples of leather from the National Leather Collection in Northampton. Including a number of microscope slides that form part of the national collection held in our county town.

Tuesday, 20th February 2018: 7.30pm

**WHAT CAN YOU SEE WITH A HAND LENS?** By Mike Gibson. A short introduction, followed by an evening discovering how much information can be gleaned using this simple and much overlooked optical tool that is available for a few pounds off the web.

Tuesday, 6th March 2018: 7.30pm

**POLLEN (1)** by Mike Asquith. An introduction to this key element in plant reproduction – with samples. Pollen is essential part of plant reproduction. Pollen grains vary in shape and size between different plants. This enables us to identify the source, ie, which plants a bee has visited, by studying the grains under the microscope.

Tuesday, 20th March 2018: 7.30pm

**POLLEN (2)** by Mike Asquith. A practical session in making pollen mounts and slides. Pollen grains are not difficult to prepare for studying under the microscope. Bring a pollen bearing flower if you can, to enable you to prepare a slide to take home.

Tuesday, 3rd April 2018: 7.30pm

**WATER BUGS AND BEETLES (1)** by Graham Warnes. An introduction. Rivers, streams, ponds and even bird baths are teeming with microscopic life forms. An introduction to where bugs and beetles can be found and how to recognise the common ones.

Tuesday, 17th April 2018: 7.30pm

**WATER BUGS AND BEETLES (2)** Graham Warnes. A practical session. Please bring a sample of pond water etc so we can look at the life present under the microscope and identify a number of species. An opportunity to compare which species are most common in each type of location.

Tuesday, 1st May 2018: 7.30pm

**MICROFOSSILS IN NATURE. (1)** by Mike Holmes or Mike Asquith. Microfossils are a much ignored, but no less interesting element of geology compared with their sometimes massive cousins.

Tuesday, 15th May 2018: 7.30pm

**EXTRACTING MICROFOSSILS FROM GEOLOGICAL SAMPLES.** (2) Mike Holmes or Mike Asquith. A practical session using chalk and limestone samples. If you have specimens please bring them. Suitable samples will be supplied.

Tuesday, 5th June 2018: 7.30pm

**WHAT'S IN YOUR BIRD BATH?** By Mike Gibson. Come along and find out what's in your bird bath with the help of a microscope. If your birds love or shun your bathing offerings, bring a sample of the water and the deposits from the bottom of the bath to find out what microscopic wildlife also enjoys the bathing experience.

Tuesday, 19th June 2018: 7.30pm

**BIOFILMS IN NATURE AND IN THE LABORATORY** by Mike Gibson. How to grow your own cultures using simple techniques for examination through a microscope.

Sunday, 24th June 2018: 10.00am - 4.00pm

**THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF MICROSCOPY**, Including sales, exhibits, talks and Photo competition. This is an 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 on stmarysmrg@yahoo.com for further information

Tuesday, 3rd July 2018: 7.30pm

**MARINE BIOLOGY – ROCK POOL/TIDAL SALT MARSH LIFE (1)**, by Mike Holmes and Russ Sharp. An introduction to this rich biological eco-system. Organisms that inhabit the rock pools and tidal salt marshes have in some cases evolved unique methods and forms to cope with the changes in salt levels and extreme temperature variations.

Tuesday, 17th July 2018: 7.30pm

**MARINE BIOLOGY – ROCK POOL/TIDAL SALT MARSH LIFE (2)** by Mike Holmes and Russ Sharp. A practical session looking at marine samples. As our county is, er, not too near the sea, samples will be supplied. An opportunity to compare microscopical salt water organisms with their freshwater counterparts seen in our April meetings.

Tuesday, 7th August 2018: 7.30pm

**BRING, SHOW AND TELL!** By Mike Gibson and Mike Asquith. An opportunity for everyone to contribute and bring along something of interest. Whether it is a interesting sample, slide, method or piece of equipment. A great opportunity to see how others have solved their microscopical problems, and possibly gain some ideas for your own microscope work.

Tuesday, 21st August 2018: 7.30pm

**BUBBLES IN NATURE** by Mike Holmes. An unusual talk and practical session which will enable us to delve deeper into how bubbles form and what we can learn from them.