

2023

5th September 7.30pm **DELVING INTO THE PMS SLIDE COLLECTION.** Meeting led by Mike Gibson. We are looking after the Postal Microscopy Society's historic microscope slide collection. This week we will look at a selection of these slides, possibly including ones made by the renowned late microscopist, Ernie Ives, as well as many other skilled makers.

19th September 7.30pm **SHOW AND TELL EVENING.** Microscope section members and guests can bring along their latest unmissable bargain(s) bought at Microscopium (or anywhere else), or even a favourite microscope slide, or piece of related equipment to show others.

3rd October 7.30pm **FLEAS – LITTLE ITCHY JUMPERS** by Tim Newton. Tim will guide us through learning to appreciate these little gems!! Hopefully the evening will finish with you making your own microscope slide of a flea.

17th October 7.30pm **FUNGI**, meeting led by Tim Newton. Bring along a selection of specimens of Fungi if you can and we will examine / identify them under low power stereo microscope. Tim will also demonstrate how to make spore prints to enable identification to be taken to the species level.

7th November 7.30pm **SLIDE MAKING (1) - THE BASICS** meeting led by Mike Asquith. There are many ways of making microscope slides. Mike will describe the basics common to all of them. This will then be followed by the opportunity to make your own slides using the methods described.

21st November 7.30pm **SLIDE MAKING (2) - PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE**, led by Mike Asquith. Microscope slides can feature many different kinds of material and use different mountants. Tonight is a chance to try out methods learnt to create your own microscope slides.

5th December 7.30pm **A CLOSER LOOK AT YOUR CHRISTMAS DINNER.** In this season of food & drink, Mike Asquith will tell you (and show you!) things you didn't want to know about your food. To be rounded off with some Christmas goodies.

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2nd January 7.30pm **CRYSTALLISATION AND POLARISED LIGHT** by Mike Asquith. Polarised light has many uses in microscopy, crystals and the observation of crystallisation being one of them. We will look at ways of inducing and tracking on-slide crystallisation. This may yield some spectacular pictures/videos.

16th January 7.30pm **METEORITES UNDER POLARIZED LIGHT.** Colin Brooks will demonstrate how to examine prepared slides of meteorites using polarised light. This is a unique chance to see and handle genuine meteorites and observe through a microscope some very colourful and interesting prepared slides. Guests, as always, welcome.

6th February 7.30pm **FLUORESCENCE MICROSCOPY** by Mike Asquith. Fluorescence microscopy is becoming more readily available to the home microscopist. Mike will introduce this powerful

technique and there will be two fluorescence microscopes available for everybody to have a go.

20th February 7.30pm **MICROSCOPY'S ROLE IN MODERN FOOD RESEARCH** - a lecture by Alison Russell, research scientist at Unilever in Bedford. Please see our web site, <https://www.nnhs.info/Whats-On/> for further information.

5th March 7.30pm **DIFFERENT TYPES OF MICROSCOPE ILLUMINATION**, by Mike Asquith. The type of illumination chosen to use with a microscope slide depends on the subject and what feature you wish to study. Mike will describe and demonstrate some of the options available, what each type is used for and which can be used by the amateur microscopist with their own equipment.

19th March 7.30pm **PRACTICAL ENTOMOLOGY** by Kevin Rowley. An evening learning how to identify aquatic insects using specimens and keys written by Kev himself. Bring your own pond or stream samples if you wish.

2nd April 7.30pm **MICROSCOPY OF WOOD** by Mike Asquith and Mike Gibson. The study of wood under the microscope gives a number of challenges. It is very difficult to prepare as thin sections. There are a number different ways of looking at wood, we'll be having a practical go at some of them. This will include a number of wood microscope slides prepared by the master of wood slide preparation, the late Ernie Ives.

16th April 7.30pm **THE PMS ERNIE IVES SLIDE COLLECTION (PART 1)**, led by our own national beetle expert Tim Newton. A rare opportunity to look at the beetle slides in the PMS collection made by Ernie Ives. We will be identifying the specimens with the help of Tim Newton.

7th May 7.30pm **TRICHOMES** by Mike Asquith. The plant world has an immense range of Trichomes, most of them easy to image under the light microscope. There will be an introduction to the subject followed by a practical session where you may study slides in the NNHS collection. May yield the opportunity to take some good images.

21st May 7.30pm **DIATOMS** by Mike Gibson. Diatoms are microscopic organisms with a silicified cell wall that are found widely in ponds, rivers etc. An evening looking at slides from the PMS slide collection and from the Society's extensive slide collection and possibly recent material from the Nenescape project.

4th June 7.30pm **MAKING VIDEOS THROUGH THE MICROSCOPE** by John Smith. A sequel to John's remarkable presentation last year. John will show us some more of his videos of live microscopic subjects, and how he recorded them. Then hopefully a chance for everybody to have a go with their own equipment.

18th June 7.30pm **MY FAVOURITE MICROSCOPY / WILDLIFE BOOKS** led by Tim Newton. We all have a favourite book(s) we turn to when we wish to identify a sample or sighting. Bring along those which you find the most useful or simply enjoy looking at so we may all appreciate them.

2nd July 7.30pm **REPLICATION** by Mike Asquith. Surface replication is a valuable technique for examining the surface of a

solid medium. Mike will lead a practical session where we can make our own samples. Please bring a selection of fresh leaves.

SUNDAY JULY 7TH 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. **Guests are very welcome.**

16th July 7.30pm **LIFE IN THE SOIL** by Mike Gibson. Soil provides an ideal habitat for many small animals not just earthworms! We will demonstrate the use of, and how to make a Tullgren funnel, and other similar methods used for sampling and extracting various organisms from soil, which we will then study and hopefully identify under the microscope.

6th August 7.30pm **USING STEREO MICROSCOPES TO VIEW HOUSEHOLD AND ANY OTHER OBJECTS WHICH WE MIGHT NOT THINK OF VIEWING!** Meeting led by Tim Newton. Use your imagination, bring you own items of interest!

20th August 7.30pm **FORAMINIFERA OF BRITISH BEACHES** by Ian Wilson. I read an old (1882 I think) journal of the PMS recently and there was an article about separating forams from sand by flotation. It's really easy, messy enough to be fun and produces a concentrated sample of forams which I thought was pretty impressive and can be viewed with stereo and compound microscopes. I hope to have a seaside holiday between now and then too so can collect and dry a bucketful of sand - enough for everyone.

3rd September 7.30pm **SHOW AND TELL EVENING.** Microscope section members and guests can bring along their latest unmissable bargain(s) bought at Microscopium (or anywhere else), or even a favourite microscope slide, or piece of related equipment to show others.

17th September 7.30pm **AN EVENING OF VICTORIAN MICROSCOPY** led by Tim Newton. We will be viewing the Victorian slides from the Society's very extensive collection, and beyond. Using period microscopes from the society collection and members own instruments. Period costume welcomed!

We are in the process of arranging three Sunday workshops. These will be free for society members, £5 for guests, to cover costs. Dates and times to be finalised, please check our web site <https://www.nnhs.info/Whats-On/> for further details when available. Places will need to be reserved by emailing Tim Newton on tim.carabids@gmail.com

No microscope, don't worry, use one of our microscopes at our meetings.