



## **Minutes of the 2023 AGM of the Outreach and Education Committee of the Royal Microscopical Society which was held on Tuesday 4 July 2023 during mmc2023 held at Manchester Central, Windmill St, Manchester, M2 3GX**

**Members present:** Kerry Thompson (Outreach and Education Chair & RMS Honorary Secretary (Education)), Alex Ball FRMS (Outreach and Education Deputy Chair) Grace Burke FRMS (RMS President), Peter O'Toole FRMS (RMS Vice President), Rod Shipley (RMS Honorary Treasurer), Michelle Peckham FRMS (RMS Executive Honorary Secretary), Andy Brown FRMS (RMS Honorary Secretary Science (Physical)), Maddy Parsons FRMS (RMS Honorary Secretary Science (Biological)), Kurt Anderson FRMS, Asa Barber, Kseniia Bondareiko, Stanley Botchway FRMS, Richard Bowman FRMS, Michael Brookes FRMS, Susan Brooks FRMS, Rik Brydson FRMS, Poppy Cairney, Lucy Collinson FRMS, Matthew Francis FRMS, Patricia Goggin FRMS, Paul Gunning FRMS, Yanping Guo FRMS, Chris Hammond FRMS, Karen Hogg FRMS, Craig Holliday FRMS, John Hutchison Hon FRMS, Chris Kennedy FRMS, Martin Jones FRMS, Marty Jopson, Lynne Joyce FRMS, Alasdair Kay, Rob Kessler FRMS, Alex Laude FRMS, Mark Leake FRMS, Leandro Lemgruber, Donald MacLaren FRMS, Joanne Marrison FRMS, Gail McConnell FRMS, Greg McMahon FRMS, Jon Moss, Pete Nellist Hon FRMS, Dogan Ozkaya FRMS, Richard Paden Hon FRMS, Klaus Qvortrup FRMS, Liam Rooney FRMS, Jeremy Sanderson FRMS, Andrew Scott, Debbie Stokes FRMS, Leslie Stump, Paul Verkade FRMS, Theresa Ward FRMS, Claire Wells FRMS, Xiangli Zhong FRMS, Allison Winton (RMS Chief Executive) and the following members of RMS Staff: Zoe Barr, Nick Cameron, Adam Clay, Tracey Clay, Jess Cole, Joanna Cull, Georgina Fletcher, Dawn Hopkins, Debbie Hunt, Victoria Masters, Owen Morton, Alessandra Reni, Katie Reynolds, Lucy Ridler and Jade Sturdy\*

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from: Susan Anderson FRMS (RMS Vice President).

### **2. Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

### **3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. Report from Section Chair**

The Chair gave the following report:

“It is great to be able to once again present our report here at mmc and thank you for joining us. We have the pleasure of awarding an RMS Diploma to Craig Halliday on completion of his study and also to award the Chris Hawes Award to both Marty Jopson and Elisabeth Bik for their contributions to Outreach, Education and Public Engagement.

### **Schools Outreach**

From data collated in March of this year 140,432 children have gained access to a MAK since the inception of the scheme. It continues to be extremely popular with kits booking out in advance of the upcoming terms. This work is superbly facilitated by the excellent RMS office staff Jess Cole and Kate Wooding, and the team in Oxfordshire Employment and County Print Finishers. We also continue to send out Home Education Kits for half terms (6-week periods). Recent projects that the MAKs have been involved with include:

- **The Golden Hill Community Garden** in Bristol – groups of children meet after school 3 times a week at a charity funded afterschool community (forest school style) garden club <https://thegoldenhillcommunitygarden.com/afterschool-club/>
- **The Meadow Learning Group** in Bath - A learning community for home educated children aged 5-14. A group created so home-educated children can do outdoor learning and socialise in groups <https://www.instagram.com/meadowlearning/>

- **Aim High** in Scotland – A community education school working with disengaged young people alongside social work, and their original mainstream school  
<https://www.changeworks.org.uk/projects/aim-hi>

In the past months we have undertaken an initial review of the MAKs. A small working group has been assembled to discuss and implement how we can revamp them to keep moving the scheme forward. The review will look to making the kits more cost effective and easier to send, and diversifying the activities that are either included with the MAK or hosted online. Once again, a big thanks to Jess for taking the lead on this.

The Hitachi High Tech America STEM Education Outreach Programme, led by Alex Ball and James Perkins is still successfully running throughout the breadth of the UK. For 2023, the programme will run with one SEM, as opposed to two as it did in 2020-2022. Over 11,078 students have engaged with the project and 189 teachers and science technicians have been trained to use the SEMs. Alex and I are very fortunate to be working closely with our Professional Internship Placement student Zoe Barr, who is being hosted by the RMS, on the production of an impact report to delve into the intricacies of the programme. Zoe – your observations are really impressing us so far and we look forward to the completed body of work. In conjunction with the DAIM Section, we hope to pilot a new Image Analysis outreach initiative in the coming months. Thanks to those who have put massive effort into this so far and watch this space.

### **RMS Diploma and CPD**

The current RMS Diploma candidates are progressing well through their studies. We look forward to meeting some of them here at mmc2023 over the coming days and in particular thank Tim Young for speaking about his diploma experience on the Learning Zone and mentorship. Thank you to Susan Brookes for continuing her superb role as Chair of the RMS Qualification Committee.

Five summer studentships were awarded to projects this year in the fields of life, physical and multidisciplinary sciences. This year we have also funded a pilot scheme in Queens University Belfast where undergraduate students are being immersed in the Core Imaging Facility for an extended period of time and get to contribute to the normal day to day running of the core. We are very much looking forward to receiving the obligatory reports from these exciting projects.

This year we have worked hard at delivering a diverse comprehensive programme on the Learning Zone space that will have seminars that cover Career and Professional Development, Techniques, Analysis and Practise and also two interactive workshops on both Open Hardware and Software. I would like to thank Andrew Scott for taking the lead on securing our demo systems and also to him and all the other volunteers for their time and enthusiasm to share and teach in this informal capacity. Do drop by and say hello. This year we have also been extremely fortunate to have another PIP student, hosted again by the RMS, Jo Cull working with us on the Learning Zone. Jo, on behalf of Andrew and I and everyone who makes this space happen, you are a superstar, we couldn't have done it without you and thank you so much for your time, enthusiasm and boundless energy. Can you come back again for mmc2025?

We would now like to deliver our awards - Firstly to our most recent Diplomate Craig, well done and to both Marty and Elisabeth for their exceptional work on public engagement and outreach. We are thrilled that you can join here today to celebrate.

Finally, I would like to thank the Outreach and Education Committee for always being such a great bunch of people to engage with and for their efforts throughout the past 12 months and all the RMS staff, who continue to be such wonderful support and tremendous to work with. Allison, we will miss you so much, but I wish you all the best in your new adventures. Thank you for always being such a wonderful support and wealth of knowledge and advice.”

**5. Election of Officers**

There being no other nominations, the following Officers were duly elected:

Chair: Kerry Thompson, NUI Galway, Ireland

Deputy Chair: Alex Ball, Natural History Museum, London

**6. Election of Ordinary Members**

There being no other nominations, the following Ordinary Members were duly elected:

Susan Anderson, University of Nottingham

Richard Bowman, University of Glasgow

Anna Baldycheva, University of Exeter

Jacquelyn Bond, University of Leeds

Susan Brooks, Oxford Brookes University

Joel Cohen, Duke University, USA

Helen Corry, University of Oxford

Oliver Clarke, Carl Zeiss

Lorna Dougan, University of Leeds

Owen Green, University of Oxford

Yanping Guo, UCL

Rob Kessler, University of the Arts, London

Marie Kokolski, University of Nottingham

Dale Moulding, UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health

Niga Nawroly, ACEA Biosciences

Pete Nellist, University of Oxford

James Perkins, Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School

Peter Sainsbury, Primary Science Teaching Trust

Andrew Scott, University of Leeds

Alex Sossick, Natural History Museum, London

**7. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

**\*Non-members present:** Ursel Bangert, Elisabeth Bik, Treva Brown, Viji Draviam, Gary Edwards, Jon Howe, John Mansfield, Ardan Patwardhan, Dina Ratsimandresy, Yvonne Sanderson, Ben Sutcliffe and Lauren Winton.