



QUEEN MOTHER'S
CLOTHING GUILD
FOUNDED 1882

Annual Report 2025



HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

www.qmcg.org.uk
Charity Registration No. 211764



I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the Trustees and Friends of the Guild for their continued dedication in providing donations of essential new clothing, linen and knitted items to those most in need across the United Kingdom.

The work undertaken by this long-established and unique charity has become essential to the organisations it supports.

HRH Princess Alexandra, The Hon. Lady Ogilvy, Patron



Patron: HRH Princess Alexandra, The Hon. Lady Ogilvy

Trustees: Mary Guppy - Chairman of Trustees
Sharon Stewart - Hon. Treasurer
Ruth Briant - Executive Chair – until May 2025
Diana Dix
Sallie Hawkins
Julia Knight
Louise Myers - from May 2025
Helen Whitbread - until Dec 2025
Matilda Woodford

Victoria Spendlove – Executive Officer - from May 2025

Secretary to the Trustees: Susan Wallace

Executive Committee: Ruth Briant - Executive Chair - until May 2025
Victoria Spendlove - Vice Executive Chair
Sharon Stewart - Hon. Treasurer
Julia Buckmaster
Donna Hart
Mary Mackaness – from May 2025
Vicki Meakin - until May 2025
Andrea Peel - from May 2025
Rachel Neale - from May 2025

Secretary: Heather Mears

Charity Number: 211764

Registered Address: 22 Stamford Brook Road
London
W6 0XH

Independent Examiner: Catrin Thornton, BSc ACA

Investment Advisers: Rathbones: Incorporating Investec Wealth and Investment (UK)
30 Gresham Street
London
EC2V 7QN

Trustees' Report
For the year ended 31 December 2025

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the financial statements and comply with the Trust Deed, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, as applicable.

Purpose of the Queen Mother's Clothing Guild (QMCG)

The aim of the Queen Mother's Clothing Guild is to make, buy and source new clothing, sleeping bags and linen and to distribute these items once a year to British charities, operating only in the United Kingdom, to help the vulnerable, the homeless and those in need.

The Guild's charitable objects are advanced by:

- Providing new clothing and linen to UK charities that support people in crisis or hardship.
- Responding to specific requests from charities where the items are difficult to source or fund.
- Mobilising volunteers and supporters who knit, sew and fundraise to enable this work.

Why our work is important

QMCG is one of the oldest charities in the United Kingdom and, since its inception in 1882, its purpose has been to support those in need. Today, with demand for support services remaining high across the UK, the provision of brand-new clothing and linen continues to be both practical and dignified.

We know that:

- New clothing, bedding and other essentials provide warmth and comfort.
- Receiving new items – rather than second-hand – helps restore dignity, self-respect and a sense of being valued.
- Many of our partner charities operate on tight budgets and struggle to fund or store bulk quantities of new clothing and linen themselves; QMCG's support enables them to direct more of their resources to frontline services.

How we work

During the year ended 31 December 2025, QMCG supported 49 UK charities. These include:

- Refuges for women and children escaping violence and abuse.
- Homeless shelters and outreach units.
- Neonatal units and hospital wards.
- Hospices providing respite and end-of-life care for children and adults.
- Other charities supporting people facing poverty, displacement and social exclusion.

Each year, we invite the charities we support to submit a detailed list of the new items they most need, and that will make a meaningful difference to the people they help. Using these requests, the Trustees and Executive Committee plan our programme of purchasing and sourcing.

For over 140 years, QMCG supporters across the country have been knitting and stitching, and they continue to make beautiful handmade items for QMCG to donate to charities. These handmade items, together with purchased goods, are checked, sorted and packed centrally before distribution.

Our main annual distribution takes place in the autumn, which works particularly well for charities supporting the homeless, as their need for warm clothing and bedding is greatest during the winter months.

Where we work

QMCG works with charities across the UK, with the majority of supported partners currently based in England and Scotland. We remain open to requests from charities anywhere in the UK, provided they meet our criteria and operate in line with our charitable purposes.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing QMCG's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

QMCG's activities deliver public benefit in several ways:

- Direct benefit
 - By providing practical help to the charities we support, responding to specific requests for new clothing, linen and other essential items.
 - By ensuring that these items reach people who are vulnerable, homeless or otherwise in need, offering warmth, comfort and improved living conditions.
- Indirect benefit
 - Through the positive effect on those who receive these new items, helping to restore their sense of self-worth, dignity and inclusion – particularly important for individuals and families facing hardship, trauma or social isolation.
 - By relieving some financial and logistical pressure on partner charities, enabling them to focus resources on frontline care and support services.
- Benefit to volunteers and supporters
 - The network of Guild Friends, supporters and volunteer makers derives friendship, purpose and a sense of belonging from knitting, stitching, fundraising and helping to coordinate the annual distribution.
 - This community activity promotes social connection and wellbeing, especially for supporters who may otherwise be isolated.

The Trustees are satisfied that the benefits provided by QMCG are available to a wide section of the public, and that any private benefit to individuals or organisations is incidental and necessary in furthering the charity's purposes.

Fundraising

QMCG's fundraising activities in the year were modest and proportionate to its size. The charity:

- Relies primarily on donations, legacy gifts and fundraising events organised by supporters.
- Does not use professional commercial fundraisers or carry out public street or door-to-door collections.
- Seeks to ensure that all fundraising communications are clear, respectful and compliant with relevant guidance.

Under the Charities Act 2016, charities in England and Wales that spend more than £100,000 a year on fundraising are expected to make a voluntary contribution to the Fundraising Regulator's running costs. As QMCG spends considerably less than £100,000 a year on fundraising, it is not required to register with the Fundraising Regulator or to pay the voluntary levy.

Nonetheless, the Trustees are committed to high standards in fundraising and aim to follow the principles of the Code of Fundraising Practice as good practice, ensuring that:

- Supporters are treated fairly and with respect.
- No fundraising practices are undertaken that could be considered unduly intrusive or pressurising.

Risk Assessment

The Trustees regularly review the major risks to which the charity is exposed and ensure that appropriate systems and controls are in place to mitigate those risks.

In making decisions during the year, the Trustees have again had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and to their duties under the Charities Act 2011. The Trustees ensure that the Governance document is kept up to date and is used as a framework for both the Executive Committee (EC) and the Board of Trustees.

Key elements of our risk management approach include:

- Charity visits and oversight
 - All supported charities, existing and proposed, are regularly visited (either in person, by telephone or via online meetings) by members of the Executive Committee, and a written record is kept of each visit.
 - Guild Friends and Trustees are encouraged to participate in these visits, which provide valuable insight into each charity's current work, needs and governance.
 - These visits help QMCG to:
 - Understand how our donations are used.
 - Ensure that our support remains relevant and appropriate.
 - Guard against any inappropriate use of QMCG donations.
- Events and operational risk
 - The main operational risks identified by the Trustees relate to QMCG's two principal annual events: Packing Week and the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
 - Public liability insurance continues in place to cover these and other relevant activities.
 - Health and safety considerations are reviewed in advance of each major event, and appropriate procedures are in place to safeguard volunteers, staff and visitors.
- Financial and compliance risks
 - The Trustees monitor income, expenditure, reserves and cash flow throughout the year to ensure the charity remains financially sound.
 - Segregation of duties and appropriate authorisation levels are maintained over financial transactions.
 - Policies covering safeguarding, data protection, conflicts of interest and whistleblowing are reviewed periodically, with updates made as required.

The Trustees are satisfied that the systems and procedures in place are appropriate for the size and complexity of QMCG and that they have mitigated the major risks to an acceptable level during the year.

The Guild in Scotland

In 2025, QMCG donated a total of 2146 items to charities across Scotland. From Stornoway to Glasgow, we have supported charities that help veterans, the homeless, women's refuges, children and families and those being cared for in hospices.

Longstanding Ambassador Shona Doherty again worked tirelessly to gather 1400 handknitted items from volunteers' knitters, organising a View Day event in the village of Tain before items were distributed to 17 charities. We are so grateful for the continuing hard work and support Shona, and her team gives to QMCG.

Our Treasurer and Secretary arranged donations of new bedding and towels from our supplier, who, this year delivered 746 items directly to 7 charities in Scotland, just before Christmas.

Chairman of the Trustees' Report

I hardly know where to begin – it has been the most amazing year! My heartfelt thanks go to everyone who has helped make it so.

At last year's AGM, it was agreed that the Trustees and the Executive Committee would adopt a more collaborative approach, sharing the responsibilities that in recent years had placed an increasingly heavy workload on the Chair of the Executive Committee. This new management structure has proved to be a huge success – far beyond our expectations! Everyone involved has brought their own strengths and experience to the table, creating a truly united and effective team.

Last year's AGM began on a high note with a fascinating talk from Richard Francis, House Manager at Ronald McDonald House, Lambeth, who shared valuable insights into how our donations are used and appreciated.

Over the course of the year, we have enjoyed a series of wonderful fundraising events organised by our Friends, and we are extremely grateful to everyone involved. Several Guild members were honoured to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May, while QMCG was also represented at the Summer Garden Party at Holyrood in Scotland.

Packing Week in October, now streamlined into just one and a half days, was another tremendous success. The atmosphere on View Day was buzzing, with representatives from charities, members of the Royal Household, and other supporters all in attendance. It was deeply moving to hear first-hand some of the stories shared by the charities we support. In total, last year, we distributed 39,736 items to 49 charities across UK – a remarkable achievement by all involved.

In November, our hardworking Treasurer, Sharon Stewart, was deservedly recognised as *Lloyd's of London Fundraiser of the Year* – a truly well-earned honour that also brought a fantastic donation to the Guild.

The Carol Service at the Savoy Chapel in early December was another highlight of the year – well attended and much enjoyed, with readings given by individuals closely connected to the charity. This wonderful event has now become a treasured fixture in our annual calendar.

I was also privileged to speak about the history and work of the Guild at John Studzinski's prestigious Christmas Lunch at Spencer House in December. It was a fascinating occasion and an excellent opportunity to meet people from a range of organisations, some of whom have already become valuable contacts for future collaboration.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to HRH Princess Alexandra for her continuing and unwavering support, for which we are deeply grateful. Our thanks go to all our wonderful donors throughout the year, and we would also like to thank Catrin Thornton for her work inspecting our accounts. We look ahead to the coming year with great enthusiasm – and a definite spring in our step!

Mary Guppy *Chairman of the Trustees*

Fundraising Report

This has been a wonderful year for fundraising, and we are so grateful to everyone who has supported us. Whether you made a donation, joined our Friends scheme, organised an event, took part in a challenge, or encouraged others to support us, you have all played a part in what we have achieved together. Our fundraising was also recognised externally during the year, leading to an additional major contribution to our work. We see this not just as an award for one individual, but as a reflection of the dedication of all our supporters and fundraisers.

We do not list individual names in this report, but we hope every supporter will recognise themselves in these thanks. Our Friends, regular givers, livery companies, trusts and foundations, corporate partners (including those providing matched funding), and all those who gave their time, energy and creativity – your generosity has made a real difference, and we are deeply appreciative.

Accounts For year ending 31st December 2025

Summary of income and expenditure account for the financial year ended 31st December 2025. Please refer to the separate signed Accounts 2025 document for more details.

The 2025 accounts show a steady financial performance for the charity. Total income increased to £97,642 from £94,748 in the previous year, while total payments were £88,451, compared with £94,171 in 2024.

Donations rose significantly to £52,760 (2024: £36,259), reflecting a renewed uplift in donor support. Fundraising income amounted to £10,349, lower than the exceptionally strong £24,288 achieved in 2024, when several successful new fundraising events were launched. Income from the sale of merchandise and our knitted items remained consistent at £7,628 (2024: £7,671). Investment income contributed £21,324, compared with £24,110 in 2024.

We were delighted to allocate £58,870 towards the purchase of clothing and linen for the charities we supported in 2025. Running costs reduced to £26,454 from £28,198 in 2024, reflecting lower expenditure on fundraising events, as well as the completion of the archive related work undertaken in the previous year.

Overall, the charity achieved a modest operational surplus. Our financial position remains stable, enabling us to plan and deliver our work with confidence. We extend our sincere thanks to all those individuals and organisations whose ongoing support and generosity continue to strengthen our mission.

Sharon Stewart *Hon. Treasurer*

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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) b of the Charities Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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 seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any 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 examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed by

Catrin Thornton

CATRIN THORNTON BSc ACA

QUEEN MOTHER'S CLOTHING GUILD

Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 December 2025

	NOTES	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Receipts					
Donations, Legacies and Grants	1	62,760		62,760	36,259
Fundraising	2	10,349		10,349	24,288
Other Charitable Activities	3	7,628		7,628	7,671
Gift Aid	4	5,581		5,581	2,420
Income from Investments	5	21,324		21,324	24,110
Sub total		97,642		97,642	94,748
Asset and investment sales					
Receipts from sale of investments	6	87,829		87,829	104,365
Sub total		87,829		87,829	104,365
Total receipts				185,471	199,113
Payments					
Purchasing of Clothing and Linen	7	58,870		58,870	58,407
Running Costs	8	26,454		26,454	28,198
Other Charitable Activities	9	3,127		3,127	7,566
Sub total		88,451		88,451	94,171
Asset and investment purchases					
Purchase of investments	10	161,166		161,166	24,085
Investment Administration charges	11	6,010		6,010	5,843
Sub total				167,176	29,928
Total payments				255,627	124,099

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Balances at Bank				
Bank Current Accounts			86,503	77,313
Rathbones Investment Management	12		10,683	89,770
Investment Assets				
Rathbones Investment Management	13		517,156	437,228
			614,342	604,311
Accumulated Fund				
			614,342	604,311

These accounts were approved by The Board of Trustees on 9th March, 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs Mary Guppy
Chair of Trustees

Notes to Receipt and Payments Account

	2025 £	2024 £
1 Donations, Legacies and Grants		
Donations and Subscriptions	52,760	36,259
	<u>52,760</u>	<u>36,259</u>
2 Fundraising Events		
Raffle	3,175	5,286
Other Fundraising	7,174	19,002
	<u>10,349</u>	<u>24,288</u>
3 Other Charitable Activities		
Sales of Aprons/Tea Towels/Bags	315	484
Sales of Notelets / Cards	131	342
Sales of Badges	10	73
Sale of China	385	366
Sale of Book	-	42
Donations for knitted/donated items	6,787	6,364
Miscellaneous Income	-	-
	<u>7,628</u>	<u>7,671</u>
4 Gift Aid	5,581	2,420
	<u>5,581</u>	<u>2,420</u>
5 Income from Investments		
Main Fund	14,927	16,877
Mrs Pipe's Fund	6,397	7,233
Cash withdrawn from Portfolio	-	-
	<u>21,324</u>	<u>24,110</u>
6 Sale of Investments		
Main Fund	61,480	73,056
Mrs Pipe's Fund	26,349	31,310
	<u>87,829</u>	<u>104,365</u>
7 Purchasing of Clothing and Linen		
Purchase of Clothing and Linen	54,540	53,347
Purchase of items distributed to Scottish Charities	4,330	5,061
	<u>58,870</u>	<u>58,407</u>

Notes to Receipt and Payments Account

	2025 £	2024 £
8 Running Costs		
Packing Week and AGM expenses	13,198	12,380
Fundraising Events	1,766	5,279
Printing/Stationery/Postage	1,345	1,348
Website & Communications	1,069	937
Insurance	808	809
Secretarial Fees	8,057	7,204
Miscellaneous Expenses	-	20
Bank Charges	211	221
	<u>26,454</u>	<u>28,198</u>
9 Other Charitable Activities		
Purchasing of Merchandise	627	-
Archives/Book	2,500	7,566
	<u>3,127</u>	<u>7,566</u>
10 Purchase of Investments		
Main Fund	112,816	16,860
Mrs Pipe's Fund	48,350	7,226
	<u>161,166</u>	<u>24,085</u>
11 Rathbones/ Investec Investment Management Administration Charges		
Main Fund	4,207	4,090
Mrs Pipe's Fund	1,803	1,753
	<u>6,010</u>	<u>5,843</u>
During the year Investec/Rathbones charged an additional £2,416 (2024 - £3,090) as a collective funds charge for managing the portfolios		
12 Rathbones Investment Management Cash Balance		
Main Fund	7,478	62,839
Mrs Pipe's Fund	3,205	26,931
	<u>10,683</u>	<u>89,770</u>
This cash balance is included in the total fund in note 13 below		
13 Rathbones Investment Management Assets (at cost)		
Main Fund	369,487	368,899
Mrs Pipe's Fund	158,352	158,099
	<u>527,839</u>	<u>526,998</u>
The market value of investments at 31 December 2025 was £688,640 (2024 - £612,282)		

BENEFICIARIES 2025
(*Newly supported in 2025)

Charities supported in England:	Neo Natal Units supported:
Age UK, Wiltshire	Evelina, St Thomas's Hospital, London
Barons Court Project, London	Northwick Park Hospital, London
Berkshire Women's Aid	
Changing Pathways, Essex	Charities supported in Scotland:
CHESS, Chelmsford	AberNecessities, Aberdeen
Companions of the Order of Malta, London	Bethesda Care Home & Hospice, Stornoway
Crawley Open House, West Sussex	Cardinal Winning Pro-life Initiative, Glasgow
Crisis, London*	Erskine Veteran's Activity Centre North, Moray*
Croydon Refugee Day Centre	Erskine Home, Renfrewshire
Emmaus, Greenwich	Gateway (HHT), Inverness*
Emmaus, Hastings & Rother	HALO, Inverness
Guy's & St Thomas' Charity Samaritan Fund, London	Highland Hospice, Inverness
Home of Comfort, Southsea	Kindness Street Team, Glasgow
Kairos, South East London	Robin House (CHAS), Balloch
Little Village, London	Seaforth House Care Home, Golspie
London City Mission, Central London	Simon Community Govanhill, Glasgow
Manna Society, London	St Vincent's Hospice, Johnstone
Medaille Trust, London	Women's Aid, Dundee
Nelson Trust South West (supporting refuges in Bridgwater, Bristol, Cardiff, Gloucester, Swansea & Swindon)	Women's Aid, Glasgow
Olallo House, London	Women's Aid, Inverness
Pram Depot, London	
Project Linus, UK	
Ronald McDonald House Charities, London	
Salvation Army, Hoxton	
Seaview, East Sussex	
Stonepillow, West Sussex	
The Carers Centre, Tower Hamlets	
Upper Room, Central London	
Warming up the Homeless, Bexhill-on-Sea	
Your Place, East London	



THANK YOU LETTERS

Crisis, London

'We are so grateful for the incredible donations we received. These items will make a huge difference to our guests this Christmas, especially as these are exactly the kinds of items we often struggle to source. The beautifully knitted pieces, in particular, will be cherished and bring real comfort and joy to those who receive them.'



London City Mission

'I just wanted to extend my heartfelt thanks for the kind invitation to attend Queen Mother's Clothing Guild viewing day yesterday at St James' Palace, on behalf of London City Mission. It was deeply moving to see the many donated and handcrafted items prepared for distribution to such worthy causes across the country. The dedication and care that goes into each item was truly touching. As one of the speakers so rightly said, there has never been a greater need for the Guild's support in providing 'comfort and warmth' than in these current times.'

Warming Up the Homeless, Sussex

'The donations received were absolutely perfect and exactly what we needed. We have recently opened up a night shelter in Hastings giving respite to those living on the streets, whatever the weather. We offer three hot meals a day, showering facilities and a change of clean, dry clothes. The men's items in our donation were used for this purpose and were very gratefully received by participants. Thank you.'

The children's items went to the children in emergency hostels. So many were thrilled that they had new clothing. Something that is often on the bottom of the list when experiencing homelessness and/ or poverty.

All items have been used and distributed for which we owe you and your wonderful volunteers a huge round of applause and appreciation. Thank you very much.'

Bethesda Hospice, Stornoway

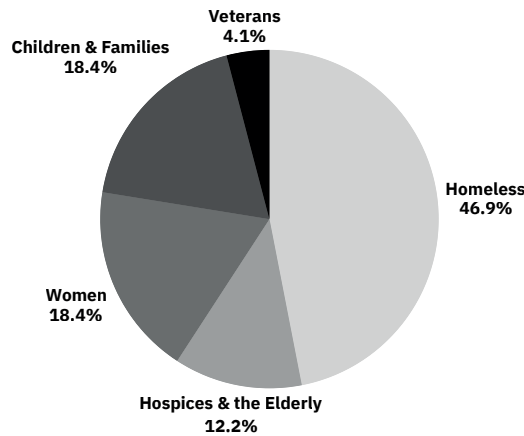
We are extremely pleased that the Queen Mother's Clothing Guild continue to support the Bethesda Hospice.

It is only with the continued support from our community and from the like of yourselves that we are able to continue to offer our high standard of care to those in our community who require specialist palliative care.

With our kindest regards to you and the Friends of the Guild for all their hard work.

Charities supported by QMCG in 2025

- Homeless charities**
 23 charities who support those who are homeless.
- Hospices and the Elderly**
 6 hospices, care homes and day centres
- Women's charities**
 9 women's refuges and support groups
- Children and Families**
 9 charities supporting children and families including Neo-Natal units
- Veterans**
 2 charities supporting veterans



F
 ather of all mercies++we are clothed++we are fed++
 we are sound in mind and body+ In gratitude for
 these great blessings we offer these material things
 to those less fortunate+ Add Thy blessings, we
 beseech Thee, to the work of our hands and hearts
 so that each garment may carry to the wearer not
 only decency and warmth, but courage, comfort, and
 hope for brighter days+

Needlework Guild Prayer



QUEEN MOTHER'S
CLOTHING GUILD

FOUNDED 1882