

SUMMER MEETING OF THE MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY

LACEY GREEN MILLENIUM HALL, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Saturday 28 July 2018



As our long hot summer continued, a total of over 50 MLS members and guests headed for the Chiltern Hills on one of the cooler days, gathering at Lacey Green, birthplace of chef Heston Blumenthal – his parents ran an amusement arcade machine business there.

Opening the meeting, Jeremy Brooker, on behalf of the Society, thanked Anastasia Kerameos and Richard Crangle for the wonderful new website – and recommended a visit.

Jan and Richard Rigby introduced the first item which featured video films of the work and shows they have recently been doing, along with MLS member Stan Roberts, with Hope UK (see TML 14, p.12). The first highlighted well-known celebrities and 'valiant' men who all achieved amazing things *without* alcohol, e.g. Captain Webb who swam the Channel in 1875 on hot coffee, W. G. Grace who said all



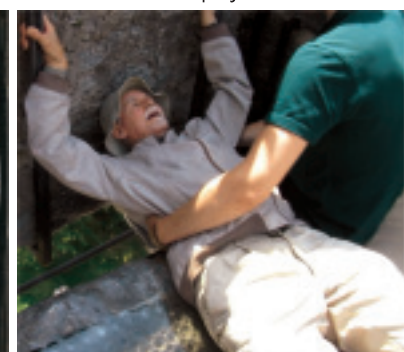
Aileen Butler's 'P for Pleasures'



Liverpool's ghostly galleon projection



Lester Smith emulating his own lantern slide of kissing the Blarney Stone



from a set – with a few strays of a Biblical nature – *Mind your Ps and Qs*, e.g. pleasures, quarrelsomeness, question, peevishness, quackery, etc. Nick Hiley showed a very rare slide of Alfred Wilden's show on Southport Beach from about 1900. He was presenting moving pictures from an ex-boxing booth. Richard Rigby showed a modern projection by Studio Biangle of a ghost ship using a spray of water in Liverpool's Salthouse Dock in May. Lester Smith picked out some highlights from his recent tour around Eire, matching his experiences with magic lantern slides from his collection. These included the Killarney Jaunting Cars, kissing 'the stone of eloquence' at Blarney Castle (Lester Mike Smith with his antique peepshow fan hung upside down to emulate the slide but fortunately this has moved from outside the castle walls in the slide to inside now), and the place where Baron Munchausen allegedly tethered his horse to a church steeple. Lester did not try that one.

After lunch David Bayley, with a very loud hooter to wake up any who might have overindulged at lunch, gave us the automobile disasters of Mister Whip and



Two images from David Bayley's show

Royden Barrie – the pseudonym of Rodney Bennett, father of Sir Richard Rodney Bennett – and Haydn Wood, 1922). This was accompanied by slides of family photographs and Bamforth song slides with various colour filter effects, a great deal of energy and the odd technical hitch.

Keith and Jennifer Uttridge then presented two films of a show they gave in 2005 when they projected colours and images on a flowing white skirt. The dancer and skirt were



Mike Smith with his antique peepshow fan



Master Whip which ended in a total write-off through a mixture of sabotage and reckless driving. This was followed by a lesser known Vera Lynn number, *A Brown Bird Singing* (by



One of David Bayley's song slides



Dame Perkins and her Grey Mare



last minute decisions but the finished effect, especially the butterfly and chromatrope, were wonderful. They were then joined by **Juliette Harcourt** and **Richard Crangle** to relate the tale of *Dame Perkins and her Grey Mare*. This involved the said Dame Perkins setting off to market but getting involved with the local hunt which awakened forgotten talents in her mount – and it all ended badly of course.



Two of the fiendish quiz questions (with the missing words revealed)



Then, before 'earning' tea, we attempted a fiendish quiz set by **Keith Utteridge**, aided and abetted by **Gordon Casbeard**, featuring words blanked out on slides (the odd one not missing, which helped!) and other evil posers like: 'How much would a dozen slipping slides cost you in the Wrench 1899 catalogue?' (answer at the end). The winning score



Stan Roberts, Richard Rigby and the cake!



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was half marks but it was all great fun. At tea we celebrated some landmarks in the form of birthdays (**Richard Rigby's** 80th), significant wedding anniversaries (the 50th of the **Casbeards**) and finally great-grandfatherhood (**Stan Roberts**) with some delicious cake.



The Marriotts and Suzanne Higgins

The day ended with **Alan and Rene Marriott** with **Suzanne Higgins** (providing the music) giving us a selection of songs and magic lantern images all related to being on the water. These included the



Skylark trips from Brighton

Skylark trips on a sailing vessel from Brighton beach and Grace Darling, the famous young resident of Longstone Lighthouse in Northumberland who helped rescue nine souls from the *Forfarshire* in 1838. Another rescue involved the lifeboat from Broadstairs and the Goodwin Sands. The story of

RMS Olympic, sister ship of *RMS Titanic*, but a survivor of collisions, was followed by a tale about a couple of fishermen. One caught a large fish who pulled him out of the boat to the bottom of the water but the fisherman prevailed in the end to see his 'long snouted rock devil' on display. We



Grace Darling in action



A clipper ship from the race

heard about Pierrot troupes and a Punch and Judy man in the land of summer, then the clipper ship race of the *Clansman* versus *Robin Adair* (probably based on *Cutty Sark's* adventures) from the poem by Cicely Fox Smith. After a cautionary tale of the ship that set sail with a cargo of woodpeckers and was never seen again, we finished with

the Flanders and Swann classic *Hippopotamus Song*, all singing a rousing chorus of "mud, mud, glorious mud" as a rare spot of rain fell outside.

Answer to the question: 13/6d (67.5p for younger members)



An appreciative MLS audience