



Ally Sloper supervising a little spring gardening. Maker unknown, UK, no later than 1891 (sold by Wright & Co, Bootle) (Dick Moore)

THE FOUR SEASONS

Many magic lantern slide collectors have a set or two of the 'Four Seasons'. Usually these show scenes of rural idylls and people either working in or enjoying the countryside (right). But not always. Dick Moore suggested that we should run a series of these slides in *The Magic Lantern* since we publish quarterly, with the seasons. However Dick has sent a set to start the series that is far from the rural idyll – none other than Ally Sloper (left)!

In this issue we are starting with 'Spring' – and thank you everyone who has already provided some slide images.

Please keep sending images to editor@magiclantern.org.uk, together with as much information as you have about the slides, such as the maker, type of slide and, if possible, date. 'Summer' will feature in our June issue but don't worry if you missed 'Spring' and have a gem in your collection, it will come again in 2024. We are aiming to include as wide a variety of interpretations as possible – the slide just needs to have a seasonal connection.

Of course, we are following northern hemisphere seasons and must apologise to MLS members in the southern hemisphere and less seasonal parts of the world.

So to imagined strains of Antonio Vivaldi's 1723 composition *The Four Seasons*, enjoy the first instalment!



Traditional spring ploughing. W.F. Archer, Liverpool, around 1880 (Mary Ann Auckland)



A wood-framed set of four with no labels. 'Spring' and 'Winter' only are dissolving views. (Mary Ann Auckland)



A reminder about April Fools' Day! From a set of the 12 months of the year, W.C. Hughes, London (Martin Gilbert)



This wood-framed slide of children playing and men ploughing in the background has no information on it (Lester Smith)



A studio photograph of two Japanese ladies and the famous cherry blossom (Alan Brindle)



'Harrowing'. The printed frame says 'G.W.W.' and it is no. 67 in the set (Mary Ann Auckland)