

## MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY COMMITTEE NEWS



Mike Smith

The Society Committee held its first meeting of 2017 in early February, with most of the discussions focusing on arrangements for the coming convention in Birmingham. Other business included agreeing the various roles that Committee members will take for the coming year.

As noted in the AGM report in this issue of *The Magic Lantern*, the major change this year is the retirement of Mike Smith

as Hon. Secretary, after some forty years in the role. The Committee's loss is North Yorkshire's gain, and everyone wished Mike a happy and well-deserved rest!

The post of Secretary will be taken by Richard Crangle, alongside his existing role as Treasurer. One new face was elected to the Committee at the January AGM, in the shape of Lydia Jakobs, who will take up the vacant post of Research Officer.

The full list of Society Officers for the coming year is:

Chairman	Jeremy Brooker*
Vice-Chairman	John Townsend*
Secretary and Treasurer	Richard Crangle*
Archivist	Ine van Dooren*
Assistant Secretary	Alexia Lazou*
Auditor	Richard Feltham
Communications Officer	Dennis Crompton*
Editor, <i>Connect</i> Sales and Wants	George Auckland
Editor, <i>New Light on Old Media</i>	Mervyn Heard
Co-Editor, <i>The Magic Lantern</i>	Mary Ann Auckland*
Co-Editor, <i>The Magic Lantern</i>	Gwen Sebus
General Committee Member	Jeremy Fisher*
General Committee Member	Juliette Harcourt*
Lanternists' Representative	Richard Rigby
Librarian	Keith Utteridge*
Programme Secretary	Lester Smith*
Research Officer	Lydia Jakobs*
Web Editor	Anastasia Kerameos*

Those marked \* are also members of the Magic Lantern Society Committee.

Contact details for all the Officers are in the Society Membership Directory. A copy of the Directory is sent to all members by email (or by post for those who don't use email) in March each year, but you can also get an up-to-date version at any time from [www.magiclantern.org.uk/membership](http://www.magiclantern.org.uk/membership).

If you have any comments or suggestions on how your Society is run, or any matters you want the Committee to consider, please contact:-

Jeremy Brooker ([chairman@magiclantern.org.uk](mailto:chairman@magiclantern.org.uk)) or

Richard Crangle ([secretary@magiclantern.org.uk](mailto:secretary@magiclantern.org.uk)) at any time.

## THE 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY THE MUSICAL MUSEUM, LONDON, SATURDAY 21 JANUARY 2017

Mary Ann Auckland

Nearly sixty members gathered for the AGM at the Musical Museum in Brentford, west London, for the first meeting of the year. Chairman Jeremy Brooker got formal business underway with an upbeat assessment of the Society's position. Among the highlights of 2016 he commented on achieving gender parity on the Committee, developing links with new institutional members, including the International Panorama Society and the Museum of Childhood in Edinburgh, and our close involvement with international projects like Lucerna and the Million Pictures (see Issue 9) largely thanks to Richard Crangle. He then outlined what had happened at the four meetings held in 2016.

We marked a very significant moment in the Society's history – after forty years Mike Smith has decided to step down from the Committee and his role as Honorary Secretary. Mike has fulfilled this role since 1981 and up to 2013 was also Honorary Treasurer. The reports (see below) showed a society in a good position today when many are struggling – this is in no small part due to Mike's contribution and expert management.

Mike is a founder member of the Magic Lantern Society. Of the twenty members who gathered at Corsham Court on 23 October 1976 following Roger Orme's proposal, only four others remain – our current Chairman being one, along with David Francis, Janet Tamplin and David Robinson. Mike has been the driving force behind the Society's nine conventions, every one highly successful as well as memorable. He has also organised seven additional meetings on the continent in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Spain. Our global membership is largely due to Mike's encouragement as well as, in many cases, personal links and he has developed our close relationship with the US and Canada Society.

In his address, Mike highlighted the quality of the Society's publications. He regards the range of scholarly books as one of our strengths, comparable to the best in the world. The black and white *Journal*, first published in 1978, and its informal counterpart the *Newsletter* have since been superseded by *The Magic Lantern* but the important factor is that the quality of the content has been maintained. Mike thanked members for their support and friendship – sentiments entirely reciprocated, as Tony Dugdale, the Society's longest-serving Chairman, made clear in his response. Mike's advice and expertise will be sorely missed on the Committee but we hope to keep in close touch and see him at Magic Lantern Society meetings for many years to come.

After reports from the Secretary, Treasurer and *The Magic Lantern* Editors, and the election of Lydia Jakobs to the Committee, we adjourned to mark Mike's 'retirement' in suitable fashion.

