

LANTERNISTS' TALES

CHIPS WITH EVERYTHING – EVEN A MAGIC LANTERN SHOW!

Jeff Barnard

In addition to magic lanterns, golf is another of my interests and, at the age of ninety-one, I am still playing twice a week. Worthing Golf Club, of which I have been a member for over 45 years, celebrated its Centenary in 2005 and around this time a number of centenary events were held at the Clubhouse.

Thinking that when the Club was formed in 1905 magic lantern shows were still popular in the early Edwardian era, I rashly offered to put on a show for the members, and produced an advertising leaflet as shown here (right). You will see that the tickets included 'Scampi or Chicken and Chips, Mince Pies (no doubt left over after Christmas) and Coffee' – though whether this inducement was responsible for the resulting full house, I'm not sure!



Slide from a set of The Tiger and the Tub by Newton & Co.

which I recorded a golf club member – with a splendid bass/baritone voice – singing the lyrics. Needless to say, everyone joined in the chorus.

So although a somewhat unusual venue for a magic lantern show, all seemed to go well and the audience finally tucked into the aforementioned supper!



The advertising leaflet

I set up my biunial in the Club dining room during the afternoon on the day of the show. This alone was much admired and caused considerable interest as most members had certainly never seen such a machine before. Although I approached the evening with nervous apprehension, the show was well received and was made up of the usual selection of old favourites including *The Tiger and the Tub*, slipping and lever slides, chromatropes, dissolving views, and the good old *Jane Conquest* with recorded reading and sound effects. I also included a life model song set *Love Me and the World is Mine*, for



Jeff and his biunial lantern