

FROM THE CHAIR

Richard Feltham

Dear Members

Just as I had submitted my last 'From The Chair' column, the sad news of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was announced. During her reign we have seen moving images in the home develop from a few people having a large cabinet with a small screen displaying low-quality black and white images, to everybody being able to have high-quality colour films and TV in their pocket. Going to the cinema to see the latest film was a regular event, but now we can stream the latest films on our Smart TV almost as soon as they are released. Queen Elizabeth II embraced the technical development of the moving image, from being at the centre of an early televised live outside broadcast at her Coronation in 1953, through being the first monarch to give her Christmas message on TV in 1957, to her dramatic performance at the opening of the 2012 Olympics, not to mention her tea encounter with computerised Paddington Bear.

In the MLS we have also sadly said farewell recently to three long-standing and active members of the Society. In September, Peter Spencer left us, in October Ray Gilbert bowed out (see page 12), then we received the news that Annet Duller had passed away in November.



Our thoughts are with all their families, friends and magic lantern colleagues. With the passing of these accomplished and entertaining presenters, we are all the poorer.

On a happier note, a great time was had by all who attended the 'Bristol Bash' (see p. 14). Thank you to everyone who organised and took part, especially the Utteridges, to make it a very entertaining day.

We also had a wonderful day at the Swedenborg Society in October (see p. 15), beginning with an arresting presentation from Jeremy Brooker on *The Story of a Crime*, through an action-packed programme to *Gossip About Ghosts* from Reg Bosley. It was great to meet so many guests and new members during the day – I hope to see you all again at future meetings.

Our society exists for the members, and we value all contributions that members can give to the MLS. I would love to hear from any members on how we can make the Society more inclusive, and I encourage all members to consider ways (however small!) they may contribute to our activities. If you are talking to someone about the magic lantern, and they show interest, then invite them to a meeting. Guests will always be welcome.

Finally, as the magic lantern season reaches its busiest, I wish all our members a very **HAPPY CHRISTMAS** and an **AMAZING NEW YEAR!**