

## FROM THE CHAIR

*Richard Feltham*

### **Dear Members**

Welcome to a new season in a new year. We face a few more challenges this year with Richard Crangle stepping down as MLS Secretary at the AGM next January (2024) and a diminishing reservoir of presenters for our meetings. There are no qualifications for either role – bar an enthusiasm for the magic lantern and a desire to be more involved in the Society.

We have seen a steady flow of new members over the last year, and I wish you all a warm welcome. Even if you are a recent member, do consider taking an active role in the MLS – new ideas and new perspectives are always appreciated. If you are unsure about being more involved, then feel free to contact me so we can explore how best you can use your talents to enhance the Society. There are always vacancies to be filled and every little bit of time you can spare would help to keep the Society running smoothly.

I am delighted to welcome back Jeremy Brooker onto the



Committee and he has agreed to help Lester Smith and Martin Gilbert plan our future meetings.

I am aware that a number of new members would appreciate some advice on how to acquire, restore or look after magic lanterns and slides. I would be very interested to hear from new (and older) members about what kind of practical information you are looking for, with a view to making this available to members and relevant to the issues people face. Perhaps some future articles in *TML*? In the meantime, please email me, or talk to me at a meeting, and I will do my best to help.

It is my great pleasure to let you know that John Selway has been given a Life Membership for his outstanding contribution to the MLS. His enormous enthusiasm and wide range of interests have been

invaluable in organising very successful meetings – and conventions – especially in the Birmingham area. Congratulations John.

I am looking forward to the Swedenborg meeting at the end of April, and I hope to see as many of you as possible there. For those who can't attend in person, please join us online, or catch up later via the website.