

FROM THE CHAIR

Richard Feltham

It was great to see everybody at the AGM in January, and a big 'thank you' to all the presenters and those who put the programme together, and especially to **George Auckland** and **Frog Morris** for their heroic efforts to enable online access. Thanks also go to the Museum staff for their usual support and helpfulness.

We welcome onto the MLS Committee **Nicole Mollett** (Communications Officer – Facebook), and **Sandra Lawrence**. Thank you also to **Edgar** and **Linda Gibbs** for volunteering to take on the role of Auditors. We are still looking for a person/people to take on some or all of the job of Secretary. Please think seriously about doing this.

We are looking forward to the Special Meeting in the Netherlands and I hope you have all seen the details. If you haven't booked yet, and want to go, places are limited so make sure of your place today. Thank



you to Monique and Henk for all their efforts in making this possible. We hope to be able to hold other meetings outside the UK in the next few years. This would allow members who cannot attend UK meetings to participate as well as provide a greater variety of venues.

Questions Answered

How does the slide changer work? How do I change from individual wooden slides to a slide changer in the middle of a demonstration?

This is not usually a problem as changing to a slide holder is virtually the same as removing one wooden slide and inserting another. The trick is to find a slide carrier that works well with your lantern. There are different types of slide carriers. The standard version holds two slides and just moves side to side, being

loaded and unloaded from both sides of the lantern. This can be a tricky with multiple-lens lanterns. Then there is the Beard's Patent slide carrier that operates from one side only, allowing the slide to be loaded and

unloaded from the same side. These can be used on either side of the lantern but seem to be easier from the right side. I have never seen a left-handed one.

Make sure that the slide carrier is right for the format of slides being used (American and Continental standard slides are rectangular, not square like British slides). If you only have one or two of these slides, and the rest are wood-framed, then try using a wooden frame holder that matches the rest of the slides. The most common design separates into two parts, enabling you to insert the glass slide temporarily.

How do I get the best from an illuminant? Does its position within the lantern need to be calibrated? Is this a one-time only thing, or does it need to be re-calibrated every time? How do I set up a lantern – I understand it needs to be placed at an angle?

You can adjust the illuminant on three axes – forward/back, left/right and up/down. This can be done by trial and error before you start your show. The aim is to achieve an even light across the image. This gets easier with practice and as you get to know your lantern better.

As with modern digital projectors, the more tilt there is on the lantern, the more the image is stretched at the top and compressed at the bottom. Although there are ways to counter this, very few lanterns are able to correct it. Position the lantern at a comfortable working height with the lens as level as possible while centring the image on the screen. The further away the lantern is from the screen, the less tilt is required to centre the image. In some cases the screen can be adjusted to an angle that makes it more square to the tilt of the lens. The focal length of the lens will also come into play, as the further away the lantern, the bigger the image. Having different focal length lenses available is always helpful. There is a standard chart of image size to focal length, which tells you how far away to set up your lantern from the screen – contact me for details.

There's a chip in the big glass lens at the back. Does this matter?

The best way to determine if it matters is to try it. Sometimes a chip in the wrong place can cause flare, or dark spots. In my experience most small chips, and even cracks, do not make a big difference.