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## FROM THE CHAIR

*Richard Feltham*

Since my last message, we have made progress with our application to become a CIO, a form of charity. Our amazing Society Secretary, Richard Crangle, has completed the Herculean task of filling in the application form and submitting it to the Charity Commission. We now await their response. This status may help us with banking as well as fund raising and applying for grants.

As part of this change, please let me know if you hold a first aid certificate and would be willing to be called on at meetings. Another call for help comes from our wonderful livestreaming/recording team (mainly George, Frog and Nicole). They would love other members to join them – no experience is needed, as training will be given – especially with October 2026 approaching fast! This will be our 50th Anniversary Convention at the Midlands Art Centre in Edgbaston, Birmingham, from 9 to 11 October. Make sure it is in your diary now so you can book as soon as places become available. Some volunteers have already come forward to help during the Convention, but more are needed. Again, please let me know if you are willing to join the team.

### Questions Answered

*I'd like to make my own slides. Can I paint them myself? What with?*

*I'd like to make slides from my own photographs/digital images. What is the best way to do that?*

*What is the best way to print on acetate? Where do I find the acetate?*

I will answer these three questions as one. Yes, you can make your own slides using any transparent medium – only limited by your imagination. A few words of caution, whatever you are using is likely to get hot so



test out how it may be affected by the heat. The other consideration is how the materials used will work with your slide carrier.

A project in West Sussex made slides from two sheets of relatively stiff cardboard with a sheet of acetate sandwiched in between. They cut 3¼ inch squares of cardboard with round, square or rectangular openings for the picture in the middle. The slides were coloured with glass paints, and/or transparent felt tip markers. Acetate (for ink jet printers) is available from most stationery suppliers. A clear coating can protect acetate from moisture damage.

Some people have made slides from traditional glass (2mm) with acetate in between. You can use recycled glass from terminally damaged slides.

I am currently experimenting with using water slide transfers, which are available from art shops and stationers, and making glass slides in the traditional way. I will let you know the results. I originally discovered magic lanterns because I needed to project medium format slides (6 x 6 cm and 6 x 7 cm). Slide frames of this size are available online, and can be used with acetates and thin glass.

*I'd like a fancy surround/frame for a slide. How can I create one? I'm assuming Photoshop is my friend?*

The frame normally needs to be opaque, so can be created with supplies from most craft shops. Photoshop may not stop light getting through the parts you want to be opaque.

*Can I use clear plastic for cover 'glasses'?*

Yes, but be aware of how the heat affects the plastic used. Also some plastics are not of optical quality and distort the image. Some have polarising properties and again may not give you the desired effect.