

THE SOUTH WEST MEETING IN BRISTOL

20 September 2025

A 'full house' gathered for the annual (we hope) 'Bristol Bash' in Fishponds, organised by **Keith and Jennifer Uttridge** with **John Finney** in charge of projecting. After an introduction from Keith, with orders for fish and chips, John Finney showed *Maggie*, a song set. **Pat Furley** then gave us a traditional Punch and Judy tale with **Stan Roberts** voicing Mr Punch. Young Stan (90) gave the next presentation – a whistle-stop tour of the 'gateway to the Empire', Southampton. This featured mainly shipping and famous liners such as



Mr Punch and Toby



Southampton docks

the *Mauretania* and *Queen Mary*. **Richard Rigby** and **David Soanes** showed a late-17th-century long slide featuring a Christmas dinner hosted by the Lord of the Manor. Next was a later slide of the frozen Thames (possibly the 1814 freeze) and finally the story of *Old Mother Hubbard*. Next **Kevin Varty** asked for help identifying the locations of photographic slides rescued from a coal cellar in Northampton, taken by Henry Cooper ... or his son or grandson with the same name. Llandudno and Carisbrooke Castle were spotted but many were more difficult to pinpoint.



A Henry Cooper photographic slide



The estate manager, reverend and doctor at Christmas dinner

Robin Palmer demonstrated his new 400W LED illuminant, developed for projecting theatrical special effects, and associated kit for using it in magic lanterns. Projecting slides he compared this considerably brighter and smaller device to the 200W LED he used to supply. John Finney then revealed a treasure hidden for 30 years in his shed – a device that shows a 35 mm film with a vinyl record. Finally before lunch **Juliette Harcourt** talked about her grandfather, the Director of Denham Film Studio's laboratories, and his expeditions, including to Tibet's border (with William McGovern) and Easter Island. She has recently retrieved his archive from her attic.

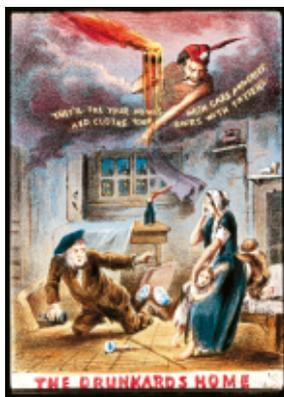


Martin and lantern

After lunch, **Linda and Edgar Gibbs** showed two 'digital magic lantern' presentations – the first a chromatrope and the second the story of Le Corbusier's Ronchamp Chapel (completed 1955) in the Vosges Mountains. **Richard Crangle** compared Graystone Bird of Bath's 1900-05 slides of Castle Combe in Wiltshire – a place he returned to often – to images taken on a recent visit. **Martin Gilbert** demonstrated his bull's-eye lantern, dating from the 1820s, made in Germany and retailed by Carpenter. He projected



Jeremy's slipping slide



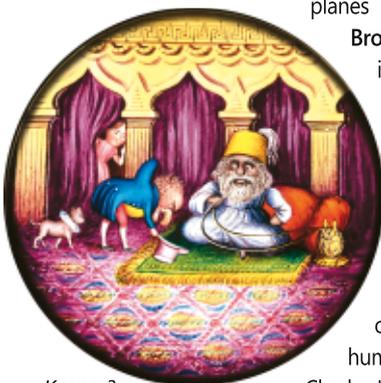
From The Whisky Demon

phantasmagoria slides dating from the same era using a head torch as illuminant. The Uttridges and company then presented *The Lighthouse Keeper*, a tragic tale of the keeper, his daughter Nell and the demon drink with life model slides, not necessarily in the right order. Keith showed planes with aviators Jim Mollison and Amy Johnson. **Jeremy Brooker** then showed some recently acquired slipping slides including two triple slippers.



John, Keith and Stan 'sorting' the lighthouse keeper

Andrew Gill – speaking on behalf of Miss Agnes Weston and the Royal Sailors' Rest – brought us scenes of life in the Royal Navy (1906) and the work of Miss Weston for the sailors or 'bluejackets'. 'Aggie's' is still going. **Dolly Whilems** and **Derek Adams** showed *Sugar Bread* (E.G. Wood set), which they identified as Wilhelm Busch's illustrations for *Hansel and Gretel*, and Carpenter and Westley slides labelled 'Punch' that appeared to be the German character Kasper. **Mary Ann Auckland** presented *The Water-Babies* by Rev. Charles Kingsley. Kevin showed us 'what to do if' ... a member of the audience catches fire! Finally **Alan Brindle** brought us trains to celebrate 200 years of the railway, human/animal interactions, and temperance slides galore including *The Whisky Demon* – but finished with a set on Charles Heidsieck champagne. After such an amazing packed programme, everyone deserved their fish and chips.



Kasper?