

Christchurch Meeting – May 1995

Excerpts from the write up by David Lascelles.

Date 5th 6th 7th May.

The meeting was held in the Belfast School hall with 67 in attendance.

Friday night got off to a great start, once the registrations had been completed. With a wide range of material on offer, the sales tables were attracting many customers. Prior to supper, free raffles were held of 8mm and 16mm film, surplus to the Archives requirements which were eagerly sought after and much appreciated. Supper brought the evening to a close.

Saturday began with morning tea before the meeting got underway. On completion, the ladies departed for a look around the town while the auction was in progress. John Bell was in fine fettle as was his assistant Michael Woolf and it wasn't long before all items had found new owners. Lunch was then served.

After lunch it was off to Kaiapoi for an afternoon of films presented by Morris Jackson. Christchurch member, Bryan Coulter, resplendent in white coat, hat and a Nestlé's tray, moved among the rows selling goodies, which added a nice touch to the afternoon's programme. This consisted of a series of trailers from the late 1960s and early 1970s, Disney material, early Pathé footage, Warner Bros Silver Anniversary film among others made this an interesting compilation. Also screened was Ian Fisher's 1982 colour film made for the New Zealand Railways.

Dinner on Saturday night was at the Redwood Tavern and with plenty of good food, drink and company a great night was had by all. The film *Hello Dolly* was screened and for those still in party mode, a visit to various home theatrettes followed.

Sunday morning at about 9.30 am, everyone gathered at the venue where we split into groups in readiness for our visit to members home cinemas. These included Gordon Somerville's charming little theatre with the tidiest projection box ever. Gordon showed us a Tom and Jerry cartoon and *The Oyster Men*, a film much prized and sought after by Buffs. Next was a visit to Keith Steffenson's cosy upstairs cinema. He showed *Lady and the Tramp* (Disney's first cinemascope feature) and an early NFU commissioned colour film promoting the South Island.

Time had caught up with us, so it was away to the home of Bryan Ellis to enjoy a beautiful BBQ lunch. Prior to lunch, Bryan showed *Blaze Glory* – a 1971 spoof on western films – in his beautifully appointed theatrette. After lunch Bryan drew lucky numbers for some shorts that were surplus to him. Time for the official farewells and another meeting had come to an end.