

## **Blenheim Meeting – November 2018**

Date 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> November.

The meeting was held in St Andrew's Church hall.

This would be the first time a meeting had been held in Blenheim and there was feeling of excitement as members gathered on Friday night. At 6.30 pm a lovely array of finger food was served and when everyone had had their fill, we were advised that because of the large amount of films for sale from John McDonald's estate, John Bell decided he would try to get through the bulk of this on Friday night instead of the usual Saturday morning. It was a busy time with many bargains purchased by members.

The meeting commenced at 8.45 am on Saturday morning and because it went on for longer than usual, we broke for morning tea before it concluded. Then it was on to the auction which was finished in record time. Lunch was then served.

After lunch, we boarded the buff's bus for a visit to the static displayed Argosy aircraft. This is believed to be the last one left in the world. From here it was on to the Woodbourne Air Base for a visit to base theatre. Our guide told us that the theatre is not used much these days as those on base prefer to watch their movies on line or go into town to the cinema.

From here, it was on to the Springlands Tavern where we enjoyed a lovely roast dinner. Then it was off to the Garlic Shed where we saw the film *Carry Me Back*, which was partly filmed in Blenheim. After a very full day, we boarded the bus for the journey back to St Andrew's Church.

Sunday morning saw the group meet at 8.45 am at the Event Cinemas to view the NFU film *This is New Zealand*. Morning tea was provided and then we boarded the bus for the short drive to the old disused Westend Theatre where the owner, Diana Handley gave us a brief history of the theatre. Back on the bus again, we were taken to Highfield Winery where we were to have lunch.

Sunday night we gathered at the vintage Car Club rooms in Brayshaw Park where the BBQ was being held. After the meal the draw for the signed placemat was made. Then followed a short programme of movies and at the conclusion of these, the official farewells took place.

This brought to a close a very busy and interesting weekend in Blenheim.