

Christchurch Meeting – November 1997

Excerpts from the write up by David Lascelles.

Date 31st October 1st 2nd November.

The meeting was held in the Belfast School Hall.

Friday night began at 6 pm with registrations followed by a little socializing. With plenty of bargains on the sales tables, lots of transactions were taking place. A delicious supper was served and we called it a night.

On Saturday morning, many members arrived for the meeting. During the meeting, John Bell (deputising for our Patron John McDonald), presented Don Mackay with a Life Membership certificate, much to the delight of all present. With the meeting completed, morning tea was served. Soon after, John Bell prepared for action with the auction. His helpers were Brian Coulter, Sid Chell and Gavin Cowern. At the conclusion, lunch was served.

After lunch, most boarded the buff's bus and headed off to visit the Antarctic Centre. Others went to the Air Force Museum.

The Saturday evening meal was held at the Sequoia Restaurant and was an excellent dinner. After dinner, we boarded the bus again for the drive to Rangiora and a visit to Fred Read's Regent Theatre for an evening of films. On the programme was an old Pathé Pictorial, a Look At Life, a cartoon, a rare Robert Benchley short from 1943 titled *My Tomato*, some recent trailers, a Pete Smith Speciality and the re-issue trailer for *Gone With the Wind*.

Sunday morning, we met at the venue where we divided up into groups for visits to two home cinemas and with car pooling arranged, we departed. First stop was Graham Ritchie's cinema where he screened the original and re-issue trailers of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, a Look at Life, a wonderful Disney Silly Symphony cartoon along with a British Movietone News about Britain and the Empire preparing for war, all on Super 8. Our next stop was to Brian Coulter's cosy cinema. His programme was an NFU film which included *Airborne* which had some amazing photography. We then headed to Bryan and Dawn Ellis's home for a wonderful BBQ lunch, after which a special auction took place to sell about six films, donated to the club by Bryan Ellis plus some from Ed Harding. The funds raised were for club use and Bryan insisted they be used to purchase a fax machine. Furious bidding ensued, which saw \$670 raised! The club has now purchased a Brother plain paper fax. A big thank you to Bryan and Ed and also Ben Rumble. During the afternoon, continuous movies were available in Bryan's cinema which rounded off another great weekend.