

# OUT OF THE HAT

South London Magic Society Newsletter

NO. 2

APRIL, 2016



## Special Points of Interest:

- *Michael Pearse*
- *Oriental Magic*
- *Schedule for the year*
- *Competition!*

## A LITTLE HOUSE KEEPING!

Before starting the report a little house keeping is in order. We occupied the same building but this time we were upstairs, in the 'high-vaulted roof space' church. The Dias (that's a stage, not Robert Dyas – that's the shop next door) provided a nice performance area with the seats set out in a curve. Any lecturer should be chuffed to perform his piece, in this environment. We are trying to get access from 7p.m, and then to reinstate the teach-in times Gary so expertly manned in times past.

Secondly, there is only one fire exit – so following Gary's lead, in the event of

a fire please remember its WOMEN, CHILDREN and PAINTERS & DECORATORS FIRST – OK! On a more sombre note, the evening started with the sad news of the death of 82 year old, comedy juggler / magician Michael Pearse (Halpenny) . 'Pearse' had been unwell for some time and he knew the end was near, he still managed to join us a month or so ago – he will be missed.

Gary invited Sarah to lead the tributes, which she did with aplomb by performing one of Pearse's favourite routines: The Pom-Pom stick - to a rhyming patter. Gary first met Pearse, as be

came to be known, some 16 years ago and has never forgotten the advise then received. 'Learn 6-8 tricks and be very good at those'. In typical ever enthusiastic fashion, Gary's recently streamlined repertoire has shrunk to 12 effects but he embraced the concept. Finally, with some military experience of his own under his belt, Gary recalled his favourite joke of Pearse's:

'My Uncle was killed at the Battle of The Little Big Horn (much respect). Yes, he was camping in the next door field and went over to ask them to keep the noise down....'



## MICHAEL PEARSE.



So the morning of the 1st April came the news that my dear friend Pearse Halpenny had passed away after a lengthy fight with cancer. I have so many lovely memories of the great man, we attended conventions, shows and even went on a few holidays together. The stories and laughter never stopped. Pearse started off touring in the days of music hall with Virgil and Julie and did many shows at the Leeds Variety in the good old days in later years. Pearse had a very funny act, talented on two levels,

the juggling and his fantastic comic timing, pure genius. Pearse won numerous awards over the years including the Carlton comedy award which was presented by the Magic Circle in 2010. Pearse was always happy to talk shop and share his magic and juggling skills. He had time for everyone and anyone that was interested in his beloved art form. So please take a few moments to remember, Pearse you were a lovely man xx  
Graham Lee

### Inside this issue:

Editorial	2
Oriental Magic Night	2
Ditto	3-5
Meet The Members	6
What's coming up	6
Tail Enders	7

## OUT OF THE HAT

### EDITOR'S BIT

Hi There—me again! Sorry, I really don't intend to make this a regular item, as I wish to stand in the shadows facilitating Society gossip etc., But sometimes this is the best place to put odd items in. First, most important, Mark's wonderful pictures deteriorate in quality when reduced and put into this newsletter format. The intention is that they are available via FLICKR and I'm trying to show you how you access them. There should be instructions in this

newsletter, failing that, in the next one. We publish the annual schedule. Things may change 'we' are still bedding down—please bare with us. I know of old not everyone is comfortable committing anything to paper—e-mail or whatever. If you want to phone and dictate something, I'm VERY HAPPY to help. Please be sensitive to my employer's needs! Gary asked that we try and keep the website's password secret and secure, I'm sure it can change but for now your

help in this respect is much appreciated... News! - Roberto Giobbi has two books coming out, one in June another in November. The first isn't but may have been, Card College 6. We would like to provide a members pic and name and e-mail address 'Members list'. This will need your agreement and pictures to help us compile. We shall start the ball rolling soon! As Eric Morecambe used to say 'What do you think of it so far?' Best Wishes. PJ



Paul Jackson.

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## ORIENTAL MAGIC NIGHT—TUESDAY 5TH APRIL, 2016



Gary returned to the stage, calling upon Kevin to join him; the Eight of Clubs was signed and lost in the deck – three attempts failed to locate it and apologising that this effect wasn't very Chinesey, he flourished a suitably patterned 'silk', which when whipped away caused a small Schweppes sealed bottle to appear, complete with signed card inside.

Kevin declined to drink the mixer but

it looked nice and sparkling to me – and indicated that another sparkling evening had commenced (Ed; Sorry about that miserable pun... don't worry, I've given myself a sound ticking-off for it).

Roy, having just returned from a trip to Carnaby Street, displayed three miniature Chinese God-like statues and by way of a subtle magician's choice routine, Stuart, as spectator volunteer, caused a nice little green man to be chosen. Roy had predicted the outcome and upon emptying out another bag, a matching green statue was produced.

Thanking Roy, host Gary recounted a time where-in he had deployed a similar set-up and so impressed were the bar and serving staff, that he was kept in free drinks all night!

Next up was 'new' member and apprentice mentalist Kevin. We were treated to some pretty clever stuff. Chinese New Year, according to the Gregorian Calendar (that's our one) can fall anytime within the space of a fortnight – this year it fell on the 8<sup>th</sup>



February. Having different tastes to that of his wife, he called upon the power of the numbers to help him select his favourite celebratory Chinese dishes, over hers.

The massed ranks of the audience determined three numbers 80~21~6 which not only matched the menu and provided Kevin with his three favourite dishes, it also correlated with the date of the festivities – viz 08-02-16. Kevin's wife would have to be satisfied with the accompanying free prawn crackers!

Peter James took to the stage, with a rehearsal of his examination piece for membership of The Magic Circle. Not Chinesey admittedly, still he hoped the Society would forgive and indulge him. Kicking off with a quick psychological experiment, the audience selected; from a free 'black or red'; Clubs or Spades, name a number choice; a card – The Queen of Clubs was produced. The magician failed, by one, to hit his mark, Kevin having assisted by selecting the King of Spades. 'Luckily' Peter had covered this eventuality and had predicted this outcome by marking the Queen's back with an appropriate notation.

Fire! No... it wasn't Gary's worst nightmare, we learnt that Peter, from youth, had always been fascinated by it. From a burst of flame, a red ball appeared – to be split in two, the act swiftly moved onto a neat ring on string – ring off string and ring manipulation routine. Finally, the Five of Spades was selected and having set his thumb alight,





the Five was produced in a suitably equally impressive fashion.

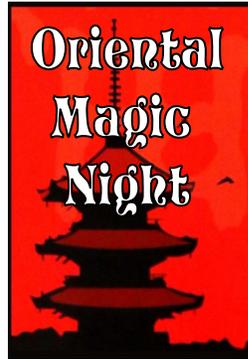
Joe's turn. A Devil's head 'Henny' Mask was displayed along with a pack of Chinese styled cards – the backs were from Chairman Mow's 'Red' Era and fitted nicely with the evening's Chinese theme.

The mask could find any card thought of, in the pack, each card had a suitable space for Kevin (spectator assistant once again) to move the mask across three tabled cards. A sealed prediction was opened – the Four of Spades.

Unfortunately the Nine of Spades had

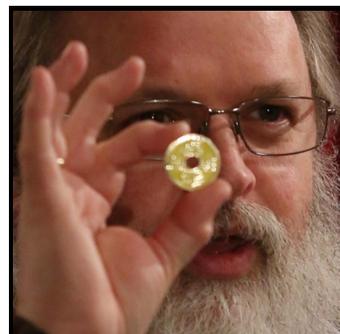
been selected – no matter, remember the Henny Mask could find any card 'merely' thought of – but having no hands, he was going to need assistance. Nine cards were counted out from the deck and the chosen card located.

Next up was Stuart Kelly who took to the 'stage' to recount the story of his naughty Uncle Jim.



Not only did Uncle Jim teach Stuart poker, he also introduced him to gambling using Chinese money – you could tell it was Chinese money, coz having a hole through its middle it enabled the holder to 'Peking through' (yes it was that sort of evening folks!) A string of finest silk (actually polyester but we appreciated the illusion) was passed through the coins and while the coins, one-by-one, through various means, the coins freed themselves. The first release very impressively and visibly, slid its bonds and fell to the table. The Chinese coins are worthy of mention too – being gold and yellow – very nice they were! (try Alakazam, Kent)

This concluded our first half. Tea, coffee and conviviality flowed for 20 minutes before once more Gary mounted the Dyas to serve a second helping. Apparently he'd once had a Chinese girlfriend but four weeks later, he'd needed another one....



Four Chinese coins were produced – the Chinese, known for their proverbs (we were told) have one very succinct one: “Less Is More”. With Sarah on stage (to give Kevin some respite!) Gary proceeded to demonstrate how the proverb worked in practice – each time the coins depleted by having one of their number removed and pocketed, Gary was still able to count four coins out into Sarah’s hands – Less Is More! Not, by his own admission, one of Gary’s most impactful routines, none the less, it was a ‘go to’ for when called upon to entertain slightly well lubricated male wedding guest attendees, and took his score from 12 to thirteen! Perhaps, from here-on in, it will forever be known as ‘the thirteenth trick?’

Rob took to the stage – coins seemingly becoming a theme for the evening – he showed his coin and caused it to pass through his hand. The You-Tube generation had reverse engineered the learning experience, he acknowledged his grandson’s help in presenting the effect.

Gary Sinclair displayed a menu – a meal, a Chinese Meal, was in order and Sarah, Stuart and Kevin were invited to join George in its consumption.



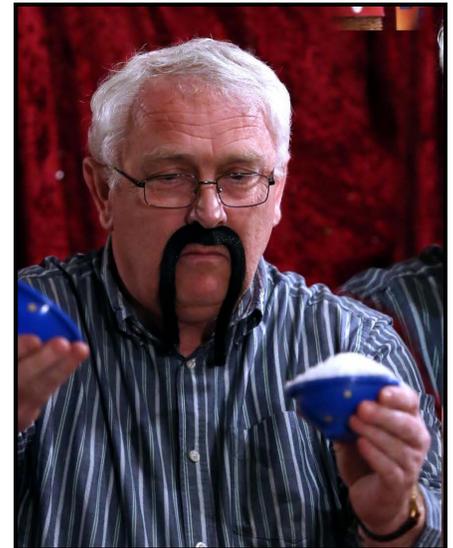
Cards carrying numbers were selected and entered into a calculator – what could they afford to buy? The calculator displayed 165 – Ah So! £165 would buy a lovely meal – what would each of you choose? asked George. Double checking the calculator, the money sum had been miss called— they only had £1.65 TO SPEND. It looked as if chopsticks wouldn’t be required



after all! Brandishing the menu, they’d have to settle for Sweet Corn Soup and magically this matched George’s prediction as he handed out spoons.

New Member ‘One Hung Lo’ was invited to perform.

A close relative, I hope you don’t mind me reporting. In the land where Gods and Magicians dined together, the ancient mystery of The Chinese Rice Bowls was commonly performed. Two empty bowls were displayed, one filled with rice. The bowls came together – the quantity of rice doubled. Emptying the bowls – the bowls came together once more and water sprung forth.



‘One Hung’ assured the audience “me no spilly water” “no”, “yes” “no” “yes” as water was thrown out “.... YES, me spilly water!”

Gary, once more, mounted the stage and invited Joe and Stuart to select cards and sign them. Binding them together in a paper clip and with special Chinese ‘flash’ wielding paper, the cards were scorched and when return to their respective signatories, were found to be half each other’s card in addition to their own. (A single faced playing card (2 in 1 style). A neat give-away and Gary’s last effect as President.

With her new and improved Cabinet of Canton Chinese Torture Box, Sarah started her demonstration by first inflicting the torture of: ‘nails through object’ effect, by ‘torturing’ a balloon – BANG! It obviously worked! Brendon Tehan readily put his arm into harms way and was very relieved that Sarah’s attempts to thrust the nails through his arm, failed. Obviously she checked with Brendon before starting, “ your arm.... it’s not something you’re attached to is it?” she had asked.



Stuart Sanders, Club Secretary, (standing in for new President Simon Rosselli) thanked Gary for all his hard work, first as Treasurer than as President . Gary becomes Vice President for two years. The Oriental night's entertainment drew to a close with Fakir Ebenezer's famous refrain of renewal 'New lamps for old' ringing in our ears, as we wish Gary well and look forward to a new home and a new President. A big 'Thank You' to Gary and to all those who participated.



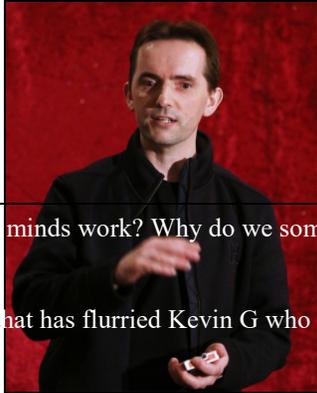
Finally, Sarah showed a 'Block-off' prop that according to Roy preceded an effect called: Billy Blockhead (Ed: sounds like a 'Supreme' job to me) , we were treated to an explanation as to the clever way wax was deployed to help with the threading which ran through both the block and its frame; perhaps one day we'll see it in action.



## MEET THE MEMBERS—KEVIN GOODWIN

### Likes:

Queen & Freddie Mercury,  
Chinese Food,  
Relaxing with the family  
&  
Self-Improvement



### Dislikes:

Brussels Sprouts,  
Irrational people,  
not having enough time  
&  
my slow brain!

What makes us think? How do our minds work? Why do we sometimes get 'telepathic' feelings? Are people really easy to read?

These are the thoughts and things that has flurried Kevin G who has been on a lifelong quest to answer...

Kevin's magical interests lay in the psychological and mind reading side of the art. This can include using cards, numbers, a pen and paper or just eye contact and body language to tell someone what they are thinking, predict the future or tell someone whether they are lying or telling the truth!

*101 Tricks to See Before You die...*  
75 - *Dancing Cane*  
74 — *Vanishing Motorbike & Rider*  
73—*Number Prediction*  
72—*Giant Memory*  
71 — *Watch Steal*  
70—*Gambling Demonstration*  
69—*Upside Down Chain Escape*  
68—*Dizzy Limit*  
67—*Electric Chairs*  
66—*Book Test*  
65—*Aerial Fishing*  
64—*Linking Rings (x3)*  
63—*Snooker Ball Divination*  
62—*Clock Dial*  
61—*Production of a Car*  
60—*Amac's Find The Lady*  
59—*Water Torture Escape*  
58—*Glass of Liquid Production*  
57—*Double Sawing A Women*  
56—*Spirit Cabinet*  
55—*Salt Pour*  
54—*Sword Box*  
53—*Snow Storm In China*  
52—*Ninja Rings*  
51—*Floating Light Bulb.*

## MEET THE MEMBERS—JOE RANKIN

### Likes:

holidaying in the West  
Country,  
  
classic cars and  
  
messing around with boats.



### Dislikes:

Flying  
  
&  
Early Mornings

## What's Coming Up...

May – Roy – Prop management  
June – Dealer Dem - Adrian Sullivan from Manchester ( open to other London Magic Clubs)  
July – Close Up Competition  
August – Simon - Lucky Dip  
September – James Brown Lecture  
October – Paul/Chippy—Surprise Night  
Nov – Stage Competition  
Dec – Xmas Family & Friends  
Jan – 2nd Tuesday of the Month – Sarah  
Feb – David Weeks Lecture  
March – Either Lecture or Members of the Magic Circle Entertain  
April – AGM

**Ideas , desires, wishes, wants and needs catered for, just ask!**



# Woofle Dust For Sale

Sawing the lady in half? Performing 'spike' ?  
Missing and thrusting the nail through spectator's  
hand... Concerned that your bullet catch routine  
might not be quite as polished as you'd hoped?  
Then what you need is 'Woofle Dust!'

We 'ere at 'Honest John's Magical Emporium' are  
delighted to announce that we've just taken  
possession of a load of brand new dust—yes  
folks—we are proud to announce 'that we're full  
of it' and for this one time only we are pleased  
to offer it to readers at an unbelievably knocked  
down price... We've packaged it up and lovingly  
prepared it so you can produce as such ... or as  
little... as is required to produce any magical  
effect. So don't delay it can be all yours... It's  
not just the cows that needs all this bull you  
know!

Seriously, I'm flicking through Slydini's very serious  
tome and you'll never guess what I come  
across... his take on Woofle Dust... you can't  
make it up!

## THE SOUTH LONDON MAGIC SOCIETY

Meets the first Tuesday of every  
month:

Methodist Church  
Clockhouse Road  
Beckenham  
Kent  
BR3 4JP



Nelson T. Downs —  
him of the 'The King Of Coins' fame ...



co-authored a book with John Northern  
Hilliard, in it he talks about how magic  
in the 1920's had gone from manual  
dexterity 'mechanical' presentations  
and back to manual dexterity again.  
He introduces himself and then  
describes the average magician: " I  
myself practiced palming long and  
perseveringly," he tells us in his  
monumental work on conjuring, " and  
acquired there at a very considerable  
degree of skill.

*I used to be able to palm two-five-franc  
pieces at once, the hand never the less  
remaining as freely open as though it  
held nothing whatever." He is a very  
ordinary performer who, in this age,  
cannot conceal a dozen or fifteen coins in  
his hand, and pluck them singly from the  
palm to produce in a fan at the finger  
tips; and there are several specialists in  
coin manipulation who experience no  
difficulty in handling a larger number of  
coins, thinking nothing, for instance, of  
concealing from thirty-five to forty coins  
in the hand; and, what is even more  
remarkable, executing the pass with this  
unstable stack as easily and undetectably  
as it they were handling three or four half  
-dollars."*

So there you go...

I still haven't

mastered a classic palm....



Yes Folks , it's Competition  
Time Again... The DL  
comes in many different  
forms and guises but just  
how many differing variants  
on such a simple concept as  
this, are there out there? So if  
you can list as many as you  
can prove you know of and  
be prepared to be challenged  
on any one of their  
derivation, history or  
recording, then list them out  
and send them to me. He  
who produces the most  
correct, longest list will win  
a prize—honest! Ok, it's not  
going to be an all expenses  
paid trip for two to Las  
Vagas, condoms supplied but  
a little something appropriate  
to the task... Answers will be  
published in the next  
newsletter, as will the  
winner's name. Over to you.  
[jacksons123@btinternet.com](mailto:jacksons123@btinternet.com)