



SPRING 2022

Dear Members and Friends,

***W**e are at the beginning. . . .*

The NHLF has granted us funding to appoint a firm of consultants, who will help us to devise a Forward Plan for the business and the Heritage and Collections Trust. No time has been wasted and we have been busy sending out tenders, showing people round the building, answering questions, and then sorting through the six tenders that came in. We were really impressed by the field and interviewed all six.



A team from the architects measuring the building on 6th May 2022.

The rigorous process has resulted in us appointing Innes Associates of London, who joined the Directors and Trustees last week, to start the project off. Our initial meeting has already been followed by up by a visit from two of the team, who have been measuring the building, prior to the surveyors, who arrive in a couple of weeks. In the meantime, Innes have already begun the process of looking at spaces and thinking of how we can use the building going forward. We want this to be a truly inclusive process, so any thoughts and ideas will be gratefully received!

The timescale means that work will take place over the summer and early autumn, with the final report being delivered in November – ready to start the next phase early in 2023. Exciting times ahead!

***E**vening Talks restarted*

Jane has restarted lectures to local clubs and societies and the company has purchased a new digital projector to replace the one from out of the ark she used to borrow when giving presentations! These talks are a good way of getting our work 'out there' and it is surprising how many people are still unaware of the studio – all of whom are potential customers and visitors!

***D**erby Family History Day – Museum of Making - 8th June*

We will be taking a table at this event and hope that we will inspire local family historians to 'curate' their family photos and think about either copying or restoring damaged images and possibly, going further and creating a photobook, complete with photos and family history.

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The
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Heritage Trust
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Heritage Open Days: September 15th & 17th

We were delighted to receive an email telling us that the annual Heritage Open Days in September are back. The theme for this year is 'Astounding Inventions' and of course, photography fits perfectly.

As usual, we will be opening the studio for pre-booked tours but this year, we will be introducing photography to visitors in a very novel way! 'Mr Winter' aka Simon, will be in the studio, for people to experience having their portrait taken. He has cleverly linked the plate camera to his laptop, so we will be able to send a digital image on a cdv – at no cost! We hope this will be the first of many such 'visits' by our Victorian Photographer.

We need volunteers to help as Room Stewards – please get in touch if you are interested in helping. (Training on company history and photographic processes provided)!



Our Victorian Photographer aka Simon.

Looking ahead to our new membership year

We are looking forward to the new membership year and planning the lecture series. Details will be in the next newsletter, but we will probably be moving venue away from the university – watch this space!

Collections online

Thanks to an idea from Mick, one of the stalwart volunteers, Trust images are being made available to the public via a new feature on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. These are providing extremely popular, resulting in online comments and responses – one reaching over 17,000 people! The volunteers who are involved in scanning the cellar plates are choosing images that strike them as interesting or unusual, so it has been a really positive interaction between the Trust, volunteers and the public.



Princess Elizabeth & Prince Philip on the balcony of the Council offices in 1947.

Platinum Jubilee – 5th June



We have been invited to join the celebrations taking place at the Arboretum and Louisa has been occupied creating a little exhibition on pop-up banners, which will help the Friends of the Arboretum to interpret the event. This will be ably assisted by the Alexandra Palace Television Society, who will be contributing a 1950s television set, showing the BBC footage of the Coronation itself. The exhibition will be in the Lodge on Sunday, June 5th.

Louisa is planning a spectacular window display, themed to fit Winter's during the 70 years of Queen Elizabeth's reign. The bunting is on order, and she will be using images from plates taken in 1952 and scanned by the volunteers to match up with present day sitters and it will be exciting to see Trust images used for a display.