



Dear Members and Friends,

## ***W*elcome to the Autumn Newsletter**

The heat of the summer months has already dissipated, and the time has flown by. We are now facing the shift in season, heading towards Christmas!

I've already started to wear my Team Winters fleece jacket; Louisa is planning the Christmas window display and we've started putting events into the 2023 diary!

Sending all our Friends good wishes and thanks for your continued support.

Jane.

## ***L*ectures on 18<sup>th</sup> October & 6<sup>th</sup> December**

We have arranged two lectures for the Autumn programme and look forward very much to seeing you at one or both of them. A lecture theatre has been booked at the University of Derby Kedleston Road campus for both events, so will have fantastic facilities. You will be receiving a reminder email in due course.

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October - Peter Jordan-Turner – "Artist or Artisan – self-promotion in the Victorian studio".

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December – Eric Butler – "Early photography in Nottingham".

The lecture on 6<sup>th</sup> December will also be our Christmas get-together, so there will be a mince pie along with your tea or coffee!

Going forward, we are planning a joint lecture with the Derbyshire Archaeological Society, which will be via Zoom. The lecturer will be Dr Geoffrey Belknap, the former Head Curator at the National Media Museum in Bradford. More details in the next newsletter.

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## *Format planning*

We have started planning for the Format '23 Festival; now one of Europe's biggest photographic festivals. The new Chief Executive, Peter Bonnell came to the studio and is really supportive of the wider restoration project and clearly sees the potential that the collection holds for events and exhibitions. He takes the view that the whole of Derby's history from mid-Victorian Britain onwards, is contained within our walls! Needless to say, we are looking forward to working with them.

## *Heritage Open Days*



Our fantastic Heritage Open Day window by Louisa.

We opened our doors to almost 100 people for this year's Heritage Open Days.

The studio looked amazing following a (big) cleaning day and re-display – further enhanced by the presence of 'Mr Winter' (aka volunteer Simon Vaughan), who took studio portraits of visitors as a memento of their visit.

This was the first time we have ventured into having a costumed interpreter in the studio and it worked brilliantly!

Other innovations for this year included an activity for children on the Saturday afternoon – making pin-hole cameras, as well as having additional interpretation in the rooms.

Louisa has researched the stories of all the employees listed in the Wages Book and created brief biographies of them for people to read in the Waiting Room.



Our 'Mr Winter' in action!

## ***V**ision for Derby*

We have contributed to the 'Vision for Derby' that was put out for consultation over the Summer. Thanks to all Friends who also wrote to the Council, pointing out that Midland Road was not seen as part of the city centre! We are now trying to get the area designated as 'The Railway Quarter' and to galvanise shopkeepers and residents to come together to lobby the Council to invest money and time to improve the area.

The consultation period has been extended, so please do look and comment if you are able - <https://letstalk.derby.gov.uk/city-centre-vision>.

## ***F**easibility Study & an exciting discovery at the studio!*

The National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF) grant enabled us to commission a feasibility study which has resulted in a great deal of thought and work over the Spring and Summer months. This has included a thorough survey of the building, which, although in better shape than we had thought, still needs a lot of TLC to bring it back to its former glory and to enable us to continue to use and develop the potential of the business and heritage. The final report is due early November and will be a foundation for our next bid to the NHLF for money to restore the studio.



The intriguing switchgear which made the Innes Surveyor so excited.

The Surveyors, who we loved working with, were absolutely bowled over by the place and love the quirky details, such as this electrical switchgear discovered in a cupboard in the showroom. Apparently, it is a very rare example of an electrical installation from circa 1880's and is believed to be part of the Carbon Arc lighting system installed by Winter.

A direct current generator was located in the cellar and these switches were thrown when power was required to 'fire up' the lights in the studio. The switches needed to be very substantial as the current running through them

was high and large cables ensured both the switches and cables didn't overheat.

## ***A**nd finally . . . .*

As always, if you have any comments, thoughts, ideas, or information please contact us on [office@wwwinter.co.uk](mailto:office@wwwinter.co.uk), or phone 01332 345224 - all contributions are gratefully received.