



New Year 2023

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to the New Year Newsletter

This edition of the newsletter comes to you with every good wish for 2023 from all at Winter's!

It covers just some of the events and progress made during the final quarter of last year. As with the rest of 2022, a huge amount has been achieved, largely due to the hard work, dedication, and time that our wonderful volunteers have devoted to the Winter's Heritage Project. We thank you all!

Jane

Format '23

We are very much looking forward to February and the start of FORMAT '23. This year has seen an even greater engagement with the Festival (16th March – 9th April) and we attended the official launch in early December, where the studio was mentioned numerous times by the speakers and our two FORMAT projects were given top billing.

Back in the summer of last year, we were delighted to have been asked to host one of the FORMAT/ QUAD 'Amplify 2022' Commissioning Projects, aimed at supporting emerging talent in Derbyshire.

The commission is structured to allow the chosen artist to produce a new body of work, which will be exhibited at the festival. Together, we came up with the idea of using the extensive archive of discarded, smashed plates from the 'glass dump' in the cellar (more of this later in this newsletter), and so we have been supporting the chosen artist, Sofia Yala, to explore the fragments that have been retained. These random survivals include broken pieces from glass negatives of portraits, local street scenes and commercial products made in the city.

We can't wait to see what this exciting young Derby artist will come up with! Sofia's work can be seen on her website: <https://www.sofiayala.art/>

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The
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We have also partnered with Olly Channerin, who has been working on a 2-year project to portray something of the mercurial nature of identity in Britain today. He had already taken thousands of negatives and recorded hours of stories and conversations, having visited towns and cities all over the country, seeking out people on the periphery of mainstream. His work in Derby culminated in taking analogue images in the Winters studio and elsewhere in the building.

It is intended that Olly's exhibition will tour Britain, following its debut at the Museum of Making as part of FORMAT '23.

1950's coming to life!

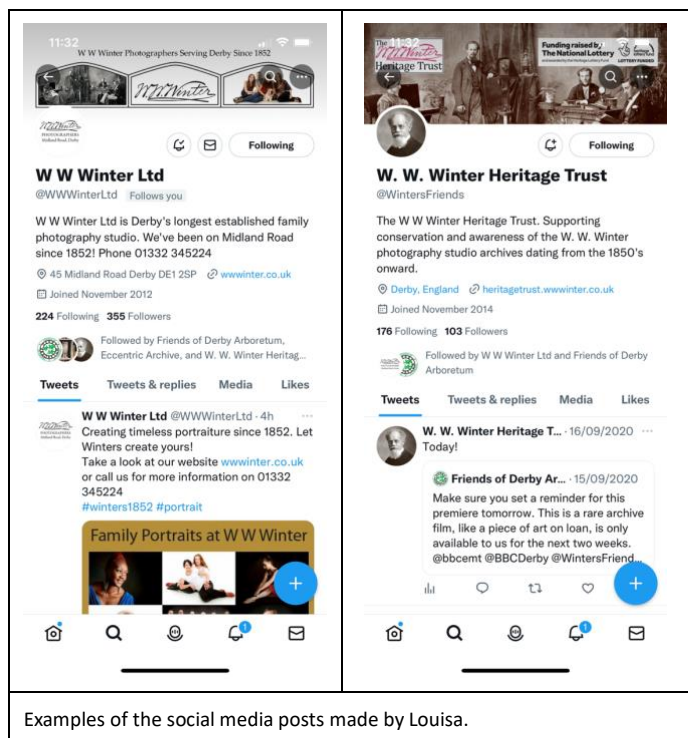
Many of the boxes in the cellar date from the 1950's and we have seen some lovely images from this decade. We are now scanning the 35th box of Collections Trust glass negatives, which means that, to date, over 4,000 plates have been processed and entered onto the fully searchable database: a massive achievement, as we were still struggling with Covid restrictions until the summer.

2022 saw a big effort to get the Trust images out to the public. Every week, three or four photographs were chosen by the volunteers from the week's scans, to be posted on our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter social media channels.

Louisa has posted every other day with commentary, and we are getting great feedback as a result, along with identifications on many of them, which is just what we hoped for!

We hope to keep up and possibly accelerate the pace of accessioning this coming year.

There is a place for a trainee data inputter working alongside one of our existing volunteers, so if you know of anyone or fancy a more active role, please do get in touch!



Examples of the social media posts made by Louisa.

Lecture on Samuel Bourne

On the evening of 6th December, we had our Christmas 'get together', AGM and the huge bonus of a fascinating lecture from Eric Butler on the journeys to India and the Himalayas, made by Nottingham photographer, Samuel Bourne.

The preparations required for his long treks and the photographs achieved were truly amazing and Eric's talk, made everyone who attended, want to read the travel journals!

Archaeology in the 1st Class Waiting Room



The 1st class waiting room, showing the edge of the glazed partition of the changing room on the left.

When volunteer Simon told us that he had a fibre-optic camera, we couldn't resist thinking about ways in which it could be put to use to help us to understand some of the secrets of the building.

On one of the Heritage Open Days, after all the visitors had gone home, we made two small holes in the partition walls surrounding the changing room and toilet in the 1st class waiting room.

Our suspicion was that the original wooden and glass structure had merely been covered with plywood as part of the 'modernisations' undertaken in the 1970's.

There was limited space to move the fibre-optic cable between the plywood cover and the original glass partition, but as soon as Simon put the fibre-optic camera through the hole the glazing bars came into view on his laptop screen – it was a wonderful sight. These images show that we were correct and that it should be a relatively simple task to restore the original when we are ready!



The first view seen with the fibre-optic cable camera – the glazing bars of the original partition.



Both the vertical and horizontal glazing bars can be seen in this view, along with the glass still intact.

We will continue to think where the fibre-optic cable camera can be used for more archaeology in the future and keep you updated.

Third Winter Lecture Series for 2023 – Dates for the diary.

February and April will see the conclusion of our Winter Lecture Series. We have two great talks lined up to end the 22/23 programme.

In February, we have arranged an **online talk**, entitled "*The challenges of a Photographic Curator*" by Dr Geoff Belknap, formerly Head of Curator at the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford, where he was responsible for the photographic collection, with a special interest in the technology of photography.

His talk will offer some 'behind the scenes' evidence of the challenges and considerations that must be borne in mind when caring for a national collection. Geoff is a curator and historian of science and visual culture, now based with the National Museums Scotland.

The talk is being hosted online by the Derbyshire Archaeological Society and will take place on **Tuesday, February 21st at 7pm.**

Additional information can be found on the DAS website:

<https://www.derbyshireas.org.uk/event/challenges-of-a-photographic-curator/>

Tickets are available on EventBrite, we are asking for donations, rather than making a set charge for the talk: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-challenges-of-a-photographic-curator-tickets-483744481767>.

The final lecture of the series will be held at the University of Derby on **Tuesday, April 25th** and will be given by Joanna Neale, one of our longest serving volunteers. The talk will be entitled “*W. W. Winter and Lantern Slides*”.

Joanna has studied the boxes of lantern slides found in the collection and will be talking about the commercial sale of slides and the bespoke set which has survived, made by Walter Winter.

This third winter lecture series has been a great success, with very varied topics and excellent speakers, as in previous years. The fourth series for 23/24 is already in preparation!

W. W. Winter on YouTube

We now have a new film to join the existing films on our YouTube channel.

Our volunteer Simon has a wealth of experience with digital media and has produced a short film from video clips and still images, (originally taken in 2014), during the excavation of the ‘glass dump’ in the cellar.

If you are reading the newsletter online click on the image to the right to be taken directly to the video. Or search Google for “*W. W. Winter glass dump story*” and follow the link to YouTube.

Currently you can view an interview with Hubert King, Louisa, Angela, and Jane, undertaken by Nick Lockett & Martin Shakeshaft in 2016, which has been uploaded recently.



Click the photograph above to view the “Glass Dump Story” directly on YouTube.

Peter Jordan-Turner’s recent lecture, (from October 2022) can also be viewed - “*Self-Promotion & Self-Description in Victorian Photographic Studios*”, which includes many Winters photographs as its main focus.

The next video in preparation will document the restoration and transformation of the volunteer’s room.

And finally

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