



*Spring 2023*

Dear Members and Friends,

## *W*elcome

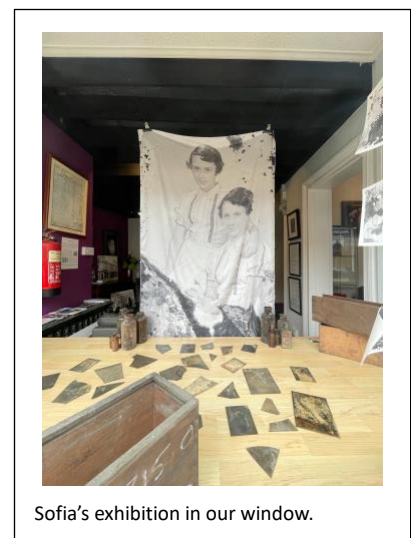
This edition covers just some of the events and progress made during the first few months of this year. Following on from last year a huge amount has been achieved, largely due to the hard work, dedication, and time that our wonderful volunteers have devoted to the Winter's Heritage Project. A collective thanks to you all!

Jane

## *F*ormat '23

The Studio has been gearing up for the 11<sup>th</sup> FORMAT International Photographic Festival, which this year is being held between 17<sup>th</sup> March and 9<sup>th</sup> April. A large number of venues around the city have been lined up and the studio is open for pre-booked tours (staffed by our regular volunteer team) and it looks better than ever! Thanks to Joanna Neal for leading this project – she has done a wonderful job of displaying artefacts and ensuring that there are labels and historic images available to show visitors what Winter's looked like 100 years ago.

FORMAT has also offered an opportunity to stage a preview of work being undertaken by Sofia Yala, our Artist in Residence. Sofia has been with us for almost five months now and is due to remain here until Format '24. She has been inspired by the fragments of glass plate negatives and other 'finds' from the glass dump in the cellar and we can't wait to see what she is going to create! We will get a chance to see her evolving project as she is putting together a mini exhibition, which will be staged in our shop window and on display throughout the festival. Visitors to Derby will be directed up Midland Road from the train station, so we anticipate a lot of interest.



Sofia's exhibition in our window.

Page 1 of 3

The W W Winter Heritage Trust  
45 Midland Road, Derby DE1 2SP  
01332 345224  
Email: friends@wwwinter.co.uk  
Web: heritagetrust-wwwinter.co.uk

The  
*W.W. Winter*  
Heritage Trust  
Registered charity no. 1174440

Made possible with  
 Heritage  
Fund

Winter's has had an increased profile in the Festival over past years. The FOMAT Team leaders Peter Bonnell and Niamh Treacy have visited the studio on several occasions, so a strong partnership is emerging. This will ensure that moving forward, we have a higher profile in the Festival and contribute more to future events.

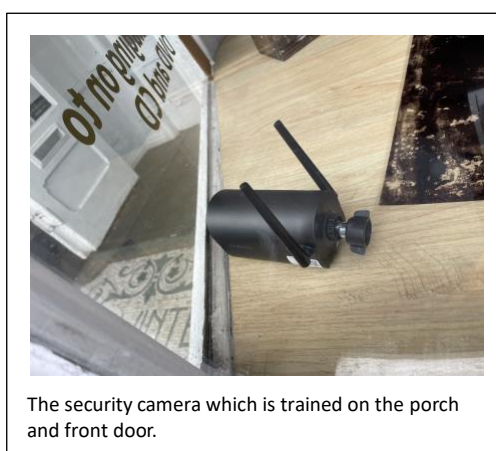
We have also partnered with Oliver Chanarin, who has been working on a 2-year project to portray something of the mercurial nature of identity in Britain today. He had already taken thousands of negatives and recorded hours of stories and conversations, having visited towns and cities all over the country,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

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

## ***U**nwelcome Visitors*



We are experiencing increasing numbers of issues with rough sleepers. In recent weeks we have seen graffiti appearing on the window frames in the porch and evidence of drug usage in addition to the usual cans, bottles, and cigarette butts.



We have installed cameras and our Community Policeman is reporting all incidents up the chain and liaising with other commercial property owners and residents on the road to try and address the issue.

## ***F**inal Lecture of the 2023 Season – “More Winter’s Magic”*

The final lecture of the 2023 Lecture Series is “More Winter’s Magic – The Lantern Slides”, which will be held at the University of Derby on **Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>** and will be given by Joanna Neal, one of our longest serving volunteers.

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 many varied topics and excellent speakers, as in previous years. The fourth lecture series for 23/24 is already in preparation!

## ***V**olunteer Update*

We are very lucky to have such a great team of volunteers. Everyone is helping with the FORMAT tours, and it has been all hands to the pump to get the studio looking ship shape for the festival.

We have been very pleased to welcome a new volunteer since Christmas but are still looking for additional people to join the team!

## ***‘Alternative Archive Derby’***

We are working with Derby Museums and Art Gallery and Black Country Visual Arts on an exciting project to create a new photographic archive for the city, which aims to document the experiences of south Asian communities in Derby between the 1950’s and 1980’s.

The community will be asked to contribute images and stories which will document their arrival and celebrate their shared history. As part of the preparatory phase, project leader Anand Chhabra has used compilations of photographs taken at the Winters studio – our first contribution to the project which will take over two years to complete.

*We are excited about Anand’s vision to “co-produce their untold stories as oral histories, and through the digitisation of family photographs, will enable us to share the positive impact these communities have made during their time settling in the city. We look forward to displaying the findings of our research in exciting ways that will act as a co-created archive and a source of pride for future generations in the city of Derby”*

## ***Research Group Findings***

Knowing that we have a number of really keen and amazing researchers, we came up with the idea of getting them all in a room together! This is proving invaluable, as we can share findings and spark ideas off one another.

As a group, we have identified a couple of key projects – one being to create a complete survey of props past and present. This involves studying plates, prints and the objects present in the studio today and those listed on the Inventory made in 1910, when the business was passed on from W. W. Winter to William Henry King. We are having great fun spotting ‘lost’ items and identifying survivals. This will become the basis for a future project to look at how sittings were staged in different eras.

Updating the plate calculator is another major task - this will enable us to better date images more accurately from the negative numbers. Another big task is setting Winter’s into the wider context of Derby photographers. This work has started, in conjunction with Derby Museum and Art Gallery, but will be spread over a couple of years. Ultimately, it is hoped, this will develop into an online interactive map to document photographers across Derby.

## ***Derby developments & the Railway Quarter***

In the last year, we have been engaging much more with the planning and conservation departments of Derby City Council. The aim is to raise the profile of the Railway Conservation Area and to develop the idea of a Railway Quarter, having its own distinct identity within the city. It is, in effect, the gateway to Derby from the station and yet was omitted from the “Vision of Derby” plan published last year.

We hope the idea of a Railway Quarter is gaining currency and you will be able to support it in whatever way you can.

## ***And 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.