



Summer 2023

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome

Summer is here and, as I write this current newsletter, it is pouring with rain outside the studio! Pleasingly, no leaks discovered in the building and no flooding in the cellar – so we are delighted that the repair work undertaken is holding up.

The smartened-up frontage is standing us in good stead, although worryingly, the doorway is being used on a very regular basis after closing time, by members of the street community.

There has been damage to the frontage, along with evidence of drug-taking and drinking, as well as other (and more noxious) confirmation of people having 'used' the doorway overnight.

As mentioned in our Spring newsletter we have installed a camera, as part of our efforts to be able to identify the perpetrators and are working closely with the local authority and the police to see what can be done to alleviate the problem, which also impacts on other businesses on the road – and of course – on the impression customers have of the street.

Midland road will also be changing appearance, as a major road scheme, starting on Railway Terrace has begun and is not due to be completed for over 33 weeks! This work impacts the studio, in as much as there will be a one-way scheme for traffic in operation until the completion of the work next year. Sadly, the upgraded pavements and street furniture will not come up further than the War Memorial so, it remains to be seen how they will improve the overall appearance of the entrance to the 'Railway Quarter'.

Hoping to see you over the summer or at the Heritage Open Days in September.

Jane

Heritage Open Days - 2023

Once again, we are supporting the 'Heritage Open Days' event, by opening the studio to visitors for free, on Thursday 14th and Saturday 16th September.

This year, the theme is 'Heritage Unwrapped' and we've had great fun thinking of how to tailor the tour to fit the title.

We decided to highlight hidden features of the building and to focus on smaller or



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Scan this barcode with your smartphone to listen to a description of the Showroom which visitors will hear during the Heritage Open Day tours.

unusual objects, such as the surviving pieces of original linoleum, discovered when the studio was re-floored, and the Lincrusta on the lower half of the studio walls.

These items will be ‘unwrapped’ in a very 21st century way, by using QR barcodes to supply extra information. Visitors will be able to tour the building and scan the QR codes in each room (or for an individual object), to obtain additional information, which means they can explore the wonders of Winter’s at their own pace. We are very excited about this idea, which has enormous potential for future interpretation. All the sequences use the same Artificial Intelligence (AI) ‘voice’, which we have chosen as the narrator for all our audio and video clips.

In addition to this, the display cases in the Second-Class Waiting Room (containing the camera collection) have had an upgrade and now include lights and a black backing, which has made a huge improvement to the appearance and given the display cases a ‘depth’ with they didn’t have before. By not seeing through the back of the cases, it concentrates the eye on what is actually on display and with the addition of lighting brings them into ‘focus’ - if you’ll pardon the pun!



The newly refurbished display cases in the 2nd Class Waiting Room – ready for Heritage Open Day.

We are also busy upgrading our interpretation to have a corporate font and appearance. Again, this has made an impact and we plan to continue this work over the coming year. The Trust extends huge thanks to Simon, Joanna, Malcolm, and our other wonderful volunteers for all they’ve done to get us ‘Open Day’ ready!

Twitter Re-launch



The first Twitter post on 12th May 2023, after a break of almost three years.

In addition to our regular posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, the Heritage Trust has re-launched itself on Twitter after an almost three-year absence.

Working alongside the company, the Trust is now posting every other day. Understandably, this takes both time and effort, and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Simon, one of our amazing volunteers, who has really embraced the role of social media coordinator (in addition to everything else he does to help us)! As well as including images from the cellar collection, he includes quirky objects or unusual photographic paraphernalia as posts. These are proving extremely popular and are increasing traffic and traction on the site. It is so exciting to see the number of followers growing week on week and Simon is making extensive use of hashtags, which is upping our reach enormously!

We can’t thank Simon (and of course Louisa) enough for their efforts in finding new and interesting posts, which are getting Winter’s name ‘out there’!

The figures speak for themselves with views of many hundreds, including profile visits and new followers added to the channel.

In addition to Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, we continue to make use of our YouTube channel to highlight various aspects of Winter’s history. Recent posts have included the creation of the Volunteers Room, the Glass Dump Story, and Oliver Frank Chanarin’s audio to accompany his solo exhibition "A Perfect Sentence" at the Museum of Making, as well as an advert for this year’s Heritage Open Days, (which can be viewed here - <https://youtu.be/VbEZHqwKPQ0>).

In addition, to the above there are such items as “It’s a Dog’s Life” - a behind the scenes view of photographing dogs for our Cutest Dog of Derby competition, the winner of which will be announced in September 2023. If you’ve not yet seen it yet, please take a look – it’s very amusing and shows the struggles Louisa undertook to get the best possible photograph of the entrants. At one point she hangs her head in despair – it highlights the old adage never work with children or animals! The video can be found by following this link - <https://youtu.be/OgfUfM9ftfY>.

2023 – 2024 Lecture Series

We are putting the final touches to the Autumn-Winter lecture series, which we plan to run again this year at Derby University (Markeaton Campus) at 7pm.

Our first two lecturers will be Nick Lockett and our own Simon Vaughan. The dates for your diary are 17th October and 5th December, both of which are Tuesday evenings.

We also want to repeat the very successful joint online lecture with the Derbyshire Archaeological Society again, with a lecture in February 2024. Details for this will be announced in the next Newsletter.

Don't forget that previous lectures (copyright permitting) are available to view on our YouTube channel – just search W W Winter on YouTube.

Research Update

Our Research Group is beavering away, finding out more and more about the wonder that is Winter's!

The plan will be to start publishing our findings on specific topics over the coming year, highlighting the historic significance of the company within the heritage community.

We are currently looking into the background of E N Charles, Tintypes, and into the story of the ratcatcher to the Midland Railway, who we think was immortalised in a great studio portrait taken at 45 Midland Road.

Visit from the Winter Family

We are looking forward to the visit of one of the descendants of Walter Winter in a month or so. Coming all the way from Australia, we are hopeful (and excited) at the prospect of our visitor being able to share information or anecdotes handed down through the generations.

Cellar plate research hits box 40!

The scanning team have now completed scanning 40 boxes of negatives from the cellar collection. These plates were gifted to the Trust by the company and cover the post-war period up to the early 1960's. They are revealing lots of information about life and work in the city at this time and the growing archive of searchable scans is being consulted regularly by family historians.

It is really satisfying to be able to reunite a descendant with an image of their relatively recent ancestor or to find evidence of what a place looked like over 60 years ago.

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, or phone 01332 345224 - all contributions are gratefully received.