



Autumn 2023

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome

Autumn has arrived and the days are already growing shorter and colder! Louisa and Simon have already begun planning the Christmas window and the company is gearing up for the busy pre-Christmas rush on portraits. Autumn also means the start of another lecture series and we have four excellent speakers lined up again this year.

Work continues apace on the collection and the number of digitised images is growing steadily – as are the number of enquiries we are getting from family historians and others wanting us to identify and date their prints.

The Trustees continue to be fully occupied with moving the redevelopment programme forward and with fund-raising. We thought it would be good feature them, so the first of a series of short biographies focusses on Phil Harrison. Phil recently resigned from being a Trustee, but remains a committed volunteer, but I'll let Phil tell his story on page 2.

Good wishes to all and thanks, as ever, to the active volunteer team who are doing a marvellous job. Please do feel free to get in touch and to feedback thoughts and ideas.

Jane

Social Media Update

We continue to post daily on our social media channels; Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter), but over recent months have found numbers have trailed off on Facebook, but have maintained and increased on X. We are analysing the engagement of individual posts to see which platform is more effective in spreading the word of Winters.

Page 1 of 4

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

Focus On Trustee & Volunteer Phil Harrison

As a Derbian I've been aware of Winters for as long as I can remember, I don't recall my Christening sitting but I can certainly remember that of my younger brother and other occasional visits to the studio.

I was employed in the rail industry for over 40 years, during time which I worked in numerous locations here and abroad and often had to return to Derby for meetings in either Nelson Street or the School of Transport and RTC on London Road. All of these visits necessitated a walk along Midland Road and a few minutes staring through Winters windows.

Upon retirement I pursued my numerous hobbies (none of which were involved in railways or photography) then became aware of a project to conserve the Winter's archive. Following a call to arms in the Evening Telegraph a large group of potential volunteers met up in a church hall off Burton Road where Hubert, Angela, Louisa, and Jane outlined the enormity of the task. I guess that was around 12 years ago and from memory probably myself, Malcolm and Joanna are the only ones remaining from that original group.



So, I wrapped up warm and went along to Winters where initially I started identifying, scanning and conserving negatives until one day Angela and Louisa said "Err.. Phil, do you fancy doing some work in the cellar?" So began my journey (ably assisted by Jason Toone) of moving nine and a half tons of smashed glass negatives, broken tiles, and assorted rodent bones out of the cellar, up the steps and into the bins. Oh, and did I mention that the cellar had flooded on a fairly regular basis over the past 100 years or so. During the weeks in the cellar I had plenty of time to think (what the hell am doing here for a start!) about getting some sort of structure to what everyone was trying to do and during the times I came up into the office for tea (and air) we started chatting about formalising the structure and status of the archive for the future, how we were going to do it and who could point us in the right direction.



Fortunately, Geoff Blackwell was thinking along the same lines and together with Jane did a great job in developing the framework of the Heritage and Collections Trusts and preparing them for charitable status and documenting the requisite constitutions. I was asked to become Chair of the Heritage Trust, which I was happy to do on the understanding that I would step down when we'd recruited people with more suitable skills than me to drive the project forward.

Over the past couple of years, despite the pandemic when we met via Zoom, the Trusts have gone from strength to strength by attracting and appointing Trustees of truly exceptional ability and commitment who are totally focussed on a strategy accommodating the various facets of Winters, the building, the Collection and the Heritage. We are now on the threshold of an exciting new chapter of the project, I have recently stepped down to create the opportunity for others with the specific specialist skills needed to achieve our ultimate goal, I shall however continue as a volunteer.

Heritage Open Days - 2023



This year's 'Heritage Open Days' were held on Thursday 14th and Saturday 16th September.

Although numbers were down on previous years the enthusiasm and engagement of visitors was all too apparent, which has been highlighted in the comments and donations received afterwards.

Here are just some of the comments we received across the two days.

“An exceptional time capsule – extremely interesting and a unique record which must be preserved”

“Brilliant people and a superb building which deserves to be saved. Thank you for all your efforts”

“Fascinating place with so much history and connection to Derby and its people. Enthusiasm of the volunteers/guides is infectious. Fantastic visit.”

“An amazing experience with very knowledgeable staff. This needs to be kept alive and fully restored.

Thank you so very much”

“Fantastic place, very interesting talks, passionate and committed staff and volunteers”

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), with a 6.30pm arrival for a 7pm start.

Our first two lecturers will be our own Simon Vaughan, on 17th October and Nick Lockett on 5th December.

Simon has researched a television demonstration held in Derby in February 1933, and will highlight the development of television from the first moving images by John Logie Baird in January 1926, to the BBC Television Service which began from Alexandra Palace in November 1936.

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 or follow this link - <https://www.youtube.com/@user-dg5qb7lk3r>



Winter Relative Visit

Kerry Fesuk, W. W. Winter's great granddaughter visited the studio on 6th & 7th October, spending time with Jane and Joanna. It was lovely to meet Kerry, who was able to confirm parts of the Winter family history, as well as giving us some insight into additional information.

Watch this space for further details as and when we receive them from Kerry.

Cellar Plates – A Milestone

Cleaning has now begun on Box 41.

As mentioned in the Summer Newsletter Box 40 has now been completed - with an average of 250 plates per box this means we have now completed **10,000** plates, so congratulations to all those who have been involved in the cleaning and scanning process.



Image courtesy of Nick Allen

And finally

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