



## ***Winter 2024***

Dear Members and Friends,

### ***Welcome***

We are in the grips of a very 'wintery' snap as I write – and the studio is very cold indeed! We need Mr Winter's lovely big radiators and roaring fires in the grates, but are having to make do with base layers, water bottles and heated gilets! These will be things of the past within the next five years as plans are advancing apace for the renovation of the building. We will be relying on NHLF but will be looking for match-funding and so your support for our events and activities is needed now more than ever. On this point, our amazing volunteers clocked up a total of 2,475 hours in 2023. We cannot thank them enough.

We hope, if anything, to accelerate the pace of work in the coming year. 2024 will see the volunteers continuing their sterling work, cataloguing the boxes of cellar plates, cleaning and scanning as they go. They will also continue to list other heritage items in the building. The Trustees have a busy year ahead, formulating project plans and writing our NHLF application for funding, which should be completed towards the end of 2024.

All in all, an exciting New Year ahead of us!

Jane

### ***Social Media Update***

Our social media profile continues to accelerate. Posts alternate between the business and Trust ensure that we are gaining traction and the regular analysis undertaken is enabling us to monitor which are the most popular subjects. Simon, who is in charge of our social media is doing a great job, thinking of interesting snippets and facts to tempt viewers and gain followers.

Page 1 of 4

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This has generated emails from a gentleman owning a never-before-seen Winter's competition and a couple of requests.

Subjects have included: 19<sup>th</sup> century staff profiles and for this coming February he will be posting a series entitled 'Focus on . . .' – which will highlight a particular detail in various photographs.



## ***Focus On . . . Volunteers Joanna & Malcolm Neal***

We have been volunteers at W. W. Winter's since 2016.

Malcolm joined first to help a group of volunteers working to save/preserve the glass plate negatives at risk in the cellar. Joanna came a few weeks later when a small group was set up to research the history of the business and the family history/background of Mr Winter and Mr Charles.

Malcolm has lived in Derby all his life, Joanna was born in Ashbourne, but did have her photograph taken at Winters sitting on a table, aged 10/11 months.



Malcolm and Joanna met while studying at Bishop Lonsdale College of Education in Derby and both entered the teaching profession – Malcolm to teach biology in a secondary school and Joanna in a local infant school.

Malcolm was fortunate to be granted a year's secondment at Nottingham University to study computer science – and on his return to the classroom this was his main subject. He then moved into tertiary education at Derby College. Joanna returned to teaching after the arrival of the family – remaining in a local infant school in the city.

Living in Derby since the 1960s and having seen the major changes that have taken place at that time. Joanna became interested in local and family history and was delighted to find that her family has had connections in Derby and Derbyshire for over 300 years.

Malcolm has a life-long interest in photography with his main subjects being wildlife and landscapes. He also paints in watercolours.

Joanna was fortunate when on retiring that Derby Local Studies Library stated running a series of local history courses which have proved an invaluable background to research.

Our tasks at Winters have been many and varied. Sorting, cleaning, labelling the glass plate negatives and prints. Sorting, photographing, and recording details of the many artifacts, documents, etc., that were pushed into every corner of the remaining spaces in the building after the rears of the premises (the “lost rooms”) was demolished by the Post Office development in the 1960s.

Images are not only portraits, but cover all subjects, people at work, landscapes, homes, shops, factories, and events – it is a complete picture of the history of Derby from the 1860s. All information is collected on a database.

Artefacts include photographic equipment for developing and printing, as well as producing images, backdrops, props used in studios – a wonderful insight into a business which dates back 171 years.

The history of photography and the history of Derby are intertwined, and both are found at Winters Ltd of Midland Road.

We are delighted to be part of this unique project.

## ***2023 – 2024 Lecture Series***

The first lecture of the 2023 - 2024 season was our own Simon Vaughan who gave a talk on a television demonstration held in Derby in February 1933. In addition to this Simon also highlighted the development of television from the first moving images by John Logie Baird in January 1926, through to the BBC Television Service which began from Alexandra Palace in November 1936.

Nick Locket was due to give a lecture on 5<sup>th</sup> December, in association with the Derbyshire Archaeological Society, sadly this had to be cancelled. It is hoped to reschedule this lecture at some point in the future.

“Portraits and Pictures – the Fine Art side of the business at the Midland Road premises”, based on recently found documents, will be presented by Joanna Neal on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

The location for this lecture will be Derby University (Kedleston Road Campus), with a 6.30pm arrival for a 7pm start. Room location to be advised closer to the event.

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>

## ***Main Entrance – Now Secure***

The door-way sleepers that were causing physical damage to the porch, etching their names in the stone and initials in the window frames, is now a thing of the past!

Being a Grade II listed building we were unable to attach anything to the fabric of the building, so an alternative method was required. After much Googling and sourcing of a supplier a metal 'gate' was purchased at considerable experience to the company. This 'gate' is now across the porch each evening and weekends, being secured in place by four padlocks around the two pillars.



## ***Focus On . . . Collections Trust Chairman***

### ***Jonathan Wallis***

I have worked in museums and heritage for over 30 years. I began my museum career as a conservator at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, later moving to a number of other museums before joining Derby Museums in 2001.



After 17 years I left to work as a regional curator for the National Trust based in Yorkshire and the North East. I have always been interested in various histories and collections, from British Bronze Age metalwork to Joseph Wright of Derby.

My latest research explores the photographic history of a country house, Ormesby Hall on the outskirts of Middlesbrough and Scarborough's Victorian photographic studios.

I have been the chair of the W. W. Winter Collections Trust for the past 7 years.

## ***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.