

APRIL

W.W. WINTER.

Heritage Open Days

Page 4

New Trust website

Page 4

The Greatest Gathering

Page 5

Expression of Interest -
again

Page 6

Calke Abbey - a joint
venture

Page 6

Vol: 1 No: 3

Third Quarter 2025



CONTENTS

Vol 1. No 3.

Page 3

Editorial

A quick overview of the last few months.

Details of our Christmas Fuddle

Page 4

Heritage Open Days

A report on our successful open days this September

New Heritage Trust Website

Our new site is now up and running

Trustee Recruitment

New Trustee recruitment has taken place.

Page 5

The Greatest Gathering

Details of the world's largest railway gathering - all here in Derby!

Page 6

Expression of Interest

The latest news

Great Volunteer Team

Details of this year's volunteer hours.

Calke Abbey display

Details of the exhibition using images from the Winter archive

Editorial team:

Simon Vaughan
Ian Shaw

Article submissions to:
office@wwwwinter.co.uk

EDITORIAL

The weather is beginning to turn and there is now a chill in the air - the office at Winter's is beginning to take on the wintery chill that we are all too familiar with!

The busy start to the beginning of the year has carried on and it's been quite an action packed few months since the last edition of *Aperture*.

We had a series of successful Heritage Open Days, several private tours of the studio, as well as attendance at the Derbyshire Archaeological Society history fair.

This year was a significant date in terms of railway history - the 200th anniversary of the modern railway. To celebrate this Derby was home to The Greatest Gathering - but more of this later.

In terms of the Heritage Trust our updated Expression of Interest was submitted and we are waiting to hear back from the NHLF - again more of this in later pages.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Aperture*, and please don't forget this is YOUR journal, and any contributions you can make will be gratefully received.

Due to various reasons this will be the last edition of *Aperture* for 2025, but we will add an extra edition to the offering for 2026, so you won't miss out.



CHRISTMAS FUDDLE

Our Christmas social will be held on Saturday 13th December 2025, from 1pm in the studio.

Please can you confirm your attendance by 1st December.

As part of the get-together Joanna will be giving a talk entitled "Building Winters"

18/91

Again this year we took part in the national Heritage Open Days campaign.

The theme of this year's campaign was architecture, which we supported by a window display as well as online 'through the ages' overlay images, created by our brilliant new volunteer Luke Williams.

We ran tours over three consecutive days, 18th to 20th September, with each day being over-subscribed.



In total 60 people attended across the three days. This was the first HOD where we undertook some rudimentary demographic research. This proved to be an interesting undertaking and with some surprising results.

On 20th September one visitor travelled 14 miles, while the closest was only 0.2 miles away, so almost a neighbour.

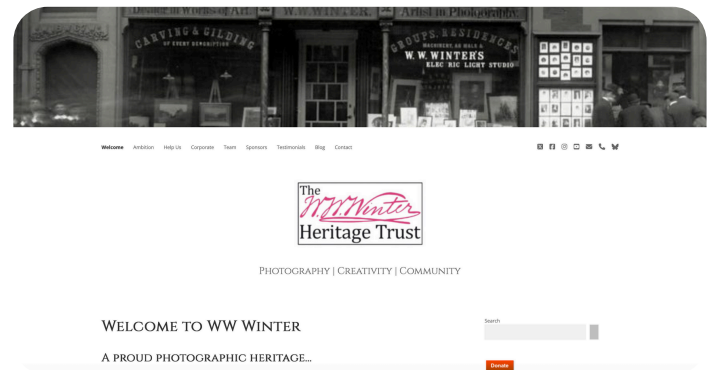
Day 2 resulted in our furthest two visitors; one who travelled 160 miles and the other 34 miles, while the closest only travelled just over 2 miles.

Day three resulted in one visitor travelling 19 miles and the closest just under 5 miles.

Heritage Trust New Website

The new W. W. Winter Heritage Trust has gone live.

Within the first 30 days the site received 229 visitors and 144 views. Considering we have not yet publicly launched the site at least someone has been looking at it!



Trustee Recruitment

The Trust have been actively recruiting for new and replacement Trustees for the Board.

We received a number of applications, and these successful applicants have now been appointed to the board.

The first board meeting with the new Trustees is being held on Tuesday 2nd December.

This is an exciting new stage for the Trust and mini biographies on the new Trustees will follow in the next edition of Aperture.

The Greatest Gathering

The Greatest Gathering transformed Derby into the epicentre of rail-enthusiast excitement — offering a once-in-a-generation opportunity to step inside a working train factory, explore the breadth of rail heritage and witness the future of rail in one place.

From 1–3 August 2025, the city of Derby played host to what has been called the world's largest gathering of historic and modern railway vehicles — the event known as The Greatest Gathering. Organized by Alstom at its historic Litchurch Lane Works facility, this three-day festival formed a cornerstone of the nationwide Railway 200 celebrations, marking 200 years since the opening of the Stockton & Darlington Railway in 1825.



Beyond static displays, the festival featured test-track rides, miniature and model rail layouts, fairground elements, live music and family-oriented activities — creating a lively, immersive atmosphere for all ages.

Even the city centre got involved via a fringe event at Derby Market Hall, running alongside the main works site with train-themed board games, heritage displays and model-railway layouts.

The event was supported by a fleet of vintage buses that transported visitors from the railway station to the entrance to Alstom. The buses were a delightful sight along Midland Road. Our volunteer Luke was fortunate enough to photograph the buses lined-up along London Road.



Held at Derby's venerable train-manufacturing site — in operation since the 19th century — the event opened to the public for the first time in nearly 50 years.



Visitors were treated to more than 140 historic locomotives and rolling-stock exhibits from steam, diesel and electric eras, along with future-facing technologies and interactive displays.

According to organisers, the three-day festival drew more than 40 000 visitors — including international attendees — and set a new benchmark for railway gatherings worldwide. The event not only celebrated history, but underscored Derby's ongoing role as a hub of rail manufacturing and innovation.

Years of Train Travel
Since 1825

Profits and ticket sales also supported several rail-heritage charities, adding a philanthropic dimension to the spectacle.

Highlights included the legendary Flying Scotsman and the pioneering Locomotion No. 1.

Expression of Interest - again



Our second Expression of Interest was submitted to the National Heritage Lottery Fund in early September.

At the beginning of October we were notified by them to say "we are currently experiencing a high number of Expression of Interests and so it may take longer the advertised 20 working days to get back to you".

At the time of writing we have still not heard back from the NHLF - but fingers crossed we have a positive outcome.

What a great volunteer team

Our wonderful volunteer team have clocked up a significant number of hours again this year.

This shows their devotion to all things Winter's the heritage project as a whole.

This year we've also welcomed two new volunteers; Luke Williams, a keen photographer and Winter's support, and Sarah Greene, who has been extremely dedicated in working her way through cleaning boxes of glass plates and has likened her work at the studio like "photographic archeology".

The accumulated hours total:

1238.50

this equates to

£13,532

Calke Abbey Display

As mentioned in our previous edition, the National Trust have curated a small display at Calke Abbey on photographs of the Harpur-Crewe children, which is house in the Day Nursery. Several Winter's images have been used.

The room had originally been the 5th Baronet, Sir Henry Harpur's dressing room - which had been part of the grand apartment used by Sir Henry and his wife Lady Caroline, which occupied the south-east corner of the house.



During the 19th century this and the adjoining room became the nursery suite. However, the rooms have been abandoned for many decades.

The staff at Calke Abbey are supporting the display with details of what services are offered at the studio.



W. W. Winter, Derby

The UK's oldest surviving photographic studio, W. W. Winter has documented the people and city of Derby since 1852.

Still in operation today, the studio offers modern portraiture and framing services as well as copy and restoration of old or damaged photographs.

Discover more at www.wwwinter.co.uk