

STORIES SEEN THROUGH A GLASS PLATE: IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS

Press Release
27 September 2022



The Edward Reeves Archive in association with the Photography and the Archive Research Centre at UAL and Edward Reeves Photography present **STORIES SEEN THROUGH A GLASS PLATE: IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS**, an exhibition of historic photographs of Lewes and its people displayed on lightboxes throughout the town centre during September & October 2022.

- A new exhibition for 2022 from the Edward Reeves Archive. A century of life in Lewes, showing townsfolk in the places they lived, worked, relaxed and celebrated. Walk in their footsteps.
- Displaying new unseen images from the Edward Reeves archive.
- Accompanying exhibition, **LEWES TOWN HALL: A BUILDING IN FOCUS**, examines the crucial role of the building in town life.

The Edward Reeves Archive lightbox exhibition returns in 2022 with **STORIES SEEN THROUGH A GLASS PLATE: IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS**. Including formal portraits taken in the Reeves' Studio as well as Lewes street scenes, it reveals the world in which the subjects lived and the people they may have encountered. Contemporary newspaper reports and guidebooks have provided personal back stories, describing family life, work, and leisure pursuits.

Illustrated with stunning photographs, showing the amazing quality of the images taken from the original glass plates, the lightboxes are placed in locations relevant to the subjects. You will meet Edward Reeves and his daughter Mary Elizabeth, also a photographer, their neighbour Ruth Simmons who married twice and then emigrated to Canada, and from just across the High Street Caroline Napier and Annie Mullens who ran a school for young ladies. In their daily life they may have bumped into Thomas Weston, 'haircutter and perfumer' out on his penny farthing bicycle or passed by Edwin Battersby, managing clerk of the Lewes Probate Registry and attempted murderer.

Among the street scenes, the witnesses to an early car crash, a town celebration for a coronation that didn't happen and the lively aftermath of a general election result with the report of eggs thrown and fireworks discharged!

The lightboxes will be unveiled and lit on **Thursday 29th September** and will be available to view until **Sunday 23rd October**.

Brigitte Lardinois, Director of the Photography and the Arts Research Centre at LCC, UAL:

“The Edward Reeves Archive project is very important in the history of British photography and I am delighted that with the help of our many volunteers we are able to once again share some of this unique collection.”

Tom Reeves, 4th generation photographer at Edward Reeves Photography:

“It is really exciting that, through the efforts of our volunteers, we have been able for the first time to search our archive for specific named subjects, so in this exhibition we can include portraits of people exhibited in the windows of the houses that they once occupied. That sheds a fascinating light on a past Lewes and its people.”

LEWES TOWN HALL: A BUILDING IN FOCUS

This additional exhibition at Lewes Town Hall displays photographs from its opening in 1893 to the current day, shows the central role the building has always played in the social and commercial life of the town. A Royal visit, concerts and theatricals, meetings and tea parties, and a remarkable exhibition of early electric lights and equipment can all be seen.

VISITING INFORMATION

STORIES SEEN THROUGH A GLASS PLATE: IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS

Thursday 29th September – Sunday 23rd October 2022

Lewes High Street, Cliffe High Street & surrounding area

Exhibition maps available at the Lewes Tourist Information Centre, Lewes Town Hall, Edward Reeves Photography (159 High Street) and many of the host shops and businesses.

LEWES TOWN HALL: A BUILDING IN FOCUS

Thursday 29th September – Saturday 15th October

Monday – Saturday, 10.00am – 4.00pm

Baxter Corridor, Lewes Town Hall (High Street Entrance)

ABOUT THE ARCHIVE

Established in 1855, Edward Reeves Photography is believed to be the oldest continuously operated photographic studio in the world. It houses an archive of over 250,000 glass plates in addition to over 400,000 images on film and in the form of digital files. With much of the original paperwork intact, this archive is a unique record of daily life in and around Lewes, and of the history of commercial photographic practice. The Victorian studio is still in daily use and the business is now owned and run by Edward Reeves' great grandson Tom Reeves with his wife Tania Osband. For more information, visit www.reevesarchive.com.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Edward Reeves Archive project aims to make this unique archive accessible to the community it portrays as well as to become a valuable asset to researchers in a vast range of subjects.

In order to engage the community, since 2014 the Reeves Archive Project has organised annual exhibitions of lightboxes displaying photographs from the archive placed in the windows of residents and businesses up and down the streets of Lewes. Viewers have often commented on becoming highly conscious that they are occupying the same streets and spaces as generations before them.

IMAGES

Publicity images can be downloaded via the link below. By downloading the images, you acknowledge and accept the terms and conditions of use. These images can only be reproduced to illustrate a review or criticism of a work or report as defined by section 30 (i) and (ii) of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. Image captions must include “copyright Edward Reeves Photography” and include appropriate alt text for online accessibility standards.

[Download press images here](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

Join the discussion about the exhibition online at:

#ReevesArchive

Instagram, Twitter & Facebook: [@reeves_archive](#) | [@parc_ual](#) | [@edwardreevesphotography](#)

INTERVIEWS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For further information, media requests and interviews, contact Tom at info@reevesarchive.co.uk | +44 (0)1273 473274

ORGANISATION

The exhibitions are curated by Tania Osband, Tom Reeves and Brigitte Lardinois. The research project is led by Brigitte Lardinois, Director of PARC, the Photography and the Archive Research Centre at LCC, University of the Arts London.

SUPPORT

STORIES SEEN THROUGH A GLASS PLATE: IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS has been made possible by the generous support of Lewes Town Council, Lewes District Council, Harvey's Brewery and the Chalk Cliff Trust. The Reeves Archive Project is an initiative of the Photography and the Archive Research Centre at LCC, University of the Arts London (UAL).