

Looking Back

Life in laundry remembered

PICTURES depicting life in the former Dulverton Laundry have been rediscovered by Dulverton Weir and Leat Conservation Trust.

Photographer Carlotta Luke spent three days in 1991 capturing staff at work in the old factory.

Carlotta said: "I moved to the UK from New England in December 1990 as an aspiring young photographer, using my camera to help me understand the culture of my adopted home.

"Although we were based in London, my husband comes from Dulverton, so I was getting to know Somerset as well as London.

"My in-laws Doug and Jean Luke first told me about the Dulverton Laundry as they knew of my interest in photographing industrial settings.

"The laundry owner was happy for me to document the business.

"I was made to feel very welcome and got a real sense of the camaraderie amongst the staff.

"I am glad to have captured a time and place that is now gone, both the laundry itself and the people whose day to day lives



were an integral part of it." Robert Jones, community engagement lead and honorary trustee of DWLCT, said: "I'm sure Dulverton people are going to find this work of immense interest, especially if

they worked in the laundry, or knew somebody who worked there, or were a laundry customer."

Photos like these are a rare find and provide a great look at the period of time in and around Dulverton and in particular working life.

The Trust is exploring the possibility of holding an exhibition of the photographs later in the year.

You can view further pictures at www.carlottaluke.com/work/dulverton-laundry and more of Carlotta's personal camera work at www.carlottaluke.com.

