

BURSLEDON BRICKWORKS MUSEUM TRUST

# BRICKBATS

The Official Magazine of  
the Brickworks Museum  
– Bursledon

Free to volunteers and members, £1 when sold

[www.bursledonbrickworks.org.uk](http://www.bursledonbrickworks.org.uk)

## Introduction

In this edition, we celebrate a flurry of awards for the Brickworks Museum! A Silver Award for Best Small Visitor Attraction in the Beautiful South Awards was a superb achievement and was one up from the Bronze in 2014. The Museum did extremely well against stiff competition across the whole of the South East region from Oxford to Kent. We have also achieved Accredited Museum status which recognises the work we are doing in three main areas. Finally, we have even won an award for our Wildlife Garden, bringing back a Silver Gilt from Fareham in Bloom. None of these would be possible without the amazing support that the Museum receives from its fantastic volunteers and staff, so thank you all for your contributions.

The Brickworks was also fortunate to receive a number of significant donations last year including: £2,500 from the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers, £2,000 from Tesco Bags for replacement and extra play equipment, £500 to cover the cost of running engines on Heritage Open Days, £500 to refurbish the Wildlife Garden, £300 for audience research and about £500 in total in other donations.

Having enjoyed a very successful 2017, we are now looking forward to our events scheduled for 2018 – with some exciting new additions, we hope to attract even more visitors to the Brickworks this year.

*Sue Boswell, Editor*



**Mary, Garry and Carolyne with the Silver Award for Best Small Visitor Attraction**

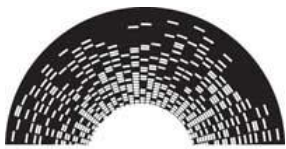
## Spotlight on Mary Flinn

For this edition, we caught up with Mary Flinn, to find out more about her work as Collections Manager. Mary started at the Brickworks in February 2013 at the beginning of the HLF project and also undertakes the role of Volunteer Coordinator.

### What does the role of Collections Manager involve?

As the job title suggests, I look after the collection of objects owned by the Museum. We have a wonderful collection of objects relating to brickmaking and associated trades such as tiles and chimney pots. In addition to bricks, tiles, tools, benches etc, we have a small collection of photographs and archives, and a well-stocked library.

### Tell us a bit more about the Accredited Museum status?



**ACCREDITED  
MUSEUM**

My main responsibility since starting has been to achieve Museum Accreditation which has directly improved the management of the collection.

The scheme sets nationally agreed standards for museums in the UK. It is divided into three sections:

- Organisational Health (how the museum is run and the workforce)
- Collections (managing them effectively)
- Users and their experience (providing access to the museum and learning opportunities for all).

The Collections section consisted of drawing up policies, plans and procedures that cover collections development (what we would like to acquire in the future), documentation and care.

### What does a typical day look like?

A recent day started with checking the museum email account, replying to and forwarding messages as required. One of my Collections' volunteers arrived and began logging temperature and relative humidity readings taken around the Museum during the last few months on a spreadsheet. He then moved on to studying sticky insect traps from around the building to check for unwanted visitors. Both of these procedures help us to monitor our environment and therefore inform our collections care activities. The Chair of the Trust popped in to see me and we talked about the Stott boiler currently awaiting repair in the workshop. We agreed that a meeting with relevant volunteers needed to be arranged to form a plan. We are gradually trying to formalise the restoration and routine maintenance of working machinery. As such I am organising a visit from a Conservator to advise us on collections care and a visit for our volunteers to Beaulieu Motor Museum's engineering workshop.

Before lunch another pair of volunteers arrived to spend an hour continuing with the inventory of display objects. Their efforts are greatly improving the documentation of the collection (so we know what we have and where it is). Just before I shut my computer down for the day I sent an email to a courier company to quote for bringing approximately 145 historic bricks from Derby Museum to us within the next few weeks. We are becoming known as THE museum of bricks and were offered a large number by Derby as part of their rationalisation process. Thanks to improved documentation at the Brickworks, I identified gaps in our collection and so will acquire examples of bricks/brick makers the museum does not yet own.



**Mary proudly displaying the Accredited Museum certificate**

## South Hants Historic Steam and Engineering Society

The origins of our Society and how it has evolved may not be known by those who have joined the various teams of volunteers in recent years. Today, seven 'self-propelled steam engines' – traction engines to use the

more common collective term, are permanently accommodated on site, each being owned by individual Society members. In addition, a partially restored 'portable' engine dating from around 1880 is displayed in the yard adjacent to the chimney. All running and repair costs associated with each engine are met in full by individual owners, and in order to keep such expenditure to manageable levels, significant time is devoted by each individual throughout the year. Several living vans, support trailers and specialist items such as a rack saw also form part of the individually owned items which can be seen fully operational on 'steam' open days in April and October.



A snapshot taken some 15 years ago would have revealed a significant difference. At that time, we were more in number, but all engines were stored outside in the area which now forms the children's

play area, where all maintenance/repair work from incidental adjustments to boiler tube replacements were carried out. Since then, we have constructed the engine shed which you see today, together with all the attendant engineering facilities.

A little known fact that seems to come up in conversation with members of the public on Open Days, is on the subject of engineering skills and knowledge base. Owning and running engines such as we do, is not always about steaming around the district making a lot of noise with all the brass gleaming in the sun! It is true that our engines seldom move on public roads unnoticed, but this is far from all that the hobby has to offer. For most of our members, it is the engineering challenges posed by machines around 100 years old with no 'workshop manual' which offers great appeal.

The name of our Society includes a reference to *Engineering*. A very broad range of engineering skills need to be mastered, if the full potential of enjoyment from our hobby is to be realised. Some of us bring to the Society basic skills learned at school when metalwork formed part of our education, and we all learn a great deal from one another by 'pooling' skills. Very occasionally this is not enough and one of our members (the 'wrong' side of retirement age!!) recently completed a full year of evening classes at Fareham College on the theory and practice of welding. With some of our members having owned traction engines for over 25 years, but most exceeding 15 years, it's difficult not to have accrued at least a working knowledge of the basic principles!

Engines which can be seen on site represent a fairly good cross section of those which would have been commonplace in that era, including road rollers, agricultural engines and general purpose road going machines. All but one are presently 'road legal' and can be seen travelling to and from local events including a fair number of charitable/fund raising gatherings. Every available piece of equipment is on display at 'steam' Open Days together with many visiting engines invited specifically to support our Society, and in so doing bring much needed revenue to the Trust by encouraging increased visitor numbers.

*Malcolm Hudson, SHHSES*



## Events at the Brickworks Museum 2018

There is a great deal planned for the main events this year and already some exciting exhibitors have agreed to come along. The Brickworks machinery will be steamed up and running at all of the events (except the Craft Fair and Beer Festival), and the trains will be giving rides as usual. Many thanks to all the volunteers who help with these events.

**25 March – The Craft Fair and Fun Dog Show** – with over 50 craft and gift stalls inside, including art, spinning, sewing, driftwood items, candles, also Easter children's activities and in the yard, a Dog Show with cards and prizes.



**29 April – The Spring Steam Up** – the yard will be full of Traction Engines and other vehicles (thanks to the Steam Group) and inside will be rabbits and guinea pigs, a magician, woodcarvers, lacemaking, bargeware painted items, models, craft and gift stalls, as well as children's activities with a Spring theme.

**12 May – Beer Festival** – bigger than ever this year – entry by ticket only.

**27 May – Victoriana & Steampunk Event** – visiting groups in their lovely fancy costumes, Nick Magic at 12.00pm, Sci Fi Book reading at 2.00pm, a time machine model display by a junior school, flea circus, tea drinking, craft and gift stalls, children's activities and much more.

**24 June – The Country Fair** – owls, dog agility, Beekeepers' Association, the blacksmith, various stalls and children's activities.

**22 July – Trains at the Brickworks** – model railway layouts and railway related stalls, and outside the trains will be running and at least one of the Trust's steam engines will be on site.

**19 August – Vehicles at the Brickworks** – Solent MG Owner's Club, MX Sports Cars, buses thanks to the S&DTHT, other cars and vehicles, Meccano display and the usual stalls and children's activities.

**6 and 9 September – Heritage Open Days** – a chance to see the Museum for free as part of the National Heritage Open Days scheme.



**23 September – WW1 Event** – Solent Overlord Vehicles and a re-enactment group outside – while inside Warship Association Models Display and SS&B Local History Group Exhibition, stalls and children's activities.

**21 October – Halloween Steam Up** – the yard full of traction engines and other vehicles (thanks to the Steam Group) while inside bats, Guy the Clown, a magician and Halloween children's activities.

**25 November – Christmas at the Brickworks** – 60 craft & gift stalls, handbell ringers, Meccano exhibition, Father Christmas and Christmas themed children's activities to round off the year.

*Pam Formby, Events Organiser*

## Trustee Profile: Paul West, Trust Treasurer

In this edition, we meet Paul West, Trust Treasurer. Paul originated from Sutton Coldfield then gradually migrated south with his parents to Hertfordshire and finally to Hampshire. After studying Mathematics at Surrey University he embarked on a career in accountancy and qualified as a chartered accountant in 1982 with a firm in Winchester. Finance in industry appealed, so he joined a construction equipment company for a few years before moving to Roke Manor Research an electronics company near Romsey, during which time he saw ownership by Plessey, then Siemens for 20 years to 2010, and now Chemring. He ended as Financial Controller there in charge of a £50 million budget!



Paul decided to retire in 2013 – at least that is what he thought – but was immediately asked to be treasurer of this and that and to help friends with their accounts or tax. So a new busy life began! He offers consultancy now and holds trustee positions in an arts enterprise and an education charity. In 2015 Paul's wife, then Curator of Jane Austen's House Museum and who knew Carolynne the Project Manager at the Brickworks professionally, suggested that he should visit the interesting Brickworks Museum as they were seeking a finance trustee. He was amazed by the site and really excited to hear about the bold future plans coupled with the many challenges the museum faced, so joined the Trust board in July 2015.

When quizzed about why 'bricks' having been in 'electronics' for many years, he said:

*"I actually have had a long interest in historic and heritage buildings and feel a really strong desire with my finance and business expertise to help preserve this unique museum for future generations."*

Away from the world of finance Paul has many sporting interests. He plays tennis and cycles regularly and is a keen follower of rugby and football being a lifelong Watford supporter. He also owns a share in a narrowboat which has cruised along most of the waterways in this country. A family of 4 children and 3 grandchildren also help to keep him busy.

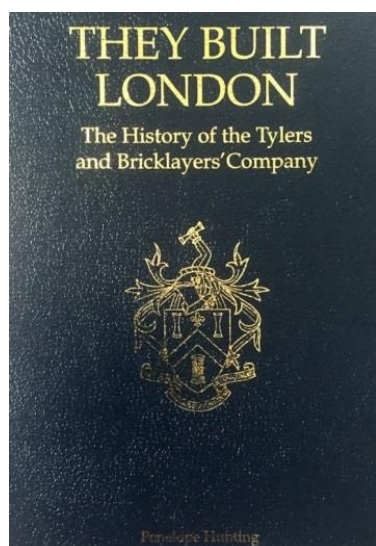
## Arrival of S&DTHT at the Brickworks



Since the last newsletter, the Museum has formally welcomed Southampton and District Transport and Heritage Trust (S&DTHT) to the site. They have approximately twenty vehicles of all ages that they look after, mainly from Southampton and the local area. With a membership of over eighty they enjoy all kinds of activities and their buses can be seen at lots of local events and they will also be in attendance at various Brickworks events during the year.

Members of S&DTHT are pictured with Bursledon Brickworks management and Trustees.

## Book Review



***“They Built London: the History of the Tylers and Bricklayers’ Company”***  
by Penelope Hunting, (ISBN: 978-1-9069-6998-1)

Primarily a history of the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers, this book provides a fascinating insight into the fluctuating fortunes of the Company from the first recorded Master, Thomas White, in 1416 to the Company’s 600<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2016. The ‘Tylers’ craft or ‘mistry’ was first mentioned in the 1370s so was already well established by 1416. The Royal Charter of the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers was signed in 1568 by Queen Elizabeth I, so this year marks the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the present Company.

The earliest tile and brickmaking took place in Egypt and Babylon and the Romans introduced brickmaking to Britain. Although the practice ended when the Romans left, there is evidence of a slow revival during the late Saxon period. Both manufacture and use of tiles and bricks was carried out by the early tylers and bricklayers.

The misteries, fraternities and guilds of the City of London evolved into the City of London Livery Companies. The Guilds promoted the well-being of members, monitored the quality of goods made or sold, supervised the quality of workmanship, and trained apprentices in their fellowship. Due to the poor quality of tiles produced, the craft of tyler was downgraded to that of common labourer by the Common Council in 1461 – a decision which was reversed in 1468, so one must assume that the quality of tiles had improved! Henry VIII’s extensive building programme saw Company members prosper but despite the demand for bricks and bricklayers after the Great Fire of 1666, the Company declined as it could not provide the quantities required. The Company fortunes were temporarily revived during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century building boom.

The book also includes interesting details about the governance of the City of London, the families associated with the Company, and other Worshipful Companies that members worked for. For example, the order of precedence was set in 1517 by the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen during an acrimonious meeting and does not represent the foundation date of the Companies. The Tylers and Bricklayers Company was placed at 58 and later moved to 57 when two companies amalgamated. A dispute between the Merchant Taylors and Skinners Companies at numbers six and seven provides the origin of the phrase ‘at sixes and sevens’. The Lord Mayor of the City of London always came from one of the twelve great Livery Companies, so it was common for members to move from company to company.

Freedom of a guild by apprenticeship, family connection or nomination gave the right to practise the craft or trade but in reality members often practised another trade. Widows were admitted to Fellowship to continue the family business. Ben Jonson, the actor and playwright, was apprenticed to a bricklayer and was intermittently a Freeman of the company. He was commissioned by other Companies to provide entertainments for Lord Mayor’s Day and other City festivals.

Financial records indicate that the Company was once wealthy, owning property in London including alms houses and a Company Hall. Now Company meetings are held in the Halls of other Companies. Over the centuries many of the Company Halls were built, repaired or improved by members of the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers.

Today the Company focuses on the crafts of floor and wall tiling, roof slating and tiling, and bricklaying through the Craft Trust. Its Charitable Trust makes donations to worthy causes such as London City Mission and Mudchute City Farm and the Relief in Need Charity provides pensions for senior liverymen in difficult financial circumstances.

To conclude, a very enjoyable read and the extensive bibliography underlines the depth of research that was undertaken to produce this book.

*Judy Bevis, Volunteer Librarian*

## Wonderberrys at the Brickworks



We are negotiating an exciting new collaboration between The Brickworks Museum and Wonderberrys.

Under the management of Wonderberrys, it is hoped that the café could be given a fresh new look with a soft seating area and new menu.

Wonderberrys ran a series of Seasonal Afternoon Teas at the Museum in December 2017, when the café was transformed into a cosy and elegant tearoom, featuring their signature freshly baked cakes and wonderful vintage crockery.

Occasional afternoon teas will also be available during 2018 so look out for further details.



## Wildlife Garden at the Museum

The Wildlife Garden is situated in an old railway siding behind the bungalow (part of the old track is still visible). It was started with the aid of a small Lottery Grant and opened by Chris Packham in 2005 with the aim of encouraging wildlife into this area.

In 2017, the garden and pond were improved with a grant from Councillor Woodward and there were dragonflies, newts, birds, bats, butterflies, moths, over 40 wildflowers and much more to be seen in there.

The improvements paid off as the garden won a Silver Gilt award in the Wildlife Garden Category of Fareham in Bloom!



**Pam Formby with the Fareham in Bloom award**

## Some Thoughts on Site History

In Autumn 2017, I was walking around the site admiring the colours on the trees and I remembered the clay pit outside the Museum, where the railway, horse drawn brickworks and car park are now situated. This was a lovely lunchtime respite from working on the machine in the summer. The scars of the original excavation were softened by silver birch and hazel trees, small shrubs and wildflowers. It was very like the scene at Swanwick Lakes, where nature has gradually reclaimed the industrial landscape.

It was filled in with spoil from the excavation work for the M27 around 1974 but now there are many naturalised trees and shrubs onsite as well as some deliberately planted.

Once again the site has become a pleasant environment and one cannot help but marvel at the capacity of nature to recover a damaged landscape.

*John Bevis  
Volunteer*



## Calcium Silicate Bricks

Further to Jim's Jottings in the last edition about manufacture of bricks using sand and lime, the Museum has a video of the process (VHS and DVD, Accession number BB2013.0349) called the Calcium Silicate Brick, published by Beacon Hill Brickworks in Dorset. Using sand and lime from Derbyshire, this brickworks mixed the materials with water, before they were press moulded and steamed in autoclaves at 200 °C.

Under these conditions, the lime reacts with the water and sand to form calcium silicate so that the whole becomes an extended matrix of calcium silicate surrounding the centres of the sand particles. The result is a pale yellow brick but other colours were achieved using mineral pigments. The yellow bricks used to construct John Darling Mall in Eastleigh were stated to be from this source.

A rustic finish could be achieved by immersing the smooth finished bricks in dilute hydrochloric acid. It is interesting to compare this process with that used at Bursledon, where extruded clay was rusticated using very coarse files attached to the extrusion die and, if a yellow finish was required, yellow sand was put in the sand blaster mixed with a white powder referred to as "Bufs". This may have been lime as this would then give the required pale surface finish by high temperature reaction of the sand and lime with the clay as it was fired.

The process of firing the clay is also very different to the Calcium Silicate process as it first involves final drying, then some chemical changes at about 600 °C and then the final sintering where the clay particles join together at around 900 °C. Despite the differences, both result in an extended mineral matrix which serves as a strong building material.

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## Restoration of Clay Extruder

During July 2017 one of the extruders in the outside exhibition space was brought into the Museum workshop for a refurbishment. It was restored some years ago and the effects of weather had resulted in some corrosion. Repairs and retrofitted parts were recalled by Jim Knights and Barry Fairweather. This allowed a record to be made in the report of the current work. The machine was dismantled and all parts cleaned of loose paint and rust by wire brushing and degreased where necessary using white spirit. All parts were primed with red oxide primer, except the wheels and towing handle which were coated with bituminous paint. Undercoat and then an ivory topcoat were applied, to match the original colour as received by the Brickworks.

During the restoration we found interesting evidence for fittings to secure a cutting table to this machine. We also found makers' information indicating the machine had originally been manufactured in North Lincolnshire. Once again it is in working order and was returned to the exhibition space in November 2017.



***Bursledon Brickworks Industrial Museum  
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