



BURSLEDON BRICKWORKS MUSEUM TRUST

BRICKBATS

The Official Magazine of
the Brickworks Museum
– Bursledon

Free to volunteers and members, 50p when sold

www.bursledonbrickworks.org.uk

Introduction

Once again BRICKBATS has a new editor! I wish to thank Lawrence Jackson for editing the April 2017 edition and regret that he was unable to continue in the role.

The museum volunteers have continued with the renovation projects that were reported in the April edition. The viewing platform is complete so visitors can now watch the second steam engine working on event days. In addition, urgent repairs have been needed to the brick press in the Machine Room.

Several collections of bricks have arrived at the Museum recently, from both private and museum collections. The museum has also been offered the collection of brick pieces of the author, Jane Wight, who wrote "Brick Building in England from the Middle Ages to 1550". Her research showed that although brickmaking ended when the Romans left, brickmaking in England started again much earlier than was previously thought.

The 2017 season started with the Craft Fair in April and has included two events put on by outside organisations, a Beer Festival in May and a Steampunk Weekend in July.

Aubree Slavik was appointed Education Officer in the spring of this year and made a huge contribution to the education offer to local schools. Unfortunately she returned suddenly to the USA in August. In September we were delighted and relieved to welcome Jemma to the role!

This issue includes a report from the Museum Events Organiser, a profile of trustee and new Trust Chair, Garry Moore, other news and several articles I hope you find interesting.

Judy Bevis, Acting Editor



*Pug Mill from Ralph Tanner's Brickworks
After restoration*

Sunday Event Days Welcome More Visitors

Events held in 2017 so far have been a great success, with visitor numbers increasing and volunteers working hard to ensure that events run smoothly. At all except the 'Craft Fair', the Brickworks Machinery has been working, the Steam Group (SHHSES) have brought traction engines out, trains have been run by HNGRT, and at the 'Family Fun Day', two buses attended from S&DTHT.

The 'Craft Fair' in April opened the year with over 50 stalls and 371 visitors. Later that month, the 'Big Spring Steam Up' was attended by 640 visitors who appreciated the traction engines displayed by SHHSES and their friends. As well as interesting vehicles such as the woodcutting machine and miniature steam engines, trailer and train rides were very popular. Inside, there were models, Terry's vintage camera display, woodcarvers, old pictures, live music, stalls and children's activities.

In May, 365 visitors enjoyed the 'Children's Fun Day', and despite a rainy afternoon, the Circus Workshop was able to continue in the large marquee. Magic Jack gave a good performance, Guy the Clown had his flea circus on show, and the dance group and face painting were popular. There were also rabbits, guinea pigs, children's activities, archery, crazy golf and train rides.

There was something for everyone at the Country Fair in June, which welcomed 550 people. Outside attractions included an animal petting farm, hurdle making, walking sticks, the blacksmith, Lurcher rescue, traction engines, a classic lorry, the forgotten wrecks display and train rides. Inside, there were craft and gift stalls, face painting, Terry's early record collection, quilting, art, pottery painting and model buildings.

The 'Family Fun Day' in July attracted 450 people to see the 4AB dog agility group, buses, traction engines, crazy golf, a face-painter, fairground organ, the blacksmith and Red Stags Morris Dancers and train rides were available too. Inside were craft stalls and children's activities, 'That's Jive' Dance Group, Sign Language Choir, and Terry's early record collection. Guy the Clown brought his flea circus and 37 people came to the Victorian Tea Party, enjoying scones and Victorian sponge cake made by Charlotte.



Two new events featured in this year's calendar. The first Bursledon Brickworks Museum Beer Festival in May was a fantastic event which sold out of beer as well as tickets! In July, the site hosted a Steampunk weekend with almost 300 visitors, many in elaborate costumes, enjoying specialist stalls, entertainment and music, which also attracted photographers seeking out interesting subjects.

As we are known for being quirky and having something different each time, it can be a challenge finding exhibitors and entertainers to maintain this

standard. Once again, we have had lovely comments from people enjoying themselves, including how helpful and knowledgeable the volunteers are, which makes it all worthwhile!

Pam Formby, Events Organiser

Trustee Profile: Garry Moore, Chair of BBMT

In this edition, we meet Garry Moore, the new Chair of BBMT. Garry was educated at Barton Peveril Grammar School then worked in insurance for 40 years ending as an independent specialist insurance broker. Having sold the business in 2010, he retired in 2013 although he still does some insurance consultancy work. He is also Director and Company Secretary of a small property management company.



For many years he enjoyed sailing small catamarans competitively (World Masters Champion in 1990), but now settles for sailing radio controlled yachts! Garry has a keen interest in other sport especially football as a long-time supporter of Saints and cricket at the local Hampshire County Cricket ground. He gets plenty of exercise doing all the heavy work on an allotment.

Wishing to keep active in retirement, Garry became a governor of a local school and is now Chair of the Board of Governors. As he also has an interest in industrial history, he joined the Brickworks as a volunteer where he works on building projects in the winter and reception in the summer.

He was encouraged by another trustee to join the BBMT board at the first AGM in 2016. Since then, he has become lead trustee for insurance matters and is part of the Education Offer sub-group of trustees while his business experience broadens the expertise of the board members.

When asked why he joined the Trust, Garry replied:

“I hoped that my business experience would be of value in running the Museum and helping the Museum to become sustainable by utilizing all the resources available. I strongly believe that this unique heritage site must survive.”

In September, he formally took over as Chair of the Trust from retiring Chair, Eleanor Bell.

Jim's Jottings

- ◆ On a recent Thursday, a visitor to the Museum told me about a brickworks in Kent where he had worked. He had made bricks using a different process to that used to produce bricks at Bursledon. His bricks were made using lime and sand. The materials were mixed, moistened, moulded, pressed then steam cooked under pressure in a chamber called an autoclave (like a giant pressure cooker).

The big drawback was that when the steam pressure was released after the bricks were cooked it made a ferocious shriek/whistle that disturbed the whole neighbourhood. Consequently it was agreed that steam would be released at 6.30am when it would provide the workers with an early morning alarm to ensure that everybody got to work on time!

- ◆ If you went to the theatre in Shakespeare's time, you would have been met at one of the many doorways to the auditorium by a member of staff holding a terracotta box with a slot into which you dropped your penny. Before the play started, the terracotta pots were taken to a small office at the side where they were smashed and the coins counted and reported as **box office takings**.



Hampshire Narrow Gauge Railway Trust and Railways at the Brickworks



Originally a Society, we became the Hampshire Narrow Gauge Railway Trust (HNGRT) in 2006 and gained charitable status in 2016. Whilst many railway preservation groups seek to preserve our old standard gauge main and branch lines, our aim is to rescue and look after those little trains, surviving artefacts and the skills necessary to retain the history that served our industries in the past. Today, the steam locomotives and the old petrol and diesel engines, some dating from 1919, represent a huge financial challenge in order to keep them running. With many parts no longer available and originally handmade, anything that we cannot produce in our own facilities has to be turned or cast by specialist workshops.

The story began in 1961 when a group of enthusiasts rescued an abandoned narrow gauge steam engine named "Wendy" from a Welsh slate quarry. Over the next few years, various wagons were collected along with another steam locomotive, "Cloister", and three internal combustion engines. To enable passengers to be carried at the initial site in Durley, Hampshire, two ex-Ramsgate Tunnel Railway coaches were saved from the scrap man and were operated initially in aid of local charities.

Operations moved to Bursledon Brickworks Museum in 1995 when items from the collection were placed on loan and a demonstration line was constructed. This was further enhanced to provide a two foot gauge "Main Line" suitable for carrying passengers using one of the Ramsgate coaches, the other being lost in a fire at the original site. We have also built a miniature railway to entertain the children and many adults!

Whilst the original "Mineral Line" is built using light weight rail, much of which is similar to that used in WW1 to supply the trenches, the passenger line (Main Line) is built to much higher standards and subject to rules laid down by the Government Office of Rail and Road. Whilst not operating high speed intercity trains, we are inspected occasionally and all work has to be recorded meticulously.

As is common practice between preserved railways, we have loaned or demonstrated stock at other locations including Kew Bridge Steam Museum (London), Amberley Museum (Sussex), Leighton Buzzard Railway (Bedfordshire) and Hollycombe Steam Museum Collection (Hampshire). Currently "Wendy" is on loan to the Hayling Island Light Railway (Hampshire) and "Cloister", having spent time undergoing repairs at Statfold Barn Railway (Staffordshire), has recently been to the Threlkeld Mining Museum (Cumbria) and is now at the West Lancashire Railway (Lancashire), and we have been offered the loan of steam locomotive "Diana", owned by one of our members, during next season once it has finished its current tour.

Currently we are constructing a new siding off the Mineral Line to display some typical railway wagons once used at the Brickworks. We are also repairing some of these to enable us to run demonstration industrial trains in addition to the passenger service. Another project, funds permitting, is to build an engine shed and small museum to give public access to the various artefacts saved by the Trust.

The miniature railway, being a seven and a quarter inch gauge, which is a common scale for this type of railway, enables us to take our engines to other venues and for visiting engines from other similar lines. Designed with children in mind, we seem to carry just as many adults! All the engines and stock for this railway are owned by individual members and have been purchased new, purchased from other railways or been built by members. Here too, we are gradually developing the facilities to enhance the visitor experience.



New Displays on Show

Brickworks of Hampshire

Members of the local history group that meet at the Museum have been researching some of the many brickworks that once existed in Hampshire. Their work is on show in a new display in the upstairs gallery at the museum and it is well worth revisiting as new research is added.

The various brickworks at Chandler's Ford, including the original brickworks owned by the Hooper and Ashby builders' merchants, have been researched and documented. In addition, there is information about the various brickworks in and around Fareham including Fontley Brick and Tile Works and the brickworks of Crocker Hill, Beamond, Maylings and Furzehill. There are also notes on many Isle of Wight brickworks, the Swanmore Brick and Tile Works, Bailey's Hard Brickyard in Beaulieu and New Forest Brick and Tile. Maps, diagrams and photographs are included in the displays and more information is available in folders.



Blanchard Bricks came to the notice of one of the group when a visitor mentioned he had a brick collection that included some from Blanchards of Bishops Waltham. Research revealed that Blanchard was probably a very well-known manufacturer in this country and abroad.

Mr Blanchard originally bought the London manufacturing works from Mrs. Coade, famous for her ceramic known as 'Coade Stone'. In Bishops Waltham, a Victorian gentleman, Sir

Arthur Helps (Private Secretary to Queen Victoria), was trying to give much needed employment locally by forming the Bishops Waltham Clay Company. Unfortunately in 1871 the clay company failed financially and turned to Blanchard for help. The clay at Bishops Waltham was of a very fine quality so produced fine terracotta mouldings and domestic articles. Blanchard ran both businesses until he relocated to Bishops Waltham in 1880. Blanchard was followed by his son, and then Elliott Brothers of Southampton took over the site to make bricks. In 1957 the works closed because the clay was exhausted.

What happened to Sir Arthur when his enterprise failed? He was given a house in Kensington by Queen Victoria in recognition of his service. The houses built for the workers relocated from Staffordshire were replaced in 1959 by the council – not bad for buildings meant to last 10 years!



Engineering News Notice Board

The new Engineering News Notice Board is located between the workshop and the café.

As part of each restoration or renovation project, the Workshop Team keep detailed records of their work, including photographs. Some of the most recent projects have been used to produce short reports that are now on display.

Events Still to Come!



Halloween Steam Up

29th October 2017 – 11.00am to 4.00pm

One of our biggest events of the year, when all our resident traction engines come home to roost for the winter having spent the summer touring the country. Friends bring their engines along as well and it is usually a really good turnout. The Museum will be in steam including our two John Wood's and Son stationary engines and the little vertical engine that runs the country estate brickworks. Hampshire Narrow Gauge Railway Trust will be running their trains and inside there will be activities for children including our popular Halloween activities, craft stalls and music.

An Edwardian Worker's Christmas

26th November 2017 – 11.00am to 4.00pm

A different Christmas event this year and to celebrate the changes we are dropping our entry price to £2 per person (£1 for children) and offering lots of lovely activities with an Edwardian theme. We will have our Christmas Market upstairs, live music and, of course, a visit from Father Christmas (not included in the entry price). This is one of our Steam-Up Sundays so the Museum engines will all be working, the trains will be running and the cafe will be open. It can be cold in the Brickworks in the winter so wrap up warm!



Portrait of Robert Ashby

The portrait in the Museum collection was known to be a photograph of a painting. The original portrait of Robert Ashby (by an unknown artist) was recently presented to the Museum Trust by Julian, Richard and Mary Ashby.

Once the correct environmental conditions can be established, the portrait will be put on display in the upstairs gallery area. This is quite significant for the Museum as Robert Ashby was co-founder of the original Bursledon Brickworks.

It is always better to have the original in a collection instead of a copy!



Café News

In 2016 the café furniture was replaced with the aid of a grant (the old furniture was reupholstered and refurbished by a dedicated volunteer to provide casual seating areas in the Museum), and this highlighted how tired and shabby the café kitchen had become. It is hoped to apply for a further grant to provide a more modern café kitchen in the near future. The Café Manager has exciting ideas for expanding the operation of the café – so watch out for further news!