

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

Introduction

As well as the usual regular features in this edition, we catch up with the workshop team who have been doing some challenging restoration work; they are pictured below with the restored pipe cutting table which is one of the outdoor exhibits. We also focus in more detail on some of our volunteers and have a German view of the Brickworks from Philipp Fluck who recently spent two periods of time at the Brickworks as part of a university placement. In addition, there is an update on new items that have recently been added to the Museum collections.

The season so far has been a great success and it's really encouraging to see some fantastic comments about the Brickworks Museum on Trip Advisor. Here are just a few extracts from recent reviews:

'Living locally this was my 1st visit for several years. There has been a lot of investment in the site. There is not a lot of industrial history in the South and this is one of the best sites open in Southampton.'

'Travelled down from Bristol specially but it was worth it. Great little museum with plenty for kids to do.'

'Very friendly volunteers working throughout the site and all very helpful.'

Everyone involved with the Museum should be proud of their contribution towards making it an excellent local visitor attraction. There are still several big events to come before the season closes, so we look forward to some more good reviews before the end of the year!

Sue Boswell, Editor



Spotlight on Carolyn Haynes

For this edition, we caught up with Carolyn Haynes to find out more about her role:

How did you become involved with The Brickworks?

I first visited the Brickworks as part of another project I was managing, a Heritage Lottery Fund grant for the Chalk Pits at Buriton. The link between lime and what was happening here at the time (conservation centre) was interesting. I realised what an amazing place it was and got more involved and started working for Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust on a Lottery application back in 2009/10.



What did the role of Project Manager for the Heritage Lottery Funded project involve?

There have been three HLF projects with the main one being in two sections. Round 1 was the first sign that HLF were committed to the Museum and it was fantastic when we heard we had been successful. There then followed a year preparing the full application. At that time the Museum was all volunteers and we were working hard to raise enough income to keep going. It was a tricky time as the insurers were threatening to stop insuring the site unless we started to get all the health and safety elements in place. Terry White was volunteering at the time and did a large amount of work to fulfil all the requirements. Round 1 ended with our application to HLF, which was successful in December 2012. For the next three years I managed the main project including the capital works, the interpretation, creating a fully functioning museum, writing reports to the funder and making sure we were able to manage the finances.

We were hoping to raise visitor numbers to a level where the Museum could survive on its own but sadly that didn't happen. So we went back to HLF with an application for a Transition Fund to explore options to create a viable future. One of these was to make better use of social media, which we put in place immediately and saw good results with visitor numbers rising last year. Another area was to create a master plan for the site and identify potential income from commercial uses. As a result, the New Foundations Project seeks to build lettable units in the two derelict drying sheds to provide the Museum with income all year round.

How has your role changed since the Heritage Lottery Funded project ended?

In many ways I am still doing the same job, providing a focus for the day-to-day running of the site working closely with Mary and Gemma. Between us we cover everything from looking after visitors and volunteers to looking after the collection. I also try to create awareness amongst people outside the Museum that we exist, which I do via talks and a degree of pestering! We have had success with new support from the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers and the Brick Development Association.

Since last Autumn I have started another round of fundraising, involving a successful application to the Architectural Heritage Fund to help us write a project viability report for the new sheds. I am now putting together yet another HLF bid for part of the money we will need to restore the sheds. Alongside this we are working on projects to create a vibrant visitor attraction, including an exhibition that is part of an initiative led by Hampshire Cultural Trust called Creative Genius.

What do you see as the main challenges in your present role?

There is never enough time. I find it very difficult to fit in the ordinary work of running the Museum, creating exhibitions and so on with the fundraising. Funding applications take far more time than anticipated and many involve long and intricate procedures.

What is your vision for the future of The Brickworks Museum?

I want to see the Museum flourish with lots of visitors really enjoying what makes the site special. I would like us to broaden the story we are telling to include the history of brickmaking generally and in time to become The National Museum of Bricks and Brickmaking. We are the only thing of its kind and I want people out there to know about us and long to visit!

Southampton and District Transport Heritage Trust



The Southampton & District Transport Heritage Trust (S&DTHT) was founded in 2001 as an establishment of a new group merging with another originating from 1976. The Trust is associated with around 20 vehicles that relate to the history of transport in and around Southampton. S&DTHT is part of the Working Omnibus Museum Project Limited which is a registered charity.

The oldest vehicle in the collection is a Guy Arab open top bus, this bus is notably famous for its connection with Southampton's 1976 FA Cup win, as it was used to carry the team around the city. The youngest in the collection include a Leyland Olympian from 1987 and a Dennis Dart from 1995.



Vehicles from our collection attend various events during the year, ranging from the usual bus rally events (with one of the biggest in the country being at Alton in July), to visits at schools to give pupils an insight into Southampton transport history.

Over the last year a small team has been working with Nuffield Theatres in support of the Shadow Factories Project which will continue throughout 2018. We have been working hard to provide a base for the showing of audio visual material to school students and others. It is a challenging exercise to mount but so far all has gone well. Bus 71 - LOW 217 has visited 12 schools on 15 occasions. The next phase will be the community days which will involve two heritage buses visiting 14 different community locations in June and July 2018.

Since we commenced work in February 2017, we have received a great deal of volunteer support which has enabled our new base to be prepared for the reception of heritage buses at Bursledon Brickworks Museum. Eleven vehicles are currently on site with a few more due to arrive. There will also be a number of other buses that make short visits from time to time.

We are very busy with events; the Beer Festival at the Brickworks in May was a great success with us running a frequent free service to Swanwick Railway Station to connect with the Festival. We are also engaged with many outside commitments and we attend traditional bus events, which Brickworks volunteers and friends are able to join along with us. If you would like to join an event, just speak to David Hutchings, Mike Schmidt or Tom Lingwood of the bus group for more details or email events@sadttht.co.uk. If you join one of our trips, all we ask for is a donation towards S&DTHT, to help with restoration of the buses. Events coming up in the next few months include:

- Sunday 9th September: Bursledon Heritage Open Day - Free bus link to Bursledon Station and Windmill
- Saturday 15th September: Southampton Heritage Open Day
- Saturday 29th September: Music in the City, Southampton
- Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th October: Fareham Model Railway Show at Fareham Leisure Centre
- Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th October: Isle of Wight Beer & Buses
- Sunday 11th November: Cosham Indoor Transport Fair at Cosham Community Centre

Most of our collection is housed at the Brickworks Museum and our volunteers would love to show you round. We are always looking for new members to join us, no matter the level of experience or knowledge. If you are interested in joining us visit our website www.sadttht.co.uk or speak with one of our volunteers.



Volunteer News

Earlier this year, One Community, Fareham, asked if we would like to nominate some volunteers to take part in the Fareham Volunteer Appreciation Event, and so this was a great opportunity to highlight some of our long-serving volunteers. The seven volunteers (pictured) who attended the event on 7th June were Brian, John, Richard, Garry, Pam, Barry and Janine (seated).

While on the subject of thanking volunteers, here is a random selection of others who work so hard for the museum: Paul and Philip for the great work they do in cutting back bushes, brambles and grass to make the grounds look much smarter; Heather who adds a splash of colour with her pots and planting; Dave and Malcolm who recently stood ankle deep in water to dig roots from a ditch to improve drainage and bailed out oil from under the steam engine (they get all the best jobs!); and finally Art for repairing the plaster in the café under difficult conditions in the middle of the open season!



Finally, it is with great sadness that we report the deaths of Bernard Wright and Barry Woodward. With his wife, Win, Bernard was a supporter of the Museum and a Friend of the Bursledon Brickworks. He is probably best remembered for having a plant stall on event days for many years. Barry Woodward joined as a volunteer in 2014. He regularly worked on the reception desk and in the cafe while behind the scenes he undertook lots of the e-advertising.

Meet the Volunteers

What attracts people to volunteer at The Brickworks Museum? Judy Bevis has recently asked some of the volunteers this question and here are a few of the things she's found out:

Bob Palmer has been a volunteer for more than five years. Before retirement he was an Air Traffic Control Engineer for NATS, looking after the main computer system. He was encouraged to volunteer with the steam engines by the engine driver during a visit to the Brickworks. When Bob signed up as a volunteer, he was given a tour of the site and went through the induction process for volunteers. Then he was trained to operate the boiler and steam engine. The first time Bob was in charge of the steam engine on an event day was both exhilarating and frightening! He also mentioned the huge feeling of satisfaction he experienced when the second steam engine was run for the first time after it was restored. He enjoys taking part in projects like putting in fences, building viewing platforms and laying brick paving, as well as the restoration and running of the engines and other machinery. Whatever the project, there is satisfaction in saying 'I had a hand in that'. Among the most memorable moments as a volunteer for Bob was taking part in the 'Antiques Road Trip' visit to the Brickworks Museum.

Lynn Harries has been a volunteer for four years. He worked in general engineering and administration. After retirement he volunteered to do administration at the Brickworks to keep his brain active. Lynn works behind the scenes, where he undertakes all sorts of administrative tasks. He answers the requests from schools, churches and other charities for raffle prizes totalling approximately 130 applications per year. He is the liaison with Hampshire top attractions for ticket exchange, maintains the gift aid records and does laminations, enlargements and any other general office work that is required. Lynn reported that he enjoys the company of fellow volunteers and is learning more and more about the Brickworks. His most memorable times at the Brickworks involve visits to the Museum. One was the 'Steampunk' event in 2017 with the many amazing costumes. The other was a delightful visit with friends and their grandchildren, when his guests were amazed by the Museum and the knowledge of the volunteers as well as the many things for children to do. At the end of the day it was hard to drag the children away!

Restoration to Pipe Cutting Table

The outside exhibits include a cutting table for manufacture of land drain pipes. This type of drain uses relatively porous pipes simply laid end to end so that excess ground water can percolate into the drain and run away to an outlet in a ditch or stream. This type of machine would have been used on estates along with a hand operated extruder of the general type that we also have on display, the extruder being fitted with a suitable die plate for pipe of the desired diameter after shrinkage on drying and firing.

The table had deteriorated over time (pictured before restoration) and the timber work needed complete replacement. All timber work was carefully measured and recorded before the machine was moved into the workshop. Suitable weathered oak was found on site for manufacture of replacement parts and the old, deteriorated wood removed and slowly dried for conservation of representative samples, which will be stored as reference study specimens. The canvas bedding had also rotted and will be replaced.

The metal parts were completely dismantled, wire brushed, washed and sanded before being repainted. The whole machine was then reassembled with the wooden cross pieces at the correct spacings to allow movement of the cutting wires. These wires are accommodated in slots at thirteen inch spacings, when we checked the finished pipes we found that they were exactly a foot long, showing the extent of the shrinkage on drying and firing. The finished restoration is pictured on the front cover of this edition – do have a closer look next time you are at the Museum.



Creative Genius Exhibitions

'Creative Genius' is the general theme for new exhibitions in collaborating museums across Hampshire. At the Brickworks Museum, two temporary 'Creative Genius' exhibitions celebrate the developments made by Samuel Batley, a former manager of the Brickworks in Swanwick.



The loss of children as cheap labour for making bricks and tiles, and the high demand for both, provided incentives for designing better brick making machines. The exhibition of brick presses in the Machine Room focuses on Mr Batley's life and inventions including his patented modifications to the brick press. There are several brick presses from the museum collection in this temporary display, which are well worth a detailed study.

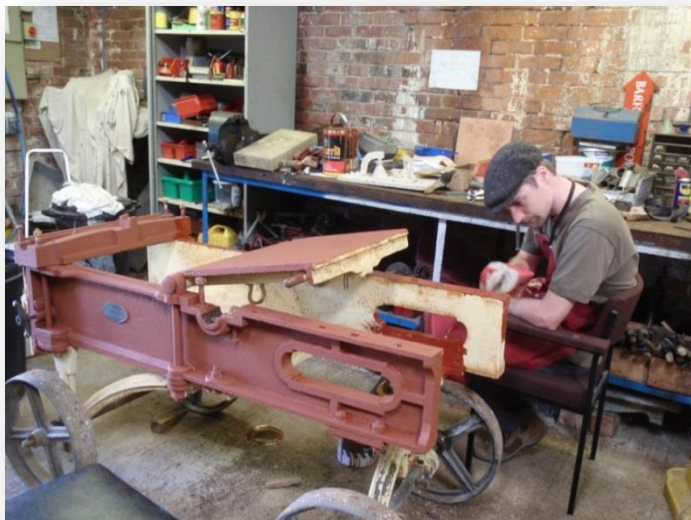
In the upstairs gallery, the exhibition focuses on the innovations in methods of drying bricks. Mr Batley designed the under floor heating system used at the Bursledon Brickworks.

A small team of volunteers were involved in researching the life and times of Mr Batley as well as understanding the technicalities of many designs of brick making machines and drying sheds. The many hours of research have resulted in two very interesting exhibitions.

A German View of the Brickworks!

German University student, Philipp Fluck, recently spent two periods of time at the Brickworks as part of a university placement. Here is his report on what he thought of the experience:

It might sound farfetched for a German university student to volunteer at the Bursledon Brickworks Museum. However, when I asked around for interesting places to spend the three months a student of English is required to spend in an English speaking country, the Museum was recommended as a place where enthusiastic people gather and helping hands are welcomed. During the past year I joined the volunteers of the Bursledon Brickworks Museum twice for six weeks each, seeing the Museum in the busy summertime and getting an insight to the work done during the winter days to prepare for the next spring.



In this time, I had the opportunity to help the restoration teams restore fascinating pieces of machinery, learn about the process of brickmaking and the industrial past, experience the open days and see the steam engines running. Needless to say, I also had a lot of opportunities to improve my English in many fields ranging from fluency and everyday words that lecturers don't think of in classrooms, to specific vocabulary regarding machines and tools.

The Bursledon Brickworks Museum is an intriguing place with a lot to learn and see but its strongest point is a friendly, welcoming and hardworking group of crewmembers and volunteers that surprised me with both their numbers and skillsets. Looking back on my stays in the UK, I remember the time I spent in the Brickworks fondly, not just for the impressive open days but mainly for all the things I learned in terms of knowledge, language skills and hands-on practical experiences thanks to the volunteer team and the Brickworks Museum.

Events at the Brickworks Museum 2018



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.

Café News: a reminder that the café is open most Saturdays during the season between 11 and 4.

2018 Events at the Brickworks Museum



There have been six main events so far this year with the Brickworks machinery working, train rides and children's activities at all of them.

The season opened in March with the **Craft Fair and Fun Dog Show**. There were 343 visitors and over 60 stalls, including artwork, spinning, and pottery making. Outside were three heritage buses, the blacksmith, fairground organ and trains. There were 30 entries to the Fun Dog Show.

April was the **Spring Steam Up** with 590 visitors and the Steam Group filled the yard with traction engines, the woodcutting machine, miniature steam, stationary engines, fairground organs and the trains were running too. Inside were rabbits & guinea pigs, Paul's model tanks & trains, Hampshire woodcarvers, local history group display and stallholders.

The **Victoriana & Steampunk** event in May had 595 paying visitors and at least 650 people on site. There were lovely and unusual outfits, Steampunk shooting range and tea duelling by GSS, Steampunk stallholders, Victorian music boxes and fairground organ and roundabout, traction engines, living wagon, train rides, steam 16mm railway layout, junior school display of Victorian toy ideas, face painting, model tanks, magician, sci-fi book readings, and Guy's Flea Circus. Also in May was the Beer Festival, a great event with plenty of different beers and ciders to try, as well as good music and everyone enjoyed themselves.

June was very hot for the **Country Fair** but 445 visitors still came to see beekeeping, dog agility, fairground organs, the blacksmith, train rides, two traction engines and a tractor, horse brasses, Mini car club, steam train railway layout, sign language choir, Fogies Band, local history and stallholders. The Steam Group kept going all day giving trailer rides in spite of the heat.

The **Train Event** was in July and another really hot day did not keep 477 visitors away. There were 11 railway layouts including three very large ones, classic cars, a bus, traction engine, stalls, two bands and Cloister the 100 year old locomotive to see.



In August, 600 people came to the **Vehicles Event** and the yard was completely full with three car clubs' vehicles, other classic cars, 25 motorbikes, vintage speedway bikes and the Shanty Buoys Singing. Inside, the Meccano Club had an amazing display upstairs and there were stallholders, local history and photography displays. The heritage buses could be visited in their depot.

There has been lots of good feedback and emails about these events and several people have sent thanks to all the hardworking volunteers which is very much deserved.

Trustee Profile: Maggie Johnston

Maggie was born into an RAF family and attended many different schools at home and overseas, eventually studying electrical and electronic engineering at the University of Bath. Her career was in mobile radio communications in research and development laboratories. Ultimately this led to management of R and D labs through to directing a subsidiary company of Vodafone and Ericsson.



On retirement, she was lucky enough to be able to own a small dressage horse establishment and then ran a small farm together with her husband, Ian. They have started to reduce the numbers of animals now as they want to be freer to travel more and visit their ever-growing number of grandchildren!

In recent years, Maggie has had plenty of volunteering experience both with the National Trust, working in the gardens at Uppark, and for various organisations in her village including the Parish Council. She first heard of the Brickworks Museum through her sister, Carolyne Haynes and has always been interested in the project. She jumped at the chance to become a trustee and says:

“My vision for the museum is to secure its future in the short term by helping with all aspects of the New Foundations projects. Longer term, it will be fantastic to see the Museum become ‘The National Museum for Bricks and Brick Making’, with a secure future and a steady flow of visitors.”

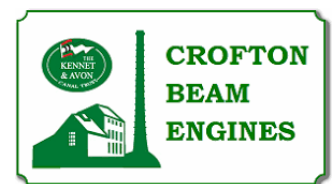
Currently she is taking a closer interest in the shop, assisting Sue Wells. Although a really big retail base cannot be envisaged until the New Foundations project has been achieved, they are learning what sells and getting lots of ideas for the future.

Beaulieu and Crofton Visits

In March, a group of Brickworks Museum volunteers visited the workshop at the Motor Museum, Beaulieu. The workshop is similar in size to that at the Brickworks (some of our volunteers had expected it to be much bigger!), and the workers have to deal with similar space and financial constraints as at the Brickworks, although specialist repairs are outsourced when there is funding for specific projects. The significant difference is that it is run by paid staff with an apprentice and volunteers while ours is entirely staffed by volunteers. The servicing of the monorail is also done by the workshop team. It was also a great opportunity to see some of the vehicles in the Museum and the group had a guided tour of the early ones. An interesting day was rounded off with an eventful journey home, as the vintage bus which the group were travelling on broke down!

Since this visit, the workshop volunteers have been buzzing with ideas, and have reorganised the workshop to accommodate the larger artefacts that need repair or conservation. The lathe has been re-commissioned and used and several machines from the museum collection have been repaired and restored as necessary.

Crofton Beam Engine was the destination for a small group of trustees and volunteers in July. This visit was primarily for trustees to exchange information, ideas and experiences but also to give some volunteers the chance to see the amazing historic engines at Crofton. The Brickworks Museum will host a return visit from some of the Crofton team next year.



Swanwick Nature Reserve is 25!

The Swanwick Lakes Nature Reserve was 25 on 18 June 2018. To celebrate this milestone, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and NATS held a reception at the reserve centre. Photographs depicting the gradual transformation of the derelict industrial site into a thriving wildlife site were on display, together with information about the many important residents to be found on the site today.

Speakers took the guests on a journey through the project and partnership concluding with aspirations for the future, followed by contributions from young people who have benefited from their relationship with the reserve. A beautiful new 'welcome board' was unveiled, a gift from NATS to mark the occasion. The celebration cake was cut by one of the young presenters assisted by Councillor Woodward and the Mayor of Fareham. This was very fitting as they represented both the beginning and the present. Guests were also offered the chance of a guided tour of the reserve.



I was delighted to join the celebrations as representative of The Brickworks Museum. There is a history of collaboration and support between the two entities that have developed from what was originally Bursledon Brickworks. The tour of the nature reserve with a knowledgeable guide was an enjoyable and enlightening experience. It is interesting to note that the origin of the Nature Reserve at Swanwick lies in the enlightened attitude of Fareham Borough Council, was created by a partnership between NATS and HIWWT, and promises to provide an important habitat for wildlife and peaceful haven for local residents for years to come.

Judy Bevis, Volunteer Librarian

Update from the Bursledon Brickworks Museum Trust

The Trust Annual General Meeting took place on 27 June 2018. Garry Moore, Paul West and James Rowley were reappointed as trustees for a further three years. Judy Bevis resigned as Secretary to the Trust. The Trust Officers are Garry Moore (Chair) and Paul West (Treasurer). Judy agreed to continue to administer the Trust documents and act as Trust archivist but will no longer arrange meetings or prepare minutes and agendas.

The Trust was delighted to welcome two new Trustees at the AGM and there are now eleven trustees in total. One appointment provides the Trust with expertise in conservation and the management of visitor attractions, whilst the other strengthens business management with the inclusion of project management. At present the focus of the Trust is on fundraising and income generation to put the Museum on a sound financial footing. One of the new trustees has decided to focus on improving the marketing of the Museum.

Lights, Camera, Action!

The Museum was hired by a film crew earlier this year. Humankind Productions have got super excited about the possibility of a new Splinter Cell game, so they made a fan film "Splinter Cell: In The Shadows". It's a live action short film based on the video game. They wanted to do service to the incredible game and add a little cinematic twist. In their film Sam Fisher must stop a mass chemical attack on London. His mission is to capture the terrorist Andrei Romanov before he pushes the button to destroy London. Eight million lives hang in the balance, and only Sam Fisher can save them!

The team worked overnight at the Museum and if you want to spot scenes from the Brickworks, then have a look at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkvkhCvnbDU&feature=youtu.be>

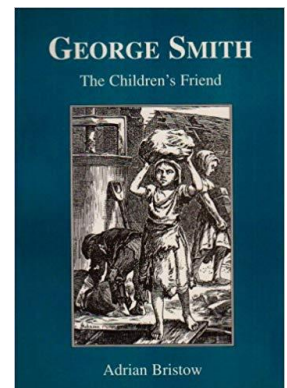
The Factories Acts (Brick and Tile Yards) Extension Bill 1871

The welfare of children and women during the 18th century had been considered in Factory Acts of Parliament from 1832 and a reduction in hours for under-13s was passed in 1833. Due to their size, brick and tile yards were not controlled by the earlier Factory Acts having less than the required number of employees, so were not visited by inspectors.

One person who fought to eliminate the abuse of children in the brick yards was George Smith (1831-1895). At the age of 7, he went with his father to work in a brickyard in Staffordshire, firstly taking clay from the pug mill to the moulding bench, and then at 14 he became a barrow boy. He became a skilled brick maker and eventually managed his own and other brick yards. Being a sympathetic man, he was appalled at young children being made to do very hard work, and found he was able to manufacture bricks and tiles without employing young children or women, and still bring a good return for the company shareholders.

More and more bricks were required for the building of factories, canals and railways so the owners used as much cheap labour, children and women, as possible. The children who took clay to the moulder were called 'pages' and would carry anything up to 25 lbs (13 kilo) of clay on their head. By writing pamphlets and lobbying parliament, George Smith gained the help of Lord Shaftesbury and the Act of Parliament was passed in 1871, forbidding females under sixteen or children under ten from being employed in the manufacture of bricks and tiles.

The employers still did not wish to adhere to the regulation and tried to get round the section by declaring they were making decorative tiles. George Smith continued his good works by getting better conditions for children who lived on the canals and became known as "The Children's Friend".



Taken from: "George Smith, The Children's Friend" Adrian Bristow. IMOGEN press 1999.

The Museum Collections

The Museum has been fortunate enough to acquire a number of objects since the beginning of the year, all donated by members of the public. Objects acquired by the Museum fall into one of two categories. Firstly, items for the core collection which have to meet criteria set out in our Collection Development Policy. Before accepting a donation, it is important that we consider each item carefully to ensure we have the resources available to preserve it. The second group of objects are for handling and display, helping to interpret the human stories at the Brickworks. These items do not need to fall into our Collections Policy and will not necessarily be preserved for the long term. Items in this category include furnishings in the Brickworks' cottages, the typewriters in the 'office', and the blue and cream ceramics in the upstairs café.

In 2018 the Museum has acquired, unsurprisingly, a number of bricks! There are two from 'Northcot', a selection of local Curdridge bricks, a 'Tuckers of Loughborough' and several from Carline in Lancashire. The Brickworks Museum is becoming increasingly well-known as a depository of UK bricks. In March, about 140 were donated by Derby Museum following a rationalisation of their collections. This follows other large collections in 2017, both from Yorkshire. One came from a private collection and the other from Doncaster Museum. Additional donations have included a collection of brick laying tools from two generations of the same family, and an enamelled silver 25-year service medal. The display collection has benefited from an old 'Kershaw Eight-20 PENGUIN' camera for the brickworkers' cottages display area.

BBMT's ultimate goal is to become the National Museum of Bricks and Brickmaking. Ongoing donations to the collection are essential to help us achieve our aim and to change our displays which encourages visitors to return. A small team of collections and archive volunteers make records of the collection. These show what we have, where it is on site and hopefully where it came from. With accurate records we are able to respond to enquiries, use the collection for exhibitions, and take care of items for years to come.

The Brickworks Museum
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