

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

It's been lovely to see The Brickworks receiving a number of five star reviews for events that have taken place so far this year. In addition, there has been some fantastic feedback with remarks such as 'Great day all round', 'Had a lovely day out', 'Thank you to the volunteers', 'Lots to see', 'Pleasant & friendly staff', 'Lovely small café', 'Such hard work had gone into it all and it was amazing'.

There are still a few months of the season remaining with some key events and the Heritage Open Days still to come. The trial of the Costumed Interpretation also takes place soon and this should provide a different dimension for visitors to experience and enjoy.

A number of wonderful Brickworks volunteers had their work at the Museum recognised at an event at Ferneham Hall, Fareham in June and they are pictured receiving their certificates. One Community organise this event annually to recognise the exceptional volunteers that give so much to their local community.

In this edition of Brickbats, we take a more in depth look at volunteering including different types of volunteers and what volunteers gain from the experience. There's also an update on a whole host of news from around the Brickworks and information on the latest projects in the workshop.

Sue Boswell, Editor



Brickworks Museum Events

The volunteers have worked really hard at the five main events so far this year and we have been lucky with the weather at all of them.

The Craft Fair and Fun Dog Show in March welcomed almost 800 visitors. The Dog Show was popular, attracting over 60 entries. There were about 60 craft stalls, live music, five cherished buses and free bus tours, the blacksmith, the Brickworks machinery was working and there were miniature train rides all day.

In April, 674 visitors came to the Spring Steam Up. It was great to see the yard full of traction engines thanks to SHHSES who worked hard all day giving the popular free trailer and lorry rides. Inside were rabbits and guinea pigs, flower arrangements, various stalls and activities, and local history display. The Brickworks machinery was working and there were miniature train rides.

May was the Steampunk and Victoriana Day with 760 visitors, lovely unusual outfits, and lots to see and do. In addition to the usual trailer rides and train rides, there were Steampunk Games organised by the Gosport Steampunk Society, a 16mm model steam railway layout, the blacksmith, a vintage boat, and fairground organ. Inside were various stalls and activities linked to the Steampunk theme.

The Summer Fair was in June with 576 visitors. Outside were 28 Morris Minors along with beekeepers, gun dogs, the blacksmith, cherished buses, motorcycles, fairground organ, plants and pots, and the Shanty Buoys Singing. Visitors also enjoyed trailer rides, the miniature trains and the Brickworks machinery. Inside, a host of country crafts were on display along with children's activities.

July's Train Event welcomed 503 visitors. Outside was the large 16mm railway layout, miniature train rides, trailer rides thanks to SHHSES, MG Car Club Exhibitors, the blacksmith, speedway bikes, cherished buses, Ukes of Wallington Band and The Fogies Band. Inside were model railway layouts, various stalls and children's activities.

Let's hope the weather is kind for the remaining events this year:

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| 15th & 22nd Sept | Heritage Open Days: the annual Heritage Open Days events when there will be free entry to the Museum |
| 29th September | Family Fun Day: lots of family activities and a Local History Display on Long Ago Business in the area. Adults £7, Concessions £6, Children £4, Families £18 |
| 27th October | Halloween Steam Up: one of the biggest events of the year. Adults £7, Concessions £6, Children £4, Families £18 |
| 24th November | Christmas at the Brickworks: over 50 craft stalls plus the Meccano Group, the Band and Bellringers. Reduced entry prices of Adults £3 and Children £1 |



Pam Formby, Events Organiser

Brickworks News

Fareham in Bloom

The Wildlife Garden and the whole site at the Brickworks Museum have been entered in Fareham in Bloom again this year and the results will be known at the end of September.

Funding Update

Museum staff and volunteers have been successful in obtaining several small grants. As well as a grant for the café, funding has also been received to improve the interpretation of exhibits. The display and interpretation of the brick collection will be changed completely for 2020 to include more of the collection. This grant came from South East Museum Development Programme after a museum MOT identified areas that could benefit from funding. Also associated with this grant was the development of a programme for costumed interpretation. The costumes have been made and a trial of the programme was planned for 28th August and 1st September. The final programme should be run on a regular basis in 2020 when visitors will be able to see the operation of equipment by appropriately costumed demonstrators.

HNGRT

HNGRT have advised the Museum Trust that it will be leaving The Brickworks site by February 2020, so 2019 is the last year that they will be responsible for running trains at the Museum. It has been an association of about 22 years with many of the present members of HNGRT being involved throughout that time and therein lays the problem. With the gradual loss of members, and no new younger members, HNGRT have found it increasingly difficult to provide the resources needed to run the trains. We wish HNGRT well for the future. This will not be the end of trains at The Brickworks, so look out for further announcements early next year.

Historical Talk

On 24th April, Jim Beckett gave a talk on the brickworks at Chandlers Ford owned by Hooper and Ashby and the links to the development of Bursledon Brickworks.

IOTA Award

In March, the Brickworks received an award for services to transport from the Institute of Transport Administration (IOTA). This may seem a little unusual for a Museum dedicated to bricks but the transportation of bricks by water, rail and road is an integral part of the story. Over the years SHHSES and HNGRT have helped to demonstrate this, while SADTHT, representing another part of transport heritage, have recently joined the Brickworks community.

Museum Objects

A review has identified several large pieces of machinery that are not displayed to best advantage. With help from SHHSES, it is hoped to move them to locations that provide better context in the brickmaking story.

Steam Apprentices Day

On 4th May SHHSES ran the first Steam Apprentices Day for several years. A small group of museum volunteers opened the café and Museum to support this event.

Visiting Groups

There have been a number of visiting groups, including an Aston Martin owners group and the Central Southern Section of the Rolls Royce Enthusiasts Club. In addition, a group from the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers visited for a tour of the Museum and lunch on 20th June.

WW1 Project

The WW1 project will come to fruition next season. Using local and national archives, volunteers are busy researching what happened at the brickworks during WW1. The outcome will be a display and costumed interpretation during 2020. 'Bombs, Bricks and Belles' will focus on women at the brickworks during WW1 and forms the final part of the whole sequence of centenary events.



Café Changes

Changes to the café kitchen were undertaken over the winter to improve the working facilities. A grant was received to purchase a coffee machine, drinks cooler and stainless steel food preparation table.

The delights of fresh coffee add an extra attraction to visiting the Museum on normal open days, whilst mass catering options remain available on the big event days.

In addition, the new stainless steel table for food preparation is proving a huge hit with café volunteers!



Up-cycling at its Best!

Question: What do you get when you combine a pile of odd roof tiles that would fill several skips, only enough money to hire one skip, and a group of volunteers on a company volunteering day?

Answer: Forget the skips, spend the money on gabions, get the volunteers to fill them with the old tiles and hey presto – lots of new fencing or seating for the site! Up-cycling at its best! The volunteers also created some bug hotels from roof tiles for across the site too.



What Volunteering Can Do

In this edition, Judy Bevis has decided not to pester the Museum volunteers for their stories, but instead writes about the many benefits that can result from volunteering.

Although many volunteers are retired people looking for activities to replace work, there are many other reasons why people volunteer. Volunteering can provide younger people with experience of work or knowledge of a specific type of work and act as a step on the road to their future. A German student found volunteering at The Brickworks invaluable as it gave him a much wider experience of every day language.

Volunteering can also be valuable to people who suddenly find themselves unemployed, providing structure and meaning when these things have suddenly been removed from their life. People may volunteer to use existing skills, to learn new ones, to give something to the community or to indulge an interest. There are benefits to both the individual and the organisation and few unemployed people who volunteer remain unemployed for long. The Brickworks has benefited greatly from the expertise of many volunteers who have been briefly out of work.

Across all ages there are some amazing volunteers who may have no prospect of finding paid employment but contribute so much to the organisations that they work for. They develop skills and confidence that provide benefits across their whole life. The Brickworks will find a role for anyone who wants to volunteer because their contribution is valued. For potential volunteers with physical restrictions, The Brickworks can be a challenging site but they can have the opportunity to test the site for themselves to establish the practicalities of volunteering there. Solving practical problems is something that the museum volunteers are expert at.



Now we come to the largest group of very active volunteers mentioned at the start. The Brickworks Museum depends very heavily on volunteers who have retired. They do everything at the Museum including lime washing walls, repairing machinery, digging drainage channels, recording museum objects and organising the big events. Volunteers find the tasks that suit them and some have been retired and volunteering at the Museum for over 20 years. These people are the collective memory of The Brickworks.

What volunteers give to the organisation is obvious, but what do volunteers get out of the relationship?

The benefits of volunteering are many and varied. Working in a team to achieve a common goal can be hugely rewarding. The satisfaction of completing a project is accompanied by companionship and the development of friendships.

Health and wellbeing can be improved by volunteering. These can both suffer when a life is changed by something that is often beyond the control of the individual. It can be retirement, grief, mental health problems and physical ill health. Becoming a volunteer can provide a new focus within a changed life, providing something new to experience that is more controllable. Taking back control of your life, or feeling more in control, is important to everyone.

Grief drove one volunteer into depression, he found it harder and harder to get up in the mornings and life without his wife was meaningless. He asserts that volunteering at the Museum saved his life and the Museum benefits greatly from the expertise, knowledge and tenacity he brings to the team.

Depression can be very difficult to live with. Many of us will experience depression at some time in our lives. However, for people that are bi-polar, it is a constant cycle of up and down throughout the year. Being a volunteer can be more flexible than the normal working environment, so when having a difficult time it is possible to withdraw or vary the work time accordingly. It is important to inform the organisation Volunteer Coordinator of medical conditions that may affect your volunteering so that appropriate support can be given.

When leaving a profession, you may feel that your knowledge and expertise are no longer being used. The skills have often been gained through years of study as well as practice. Early retirement can require a complete re-setting of your view of the future, more so when retirement results from redundancy. Becoming a volunteer for the benefit of a charity is a good way to feel your education is not being wasted. It is also likely to be rewarding and provide personal development.

For me, volunteering at the Museum to catalogue the library and archive has opened up a whole new world. On becoming a trustee I have needed to find out how trusts operate, the responsibilities of being a trustee, what the Charity Commission requires of charities and many other things. These new directions mean there is no room for boredom in my retirement, early or not!

Finally, appreciation for volunteers can be shown in many ways. A fabulous cake depicting the Brickworks Museum was made especially for the Museum volunteers. It was made by a local cake maker who invites nominations from charities once a month and then creates an appropriate cake for the volunteers of the charity she chooses. Not only did it look amazing, it tasted good too!

Judy Bevis



Engineering News

The workshop team have now completed a refurbishment of the twin pipe extruder from Harts Hill Brickworks. This has required considerable repair of a broken gear wheel, including manufacture of replacement teeth.



The machine was originally in very poor condition and has also been completely repainted after removal of loose rust and the freeing of several seized parts. The photographs show before and after repairs.



In addition to the above works, the Engineering Team has also recently extended the roof over the Northern Plant Engine to improve weather protection; pictures over the page show the work in action.

During 2019 the engine has been repainted and adjustments made to eliminate squeaks which indicated that some moving parts were out of alignment.

These adjustments should reduce wear rates on the bearing and slide valve surfaces, keeping the engine in better condition.



The next project is to refurbish a steam winch. Steam winches were used in many types of quarrying to haul skips of extracted material. The picture shows hauling the heavy wire rope off the winch drum before moving to the workshop.



Trust Update

The award from the Institute of Transport Administration that was presented to the Museum on 28th March is greatly appreciated by the Trust Board. The presentation was presided over by the Mayor of Fareham and attended by invited guests including Councillor Sean Woodward.

The Trust AGM took place on 26th June. A new trustee was voted onto the board and those trustees that had reached the end of their three year term were re-appointed to the board. Earlier in 2019 James Rowley, a founding trustee, resigned due to pressure of work and relocation. George Roberts was also appointed to the board earlier in 2019. In late July, another new trustee, Jim Gray, was appointed to the board and he will also be joining the museum volunteers.

A fundraiser has been appointed to raise the funds needed to complete phase one of the New Foundations Project while the Trust works on various options to take the project into phase two. The focus on expanding income from increased visitor numbers and events at The Brickworks is beginning to pay off, so the financial position is steadily improving. The Trust can approach another year with renewed confidence.

Memories of Harold Bevis, 1924 - 2019

I am sorry to report the death of my father, Harold Bevis, on 23 May. He worked at the Brickworks for about 24 years, in the kilns, the clay pit and later on the top mill of A machine (the one still working) before he took over as boiler man / engine driver after Bill Penfold moved to the Northern Plant, probably on the retirement of Fred Matcham.

You can see a picture of Dad in the kiln gang (second from left at back wearing a beret) by the entrance to the café and hear him talk about the engine driving on the videos about the Museum. He brought me home fossils when he worked 'up the pit' of which you can see photographs in the museum displays. He was interested in the redevelopment of the works as a Museum and contributed oral testimony to the archive. He also liked to visit and remember the work, the dirt and his mates. He was sad that many of his generation had already gone, he missed the teamwork as they worked piecework and so worked hard for each other as well as themselves.



A piece of Bursledon Social History came up while we were arranging dad's funeral. Peter White, an old friend, came round to discuss the service. He recalled that when he and I were choirboys at St. Leonards Church in the 1960s the village Verger, Tom Carter, by then in his 70s at least, telling him that his father acted as gravedigger for the church. He would do the grave digging early in the morning by the light of a lamp before going off to his job. Workers at the Brickworks who came from Old Netley and Netley on foot would use the various cuts that still run through Bursledon to get to Church Lane and so would pass the churchyard. One day they were much alarmed to see the lamp and a shape rising from a freshly dug grave!

That walking route would then take them down past the Swan Hotel (now houses and flats) and across Bursledon Bridge. They would walk across the Red Lion field (the Navigator Pub was then called the Red Lion) which is now a housing estate and the new bit of Swanwick Lane and so on to Swanwick Lane and enter the site via Coal Park Lane.

John Bevis

Other Things Than Bricks

This head was made in the early 1970's by a young man who worked in the Brickworks. I am afraid I cannot remember his name, although I can still see his face in my memory.

It was made from the brickmaking clay, dried and fired along with a charge of bricks. Once decorated, he gave it to my father who kept it for many years.

I found it among his effects and thought it would be appropriate to return it to The Brickworks as an example of the sort of occasional one-off artefacts that were unofficially made. It also shows that there was a sense of fun about the place even though the work was hard.

John Bevis



Brickworks and the Railway

The London and South Western Railway line from Southampton started in 1866 with a short branch line to Netley Hospital. The hospital was built for the wounded from the Battle of the Crimea which took place from October 1853 to March 1856. Construction of the hospital started in July 1856 and was completed by March 1863. LSWR extended the line from Netley through to Fareham in 1889 and it was known as the West Coastway Line.

When the Bursledon Brickworks Company directors were looking for a suitable place to build their new works, what better place to choose in 1896 than a site which had road, rail and water access nearby?

In the Museum, there is a picture of a train crossing the yard behind the kiln heading towards the mainline. The history of the fatal accident in 1914 is now on an interpretation board erected by the path at the rear of the HBPT bungalow. It is also documented in the cuttings book to be found in the working life gallery.

As reported in a previous article there is reference to the use of the sidings from 1918 to 1920 for the Bursledon Salvage Depot. There is uncorroborated historical information which refers to a halt having been constructed out of ammunition boxes for the use of workers at the brickworks.

I have found a copy of a West Coastway Line rail map showing Crow Park Halt between Bursledon and Swanwick, which is annotated '1918-1920 workmen only'. This would tie in with the time the Brickworks were used by the military in WW1. There is a document held by the National Archives which may be the order to allow Crow Park Halt to exist. It is headed:



*London and South Western Railway: Bursledon to Swanwick. Top File No: R2218
Ministry of Transport and successors, Railway Divisions: Correspondence and Papers.*

Held by The National Archives at Kew (Ministries of Transport and related bodies, reference MT 6/2499/13), it is dated 1918. It is the right place, between Bursledon and Swanwick and the right date of 1918. I hope to inspect it soon – let's hope it leads us to finding the truth about Crow Park Halt. I am advised by various sources that the siding closed about 1956 and that the ground frame and associated hut were sold off around 1960. The hut, complete with Bursledon Brickworks sign, went to a garden in Chandlers Ford. I wonder if anyone in Chandlers Ford remembers a relative or friend who had a garden shed with Bursledon Brickworks on it? One for the Southern Daily Echo or Facebook, for us to ask that question!

Richard Newman

Creating an Archive for Friends of Bursledon Brickworks

This Friends group was set up in August 1995 and was very active in fundraising for the Brickworks for many years. The gradual decline in active members by 2015 forced the winding up of the organisation and the creation by the Museum Trust of a membership scheme for supporters of the Museum. The Friends were responsible for the original Brickbats newsletters that have evolved into the membership newsletters we have today.

Recently the Museum has received a collection of Friends papers from the early years of the group but it would be lovely to have as complete a record as possible. Because the Friends of Bursledon Brickworks played an important part in the development of The Brickworks Museum, the record of their activities forms a significant part of the history of the Museum. The minutes contain useful information about the previous renovations of many museum items that are now returning to the workshop for maintenance. This is very helpful to the workshop team now and potentially very valuable for the museum object records too.

Kiln Enhancement Project

It has long been recognised that the kiln is not displayed to best advantage. It has now been decided to take action over the next few months to relocate many of the museum objects that are not well displayed and to open up the view of this very important listed building.

By the start of next season, the whole courtyard area will look completely different. Interpretation will be improved on this and many of the objects from the other brickworks that form part of the museum collection.



Location, Location, Location!

The Brickworks Museum is now on a proper film location website called Location Works at <https://www.locationworks.com/>.

The old site can really work well when it comes to atmospheric photo shoots. Now that the site has been tidied up, there are many more places in the old buildings that can be used.



More than A Museum!

In July, the Brickworks was delighted to welcome the Art House who hosted a gig by The Gaslight Troubadours and Professor Elemental. It was a great crowd with great acts at the unique Brickworks site. The Museum has also hosted a couple of weddings recently. If you know anyone who is looking for an unusual venue for a wedding, event or gig, then please suggest us!



Book Review

**Brick and Tile making in Alderbury by David Algar, Ken Grinstead and Brian Johnston
Published by Alderbury and Whaddon Local History Research Group, 2008**

This little book, published in the Looking Locally series by the Research Group gives a detailed account of the hand-made brick process used by Ralph Tanner at the brickworks at Whaddon.

The clay exploited in this small area of Wiltshire is part of the clays of the Hampshire Basin that include London clay and Bagshot clay beds. Medieval tile making took place at Alderbury. A community of potters was established at Milford Bridge at Laverstoke and a tileri at Alderbury was known to have provided products for Clarendon. The royal kitchens within the palace were made with tiles and bricks produced locally. Alderbury tiles were also provided for the small royal palace at Ludgershall. Fancier glazed ridge tiles were provided by the pottery kilns at Laverstoke. This was the only significant tile works in south-west Wiltshire in the medieval period. There follows details from local records of the development of the craft close to the new town of Salisbury.

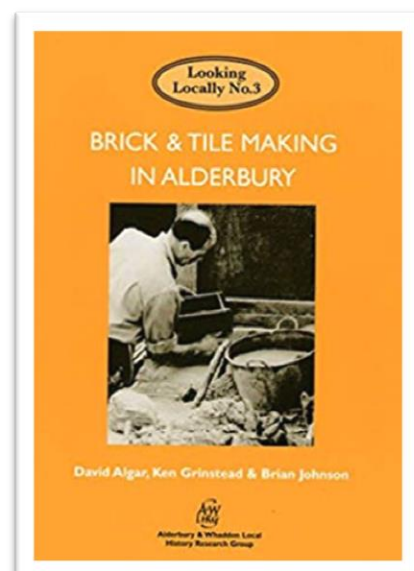
In 1894 the local paper reported that Mr. A. Mussell of Mussell and Moody had gone to Eastleigh and that Clarendon brickyard had been acquired by Mr. Frederick Hand. Here starts what may be a number of connections much closer to Bursledon Brickworks as Hooper and Ashby moved from the Chandlers Ford brickyards, near Eastleigh, to Bursledon Brickworks in 1897.

The authors comment that documentary evidence of brick and tile making in the Alderbury area is quite fragmentary with no certain evidence for the location of either Lord Radnor's kiln or the early kilns at Whaddon or the medieval tile works at Alderbury.

The final brickmaking works at Whaddon is well documented. Founded before 1904, by 1961 the ground was leased from Matron's College Farm for £130 per year with a royalty payable on the bricks made. In 1925 the operator was Alfred Hand with Walter Tanner working for him as a brickmaker. Nine men worked at the brickyard in the 1920s including Walter Tanner and his son Ralph. When Walter died in about 1927, 17 year old Ralph continued to work at the site. When Ralph Tanner was interviewed in 1966, he said that his family had been in brickmaking since his great-grandfather who worked in Warsash then Mottisfont. According to the 1901 census, Frederick Hand, another brickmaker at Whaddon, was recorded as being born in Warsash. (Other Tanners are recorded as being brickmakers at Rodbourne and Whiteparish.)

By 1962 Ralph Tanner was the only brick maker listed for Whaddon where he worked largely on his own until 1976 when the Whaddon Brickworks disappeared under the new road system. Ralph died soon after.

The methods and names of the tools used at Whaddon were almost unchanged from those employed in the 18th Century. There follows a detailed description of the whole process from digging the clay by hand, through pugging, throwing a brick and drying to firing in the Scotch kiln. The final connection with The Brickworks Museum is that many of the pieces of equipment used by Ralph Tanner at Whaddon, depicted in the many photographs in the book, can be found in the museum collection today.



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