



BRICKBATS

The Official
Magazine of the
Brickworks
Museum

Free to volunteers and members, £2.50 when sold

www.thebrickworksmuseum.org

Introduction

Everyone at the Brickworks Museum has enjoyed the 125th Birthday celebrations recently. This significant milestone in the Museum's history has been marked in a number of ways over the last few months including a celebration party for local dignitaries and volunteers, two striking new artworks, two specially created displays highlighting items from across the decades, and receipt of a commemorative trowel from the Brick Development Association. In addition, the Brickworks history was showcased through social media in an informative series of posts titled '125 Years in the Making'.

It's been a time to reflect and look back at the archives, but also to look ahead to the future. The new Brickyard Café run by the Minstead Trust opened in March, the new longer miniature railway officially opens in September, and across the site a host of work has been completed by the dedicated team of volunteers.



After a challenging couple of years, events are now back to normal with no need to book and positive feedback from visitors and exhibitors alike, so do encourage family and friends to come along before the end of the season. Finally, if you have an interesting idea for a Brickbats article, then do please get in touch with Julie Bevis – our next edition will be March 2023.

Sue Boswell, Editor



Brickworks 125th Anniversary



On Thursday 7 July, The Brickworks Museum celebrated the 125th birthday of the site with a party attended by local dignitaries and many of the Museum's volunteer team. Amongst the guests were the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire and his wife, the Mayor of Fareham and his wife, Sean Woodward, the Renter Warden from the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers, the Managing Director of Ketley Brick and Dreadnought Tiles. Other guests represented organisations such as Historic England, Hampshire Cultural Trust and Swanwick Lakes Nature Reserve.

The Museum is also celebrating the founding of the Bursledon Brick Company in 1897 with the display of two new artworks, so the guests were able to view these as well as the Museum's recently enhanced clay rooms exhibition. Two displays have been created to specifically celebrate the 125th anniversary, these focus on items from the collections that relate to specific decades and information on some notable brick buildings and some other brickworks in Hampshire.

After three very difficult years for the Museum, when very survival was threatened, it was lovely to be celebrating the 125th birthday with so many supporters and friends from other local visitor attractions. The celebration also looked determinedly to the future as the delicious buffet was commissioned from the new Brickyard Café, now managed by Minstead Trust.

The artworks:

Coralent – this artwork by Emma Smith is installed in one of the drying rooms and features 2,000 bricks suspended from the ceiling, each representing a brickmaker from the past. This project was funded as part of the Meeting Point programme, Arts and Heritage.

It is a dynamic piece that will continue to grow as more bricks are added. Emma used a number of resources created by researchers of brickmakers to obtain the names of real people that made bricks in the past.

Coralent remains on show at the Museum until November.

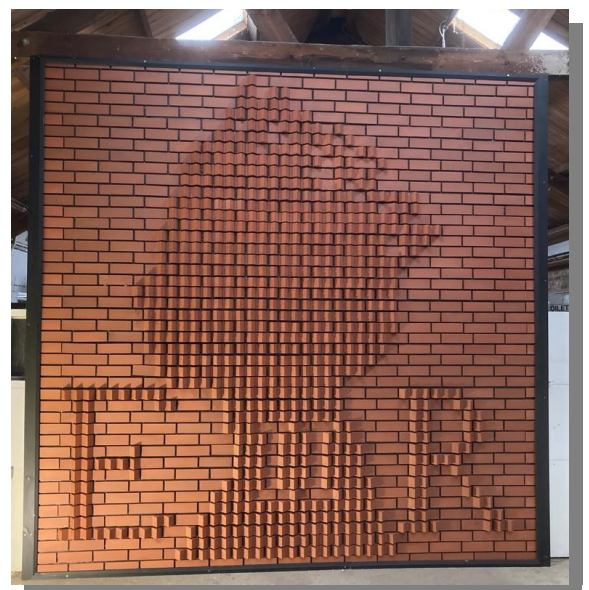


Portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – this 11-foot-tall portrait is made entirely out of brick slips.

It was designed and made by Ketley Brick Company Ltd. who created it in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

On a sunny day, this installation constantly changes as the light changes. It is quite magnificent!

Compared to Ketley, with over 200 years of tradition in clay craft, The Brickworks Museum is relatively young at only 125, but can aspire to getting to 200 in the future.





125th Anniversary Celebrations with local dignitaries, representatives from other organisations and Museum volunteers



Keith Aldis, the CEO of the Brick Development Association, presented a commemorative trowel to Eleanor Bell, the Chair of BBMT to mark the 125th anniversary



Events at the Brickworks Museum 2022

At the Spring Steam Up in April, it was good to welcome 523 visitors plus 75 exhibitors, just as the events used to be pre-Covid. The Steam Group filled the yard with vehicles and gave the popular trailer rides all day. The miniature railway ran and inside were various stalls and activities, and a display of very small model railway layouts attracted lots of interest.

The Brickworks Beer Festival in May was as usual greatly enjoyed by all. Also in May, was the Dog Show & Craft Fair. There were a huge number of dogs for the Dog Show, with the first class alone attracting 28 entries. There was lots more to see with a variety of stalls, activities and crafts. At least 500 visitors attended as well as another 60 people with the car clubs and stallholders.

At the Mid Summer Fair in June, the Brickworks welcomed 530 people to see a variety of exhibitors and stallholders including a vintage threshing machine, beekeeping, vintage children's roundabout and Red Stags Morris Dancers.

The July Steampunk event was very hot but 270 people came including 8 Victorian strollers and 20 from Gosport Steampunk Society who were all dressed in their lovely unusual (but hot and heavy) outfits and they also arranged Steampunk games. Inside were Steampunk stallholders including Steampunk dolls, bags, clothes, hats, lace and jewellery.

Vehicles at the Brickworks in August was another extremely hot day but about 400 people came including exhibitors. There were over 40 vintage and classic vehicles, the Shanty Buys sang in the big marquee and the train rides did very well trying out the new track. The 'Coralent make a brick for the display' was popular.

None of these events could happen without volunteers working hard on the day. There have been lots of emails and positive feedback so far and it's so nice to get back to normal times with no booking to come in.

Still to come:

25 September – Trains at the Brickworks

23 October – Autumn Steam Up & Halloween

27 November – Christmas Festival

11 December – Children's Christmas Special – Children's Activities and Father Christmas (no exhibitors or stallholders)

Pam Formby, Events Organiser



Brickworks New Miniature Railway

The Steam Punk event was the last planned day of using the old miniature railway and this day highlighted the need for the new railway. The old track and sleepers required a lot of resources and finance to bring it up to modern standards. Therefore, although the official opening of the new railway is set for the September Trains event, it was decided to use the August event to passenger test it, à la TFL Elizabeth Line!

The August event went well on the new railway with a number of different locos in use, with a finale of two new SCAMPs providing a double headed train.

The new station layout with a seated, shaded waiting area received positive comments, as did the new ride experience. Pictured is the first train with passengers coming through the station. Rolling stock has been moved to the top carriage shed, the Museum locomotive has been serviced and updated, the new carriage has been painted and a new seat fitted, the installation of vacuum brakes has started, as has the build of a guard's/brake truck.

The Museum now own a locomotive and three carriages and there are a number of other privately owned locos and carriages available to use.

We have a remote card payment device allowing visitors to have a variety of locations where train tickets can be purchased i.e. the car park ticket booth, main reception or the railway ticket office. The machine will also accept donations. Although we want it to remain a cheap day out at the Museum, the new railway is twice the length of the old one and taking into account the added cost to fuel and service the engines, some small increase on previous fares will be necessary.

Already ideas are in place for the winter works program including a passing loop and new engine shed. There is still much landscaping and site clearance to undertake but the lower loop wild area has already attracted new flowers and insects.

Phil Boswell, Railway Group



Brickyard Café



The Brickyard Café team are really getting into their stride now and have become an integral part of life at the Museum. The team has risen to the challenge of catering for the 125th anniversary celebrations and the Museum's monthly big events. At other times the café offers a range of made-to-order filled baguettes and baps, cakes, scones and freshly baked sausage rolls as well as a selection of hot drinks.

During the very hot weather this summer, the iced coffee and ice creams have been very popular. There is even something refreshing available for those that need dairy free. The cafe offers a relaxed environment from Tuesday to Sunday each week, but remember that on the Museum Big Event Sundays it becomes a place of buzzing, manic activity!

News from the Trust

2022 is a significant year for the Museum and Trust as it marks the 125th anniversary of the start of brick manufacturing on the site. The celebrations culminated in the 125th anniversary party in July. The Museum has also been hosting an art installation by Emma Smith in the drying shed and took delivery of a brick relief mural of the Queen's profile that was made by Ketley Brick Co. to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.

This year the Bursledon Brickworks Museum Trust invited Museum volunteers and representatives from resident organisations to attend the 2022 Annual General Meeting in June. Although it had been decided in 2019 to hold open AGMs, the implementation was delayed by the pandemic. The meeting was chaired by the outgoing interim Chair, Eleanor Bell, who provided a verbal report to the meeting. She also read from the Treasurer's Report. The outgoing Secretary, Judy Bevis, read from her report that included an overview of her eight-year tenure as Secretary to BBMT.

Thanks to the emergency funding grants awarded to the Museum, the reserves are at the required level of 12 months' operating expenditure.

For the benefit of the guests, each Trustee provided a personal profile, before the meeting adjourned for refreshments. Eleanor Bell, Jim Gray and Adrian Upton had completed a three-year term as BBMT trustees so stood down. All three were reappointed for a further three-year term. Judy Bevis stood down as Secretary as her final three-year term as a BBMT Trustee will end at the next AGM.

The following Trust Officers were appointed:

Neil Atkinson (Chair), **Andy Elford** (Vice Chair), **Paul West** (Treasurer) and **Keith Aldis** (Secretary)

Each Trustee has a specific role or representation within the Trust, these are:

Keith Aldis – The Brick Development Association CEO provides links with modern British brickmaking companies

Neil Atkinson – Health and Safety and general museum maintenance programme manager

Eleanor Bell – Trustee nominated by HBPT, the landlord Trust

Judy Bevis – Collections Management and Volunteer Coordinating

Tim Bristow – Links with modern hand brickmakers

Andy Elford – Contracts and Line Manager for employees, Publicity and Marketing, and IT

Jim Gray – Education and Engagement

David Hubbard – Chair of Site Security Group and trustee responsible for Safeguarding. BBMT nominated Trustee to the HBPT board

Maggie Johnston – Retail Development

George Roberts – Expert in vernacular buildings and looking after listed buildings

Adrian Upton – Extensive experience of Project Management, having worked on large-scale installations across the world

Paul West – All things financial

Owing to a change in the law, the Trust decided to become a direct employer to retain the services of both Mary Flinn (Collections Manager) and Carolyne Haynes (Museum Director). Previously, the Trust worked exclusively with contractors and will continue to do so wherever possible. As a consequence of this, changes were also required to the management structure. The Trust is now actively seeking to appoint a new Volunteer Coordinator.

During 2022 a number of Trustees have taken on the role of Duty Manager on Sundays. This enables more trustees to develop a detailed understanding of the Museum operations. This, together with the five trustees that also volunteer in various roles at the Museum, means that the Museum and Trust are steadily developing a much closer relationship.

Judy Bevis, BBMT Trust

Staff Changes



Sadly, the fantastic, wonderful and universally loved Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Flinn, recently decided to resign from the role to concentrate on her role of Collections Manager. She started as Volunteer Coordinator part-way through the Heritage Lottery Funded project when the original contractor left. Mary has been responsible for the development and implementation of a whole range of policies that recruit, support and train volunteers at the Museum.

A major part of Mary's work has been ensuring that there are always enough volunteers on Museum open days throughout the season alongside all the maintenance and support work that needs to be done to keep the Museum operating. All volunteers greatly appreciated her regular rounds with refreshments and biscuits on Event Days that kept everyone going. The Trust is now urgently searching for a new Volunteer Coordinator to join the Museum staff.

Bursledon Brick Company Made Tiles!

Fred Ashby was born in Southampton in January 1907, the elder son of Herbert and Mary Ashby. His grandfather, Robert Ashby had been a banker. The Ashby Bank, like other Quaker banks, was absorbed into Barclays towards the close of the nineteenth century.

Robert Ashby turned his interests to the brickmaking industry, at first manufacturing at Chandlers Ford, near Eastleigh, Hants, and later purchasing clay-bearing land at Lower Swanwick, near Bursledon just outside Southampton. Both the nearby railway and the Hamble River provided the means for the transportation of bricks. The Bursledon Brick Co Ltd was formed and went public in 1925.

After being educated at Southampton, and Dover College, Fred Ashby returned home to learn the art of brickmaking. After a short spell in the office in Southampton, his apprenticeship was completed at the brickworks where he worked in every stage of brickmaking. In the lunch-hour, he was taught to box by one of the brick workers who was a colourful personality from West Africa.

To see something of the world, Fred went out to Kenya, in about 1930, and farmed there for a while. On returning to England, he re-joined the Bursledon Brick Company of which his father, Herbert, had been chairman for many years and joint-managing director with his uncle, Robert Claude Ashby.

Fred explored the possibilities of concrete tile manufacture and the first venture in this direction was the purchase of land at Michelmersh, near Romsey, Hants and the formation of Timsbury Tile Company as a subsidiary of the Bursledon Company. Later he had contacts with Runfold Sand and Tile Company Ltd, which also became a subsidiary, and by now he had a seat on the board of the parent company (BBC).

From a Paper by Malcolm Davison © 2022, Archivist & Historian for Redland Holdings.

Richard Newman

125 Plus 50

This year, 2022, marks the 125th anniversary of the opening of the Hooper and Ashby brickworks in Swanwick, which, in 1903 became Bursledon Brickworks. But the origin of the works can be traced back much further and this article counts down (or up) to 1897, tracing how brick manufacture became an important part of Hooper and Ashby's business.

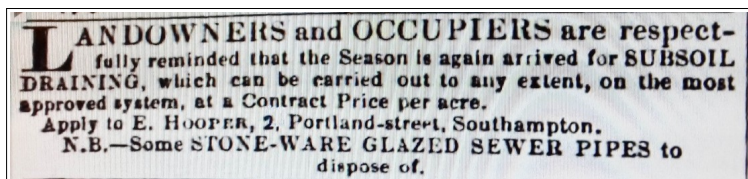
1847

The decade began with Edward Hooper, a 24 year old Civil Engineer establishing himself in the town of Southampton. In March 1850 The Exbury White Brick and Tile Works was up for sale and it was probably purchased by Edward. Five months later he was advertising the availability of bricks from Exbury, with samples on view at his office in Southampton High Street. By 1851 he employed 11 men and was involved in brick and drainpipe manufacture.

He moved his office to Portland Street, later the offices of Hooper and Ashby would be located nearby, but at this time there were no members of the Ashby family on the scene. In March 1856 Edward took out a lease on Baltic Wharf, in the busy docks on the western bank of the River Itchen.

Below – an advertisement placed in the Hampshire Advertiser in 1852 by the young Edward Hooper

Right – Edward Hooper had an office here at 2, Portland Street in central Southampton



1857

In 1859 Edward began renting the neighbouring premises, American Wharf, where he established a builder's merchants advertising, among other products, white facing bricks which were probably from the brickyard at Exbury, although he also ordered bricks from Bailey's Hard Brickyard, Beaulieu.

In the summer of 1860 Edward married Harriet Ashby. The 1861 census shows that they already had two daughters aged 5 and 3 and that Edward employed 24 men in his business and 3 servants for his household. Around 1862, Harriet's brother, 21 year old Edmund Ashby, moved from Staines to Southampton. On the 29 April 1863 Harriet gave birth to a still born child and died on the same day, aged 31.

Around a year later the name of Edward Hooper and Edmund Ashby entered into partnership and at about the same time, Edward's brother, Charles Hooper, a retired surgeon, took up residence in Hythe, Hampshire. Why Hythe? It was probably to oversee the brickyard at Lower Exbury, a few miles away.

Left – trees cover the area where the Exbury brickworks made white bricks which would have been taken by sailing boats to the yard in Southampton.





Left – Edward Hooper began renting this warehouse and wharf in 1859, and for many years following, American Wharf became the headquarters of Hooper & Ashby.

1867

On the 2 July 1869, Edward Hooper died, aged just 46. Shortly afterwards, his brother Charles created a separate company, Charles Hooper & Co., to encompass the Exbury White Brickworks. In the 1871 census, Charles described himself as a medical doctor with a share in a brick business. In fact he was just a part of Hooper & Ashby, and operated from an office in American Wharf. Many large businesses were split into smaller parts which probably had financial benefits to do with taxation. Nevertheless, it is the reason why many of the early bricks made by Hooper & Ashby were stamped “H & Co.”

1877

Around 1879 Edmund Ashby signed a lease for six acres of land at Chandlers Ford, between Southampton and Winchester, next to the main railway line between Portsmouth and Salisbury. This was for digging clay and making bricks. These red bricks were available for sale by 1881.

Edmund was joined in the business by his brother Robert, who brought money ready to invest in the new venture in Chandlers Ford. It was decided to mass produce bricks using a Bennett and Sayer machine, which combined a clay treatment plant with an extruder for making wire-cut bricks. They employed the services of the experienced brickmaker, Samuel Batley, who moved down from Yorkshire to become their manager. In 1879 Charles Hooper retired from the business and that ended the Hooper connection. From now on it would be only Ashbys, and the Ashbys were a big family.



Above – the Hoopers and the Ashbys were Quakers and when the new Friends Meeting House was built in Southampton in 1884, the white bricks were supplied from the Exbury Brickworks.

1887

The Chandlers Ford Brickworks was a great success, but it used up clay so quickly that the material was becoming exhausted, despite expansion of the clay pits. Eventually a completely new location was found, on the banks of the River Hamble at Lower Swanwick. In 1896 Charles Hooper died.

1897

The new works were built and opened 125 years ago. Chandlers Ford was gradually closed and several employees moved with their families to Lower Swanwick. One of the last to move was Samuel Batley in 1902. The machinery from Chandlers Ford was almost certainly moved to Swanwick when the Northern Works was built in 1903 and in the same year The Bursledon Brick Company was formed, and pressed bricks began to be stamped with "BBC".

Left - advert from 1903 explaining how the Hooper & Co. name will disappear, and will be replaced by The Bursledon Brick Company

THE
BURSLEDON BRICK CO.
(Formerly Trading as HOOPER and CO.)

NEW OFFICES:—13, PORTLAND-STREET,
SOUTHAMPTON.

MANUFACTURERS OF
BEST RED FACING BRICKS
AND
HARD WIRE CUT BRICKS.

WORKS:—BURSLEDON STATION, L. & S.W.R.

HOOPER and CO., having Disposed of their
Cement Works at Northam, Southampton, to the
Sussex Portland Cement Co., Ltd., of Newhaven, are
now carrying on their Brick Manufacturing Business
at the address and under the style above-named.

Post Script

2023 will mark the 200th anniversary of Edward Hooper's birth and we can join together to raise a glass to the man who started it all. Surely, he could not have imagined that one day his name would be remembered in a Brickbats article!

Jim Beckett



Jim Knights – An Appreciation

Jim Knights, a long-standing engineering volunteer passed away on 18 May 2022. He had already been much missed during his last illness and will be missed in the future.

Always a gentleman, even when engaging in a disagreement, Jim was a person who was always prepared to encourage and advise newer volunteers. The amount of advice he provided was so valuable. Immensely knowledgeable about engineering matters and also about bricks and other building materials in which he was intensely interested, he contributed many articles to Brickbats over the years, many under the heading of “Jim’s Jottings”.

Jim also greatly enjoyed steam up days and would really enter into the spirit of things, seen here at the 2019 Steampunk event.

He loved talking to visitors about the Brickworks and all the time he had spent working on restorations and researching its history and the history of brick making more widely.

Jim also had an enormous fund of anecdotes about his experiences in his long life which he would share with us at lunchtimes in the Museum mess room. He seemed to be interested in everything and everybody, a real people person and a real friend.



John Bevis

Volunteer Profile

Steve Whitehead is a volunteer artist the Brickworks Museum. He feels fortunate to be able to draw and paint things around the site that he finds inspiring or interesting, and then donates anything he produces to the Museum shop, as and when required. This usually takes the form of original drawings and paintings as well as printed greeting cards.

Steve’s drawings are usually done with drawing pens and ink, while paintings are watercolours or line and wash. He also works in other media such as pastels, acrylic paint and linocut printing, and is beginning to use these for his work at the Museum as well.

He enjoys creating artwork as a volunteer at the Brickworks on his visits. Volunteering allows him to combine his passion for drawing and painting with his interest in museums, local community and history. He has worked as volunteer artist in other Hampshire museums and much prefers working in this way to working at home on his own. Working at museums is far more inspiring and enables him to draw and paint directly in front of interesting subjects. It is also more sociable and gives him a means of sharing what he creates. Steve always likes discussing his work and is happy to chat to anyone who might be interested in what he is doing, and to hear any ideas for possible future subjects to work from.



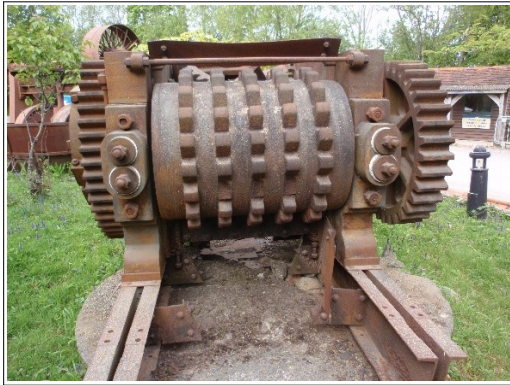
Odds and Ends

- An amazing new volunteer has cleared out the overgrown ditches along the drive and dug holes for the installation of bollards along the drive by another brilliant new volunteer. The lovely decorative bollards were found abandoned during the mass clearance of the site and have now been relocated along the drive. A new coat of paint has turned them into a real asset for the Museum.
- Also discovered were some level crossing style barriers that are being given a new lease of life to restrict vehicle access to parts of the site. Again, a fresh coat of paint is transformational.
- Some more of the unwanted bricks and tiles, left over from Conservation Centre days, are being used in gabions to mark out new outside exhibition areas.
- Old fences have been repaired, fences have been installed around the new miniature railway line and station, miles of fencing have been painted by the amazing dedicated painting team.
- The team have now moved on to the more serious challenge of painting all the doors and windows of the Museum.
- The Pycroft Brickworks display is almost complete. The cinder sifter is in the workshop for repairs and conservation. A care and conservation program is in preparation by the Collections Manager and the final layout will be decided after looking at photographs of the working brickworks.
- There is new video footage in the clay room, including the view from a moving clay bucket. This illustrates just how dangerous it must have been for the employees and local children who have reported that they rode in the buckets.
- The Collections Manager put together a display of bricks with royal connections (pictured below) to mark the Queen's Jubilee this year.



Conservation News

Work to conserve some of the outside exhibits has continued with an anticorrosion treatment for the Kibbler and Pan Mill next to the car park. These have been treated with an oil containing corrosion inhibitors which impregnates pre-existing corrosion to form a hard protective composite. We have had some success with this approach in protecting other exhibits but the program is still experimental and we will monitor them to determine the duration of effectiveness as there is some possibility that the protective coat will eventually degrade in the sunshine. The results look nice for the moment!



Kibbler before treatment



After treatment

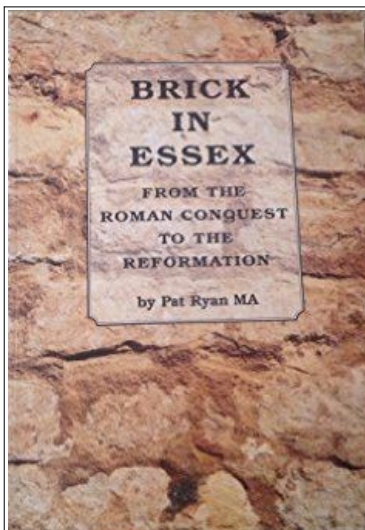
Our other conservation projects, cleaning, lubricating and waxing have slowed corrosion rates on some other exhibits. All of these will receive a further treatment before the winter. There is now a timetabled program in place for this work.

John Bevis, Conservation Volunteer

Book Review

Brick in Essex: From the Roman Conquest to the Reformation

By Pat Ryan, published by Pat Ryan in 1996. ISBN:0952903903



This large format paperback volume includes the detailed descriptions of the bricks found across Essex in churches, archaeological sites and in the few buildings that have very old bricks in their structures. Pat carried out a huge amount of research in the County Records Office and the British Library to gather all the information for this book, as well as visiting many buildings across the county.

There are chapters on Roman Brick and Tile, Anglo-Saxon and Norman Reuse of Roman Brick and Tile, and separate chapters on Brick Buildings of the 15th Century and Builders in Brick of the 15th Century. The final chapter in this section of the book is on Early Tudor Period buildings.

Pat provides detailed information on the sizes and shapes of the bricks she found in buildings and some speculation on where they were made from the constitution of the brick clays used.

There are many colour photographs representing examples of the many appearances of bricks in buildings that can be seen today. The extensive reuse

of Roman brick and tile in religious buildings are particularly interesting as sometimes they have been used to create really spectacular decorative and structural features.

Maps showing where some types of bricks were found across the county and illustrations of brick buildings that were known to have existed in Essex are included.

This book ends before the reformation when there was another huge recycling of building materials from religious buildings into more domestic ones by the landed gentry. There is an extensive bibliography and a useful index at the end of the book.

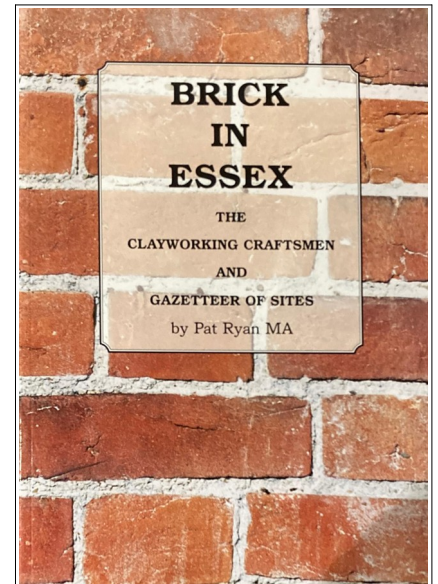
Brick in Essex: The Clayworking Craftsmen and Gazetteer of Sites

By Pat Ryan, published by Pat Ryan in 1999. ISBN: 0952903911

This is also a large format paperback volume that follows a similar pattern to her first book. There is an introduction to the clayworking crafts and where there is evidence of them across Essex. There are sections on raw materials and fuel used to fire bricks, then an explanation of brick and tile making throughout history.

By 1999 the number of brickworks in Essex had dwindled to three, including Bulmer Brick and Tile Co. that provided three of the colour illustrations. There were also colour photographs of two redundant round kilns at W H Collier Ltd Brickworks at Marks Tey. One of these is definitely a bottle-shaped kiln. Before the gazetteer that forms the main section of this volume, there is a very useful glossary of terms. The gazetteer starts with an explanation of the structure of the entries then provides a very detailed alphabetical list of locations across Essex with evidence of clay workings.

As with the first volume, there is a good bibliography and index. Pat had planned a third volume that would have focused on the reformation and later but this was never published. Maybe another researcher will decide to complete the sequence in the future. It is possible that the paper archives of Pat Ryan now housed at the Brickworks Museum could provide a very good starting point for any researcher taking up the challenge.



Judy Bevis, Volunteer Librarian

*** * * STOP PRESS * * ***

The Lego Day on Thursday 25 August was a huge success with all 400 tickets sold before the event! If you missed out, check the website for the next Lego Day as this could be as early as October!

New activities are also being tried out on normal open Sundays at The Brickworks so again check the website for 'Make a Brick' sessions and 'Conservation Tours' offers.

The Brickworks Museum
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www.thebrickworksmuseum.org