



Free to volunteers and members, £2.50 when sold

[www.thebrickworksmuseum.org](http://www.thebrickworksmuseum.org)

## Introduction

What a year 2024 has been so far, and there is much more to come! As we reach the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the closure of Bursledon Brickworks, the repair and preservation work starts on the last two derelict drying sheds. This project is explained in Carolyne's report. The aerial ropeway terminus, shown here in new location, was moved in early August to form part of an ambitious large new outside exhibit.

A range of exciting new features have been added to the upstairs gallery, including an interactive explanation of firing bricks. A new art installation, funded by Imperial War Museum, can be found in the main drying shed for the rest of this year.

Pam highlights all the events still to come this autumn, including LEGO at October half term, the big Autumn Steam Up and Santa's visits.

The Brickworks buzzed with young LEGO enthusiasts on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> August during the most recent visit of the Brick People. The Brick People return during October half term, so there is still more fun to come!

The recent August Event had good weather and lots of visitors, so everyone at the museum hope that many more visitors will come to share the last four events of the season with us.

As always, news, profiles, and reports on the activities of volunteers are included in this issue, as well as articles and book reviews.

This issue includes:

Meet the new Education and Engagement Officer  
Volunteer profile

John Woods engines

Creating new displays

Recent conservation work

Digitisation project news



*Judy Bevis, Editor*

## Around the Brickworks

- There are lots of wild flowers to be spotted around the museum grounds, including a colony of Common Spotted Orchids behind the pan mill by the carpark. Pyramid Orchids and a Bee Orchid have also been identified this spring. Some areas are deliberately uncut for wild flowers and wildlife.
- The new display featuring the kilns was officially opened in May by the Mayor of Fareham



- Development the 1900s and 1970s gardens is progressing, so check out progress.
- The grounds team have been busy clearing weeds and bracken from around the external exhibition areas, as well as painting, cleaning, planting, watering...
- The 'filling station' was moved in early August and has been assessed for condition before conservation work can start.



- After repairs, the old offices have become the Pre-loved Book Shop with lovely shelving made by Les and his team, although the space will have multiple uses - meetings, for hire etc.

- Scanning and conservation of slides has resumed and the backlog of books has been catalogued.

- The model brick works has been cleaned with damp cotton buds and great patience, by Lisa and Daniel. They also repaired the broken bits then did the same to the bridge and toll gate model!

- The ever-changing menu in the Brickyard Café is attracting both volunteers and visitors for coffee and cakes

or light lunches. The all-day breakfast is very popular!

- The Imperial War Museum funded art installation private viewing took place in July, and it will be on view until October 2024.
- The café management offer 10% discount to museum volunteers, so even more incentive to have cake.

## Events at the Brickworks Museum 2024

There have been five Main Events so far this year and the visitors enjoyed them all, although we were disappointed by the number of visitors at the events so far this year.

THE SPRING MARKET on March 24<sup>th</sup> had 33 tables of lovely handmade Crafts, including Pictures, Cards, Glassware, Old cottages, Seaglass, Jewellery, Upcycled items and much more. A Ukulele Band played and a Children's Easter Activity. There were 3 buses, some Classic Cars, two Blacksmiths in the courtyard and the Miniature Trains were running.

SPRING STEAM UP on April 28th was cold and wet at first but by 11 had stopped raining. The yard was full as arranged by the Steam Group with 5 Traction Engines and a Living Wagon, Miniature Steam, Stationary Engines, Large Fairground Organ and some Army Vehicles. The popular Trailer Rides were on all day. The Blacksmith came and the Miniature Trains gave rides. Inside were Model Railway Layouts and Craft & Gift Stalls. The Brickworks machinery was running all day.

MAYFEST AT THE MUSUEM on May 26th. Something for everyone with five buses that attracted over 100 people to explore the double decker. A Ukulele Band, Fun Dog Show, Facepainting, Children's Activities, Craft Stalls and an Art Display. The Trains had 164 passengers plus some very small children and a few dogs. The Brickworks Machinery was running.

MAGIC, MYTHS & MYSTERY AT THE BRICKWORKS on June 23rd. A new event for us with 4 Traction Engines, Wizards of the South, Magic Jack, Herb Ladies Storytelling, Polly's School of Magic, Stalls with fairy, dinosaur and dragon items (including a pet bearded dragon), paint a dragon egg, Tarot Reader and nice tinkling music. Members of Gosport Steam Punk Society came dressed up in unusual outfits. The Brickworks machinery was running and Trains gave rides all day.

BACK IN TIME on July 21<sup>st</sup>. 'That's Jive' Dance Group, Vintage Cars & Vans, Traction Engines, and other Vehicles. Lots of people came dressed up including army, navy, steampunk, 70's and hippy outfits. Train rides and the machinery was running. Inside were Lacemaking, Fossils, Fused Glassware, Spinning and other stalls. The ever-popular Flea Circus, a Local History Display on Old Pubs & Inns and a War Memorial Information Display.

WHEELS, WHEELS & MORE WHEELS on 25<sup>th</sup> August. Had glorious weather that was enjoyed by the many visitors that came to see over 40 Classic Vehicles, Meccano Display, Large 16mm Model Railway, Model Auto Club Display, Miniature Train Rides, Local History display, Craft & Gift Stalls, Live Music, Brickworks Museum machinery working and Vintage Slot machines. The New Bookshop attracted lots of admiration and business.

The remaining Main Events this year are:

**September 29<sup>th</sup> – All Aboard the Trains.** All About Trains including large and small Model Railway Layouts Miniature Train Rides & Displays, Army Vehicles, Traction Engines, Ukulele & Rock a Fellas Band, Brickworks Museum with working Machinery, Various Stalls, Vintage Slot Machines.

**October 27<sup>th</sup> - Autumn Steam Up & Halloween.** With Traction Engines & Other Vehicles, Large Fairground Organ, Trailer Rides, Halloween Displays, Hampshire Bat Group, Craft & Gift Stalls, Tarot Reader, Brickworks Museum all dressed up and machinery working, Miniature Train Rides, Vintage Slot Machines.

**November 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas at the Brickworks.** Christmas at the Brickworks with Santa, Christmas Market of craft and gift stalls, Christmas Displays and museum working machinery.

**December 8<sup>th</sup> - Children's Christmas Special.** Santa and Children's Craft Activities. Especially for children, this this event is a very special day.

## Other Events

The Beer Festival on 11<sup>th</sup> May was a huge success, with tickets sold out withing hours. The ever-popular LEGO days during April half term and in August, were well attended and the Brick People will be back again in October half term. See the museum website for booking details.

*Pam Formby, Volunteer Events Organiser.*

## Brickyard Café

Hello from the Brickyard Café, we have been busy improving our menu over the last few months, adding more choice and extra homemade lunch items, as well as summer specials such as iced coffee, milkshakes, and homemade brownies.

We're also able to provide buffets and platters for in-house meetings and local businesses, we can also take pre – bookings for Afternoon tea if you fancy a treat!

If you are interested in any of the above, please email [café@thebrickworksmuseum.org](mailto:café@thebrickworksmuseum.org)

We would like to welcome our new café supervisor Sarah, who is taking charge of the day to day running and cooking within the café, so please do pop by and say hello and keep supporting us. If you are planning a trip to the museum a Barista coffee and homemade piece of cake are always a great add on to the perfect day out.

You can also now find us on Deliveroo too, so you can order from the comfort of your own home.

If you have any feedback at all for us, please drop us an email [café@thebrickworksmuseum.org](mailto:café@thebrickworksmuseum.org) as we are continually reviewing our menu and offering so welcome feedback.



Thanks for your continued support, Jodie

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## News from the Trust

The AGM of Bursledon Brickworks Museum Trust took place on 19<sup>th</sup> June. Stakeholder groups were invited to send representatives and all the museum volunteers were invited to this open meeting. Keith Aldis, Trust Secretary, chaired the meeting. Three of the 14 Trustees, including the Chair, sent apologies. The Trustees introduced themselves to the guests, then the Secretary read the report from the Chair and presented the Secretary's report. Paul West, Trust Treasurer, provided the financial report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 and for first 5 months of 2024.

The main points contained within the reports were:

Difficult trading conditions during 2023 resulted in a reduction in reserves, but the financial position remained relatively healthy and the outlook for 2024 is more positive. Reserves remain good, if not quite at the desired level.

The Secretary reported on his activities that mainly related to Trust organisational matters.

The Chair reported on the many achievements of the hard-working volunteers, trustees and staff since the 2023 AGM, the departure of Gemma and the appointment of Odette as the new Education and Engagement Officer from April. Tracey Clarke was contracted to undertake Marketing for 5 months, until end June, so a new appointment needed to be made as soon as possible.

The most exciting news was completion of the sale of land that will provide the funding for the repair of the two derelict drying sheds, with work starting later in June. Fareham Borough Council granted enabling development planning permission for 12 houses on land on the railway main line side of the museum entrance gate. The purchase price of the land can only be used to secure the future of the listed drying sheds that are at present derelict and at serious risk. Once repaired, the buildings should generate income to help secure the future of the museum.

It was observed that, although both the building site and restoration work would cause some disruption over the next year or so, the museum and café will continue to operate as normal throughout.

Andy Elford, Paul West, and George Roberts stood down at the end of their three-year term and were re-elected to serve a further term.

The Trust Officers were re-appointed to their roles, Andy Elford: Chair, Paul West: Treasurer and Keith Aldis: Secretary, but the post of Vice- Chair remains vacant, to be filled at a later board meeting. Keith Aldis gave notice that he may only serve as Secretary until the next AGM as he is about to retire from the Brick Development Association.

New auditors need to be found as the present firm has been auditing BBMT accounts since it became an independent Trust.

*Judy Bevis, Brickbats Editor*

Editor's note: HBPT and BBMT have been working towards securing the future of the whole complex of listed buildings at The Brickworks Museum site for many years, so it is fantastic that the funding for the final phase has been secured at last.

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## The Brickworks Miniature Railway

Over the past couple of months, the team have been hard at work building a new, vacuum braked, carriage with a separate Guard's compartment and a high-capacity longitudinal seat. The new carriage proved invaluable as it enabled a three-carriage train to operate to reduce visitor waiting times for a ride.

We are currently refurbishing two of the carriages owned by the Museum as the running gear had become life expired and the brake equipment is being refurbished. The opportunity is also being taken to reconfigure one of the carriages to include a Guard's brake position and convert the limited step-through seating with a higher capacity bench seat. The second carriage will be rebuilt with ease of access step-through seating for less mobile visitors.

There has been some remedial track work. This is always ongoing as the sub base clay is constantly moving with the changes to the weather i.e. if wet it expands and dry it shrinks underneath us.

Our winter 24/25 programme includes the complete lifting of the lower loop and lead in tracks, removing all the old ballast and relaying on a firm base level then re ballasting with new, clean material. This should negate future issues with ground movement in this area.

Last, but not least, we are planning to relay part of the larger two-foot gauge railway to create an exhibit to demonstrate wagon movements.

*Phil Boswell, volunteer with the railway team*

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## Volunteer Profile from Sue

“Having taken slightly early retirement from a health research post at Southampton University I wanted to find a volunteering opportunity that fitted around personal responsibilities. I happened to see a post on Facebook asking for volunteers at the Brickworks Museum. Having never been to the Museum I went along as a visitor and found the place fascinating. I have always had an interest in history (although, until now, not of bricks and brick making) and it seemed like an ideal place to offer my help.

I spend most of my time working in the collections/archive team helping to ensure that paper-based collection is catalogued and its location in the museum is accurately recorded. But I have also been on the front desk (Reception), helped at event days, had a go at making a brick and generally helped out where needed.”

Sue took part in the creation of the display of toys in the upstairs gallery and, most recently helped Pam to set up the new pre-owned Bookshop.

Sue’s verdict on The Brickworks Museum is: “It is a friendly place to volunteer and offers the opportunity for people to learn a variety of new skills or to share any they bring with them.”



*Judy Bevis, Editor*

Sue is pictured beside the latest object she is researching. It is one of several identical roof vents that have been on the museum site for decades. In fact, long before the old Bursledon Brickworks became a museum, so long before the present band of volunteers, staff, and Trustees!

The vents are believed to be from a village hall that was demolished, as Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust collected many architectural items of historical interest when buildings were demolished. All were stored on the museum site.

So far, it has been impossible to identify which village or which building these vents came from, although several suggestions have been offered.

If you recognise this lovely terracotta structure from memories or old photographs, please let us know, because it would be wonderful to provide a full information in a new museum display.

## Odette Jacobs-Headspith Profile

Odette recently said: 'I am so happy to have joined The Brickworks in April as Education and Engagement Officer – what a warm welcome I have had so a huge thank you to you all! It has been a busy start to life at the museum straight into school visits and planning the summer trail. Nonetheless, I have enjoyed every part as I am new to working in a museum and looking forward to learning all about this new field of industrial heritage too and of course about brickmaking in more depth.'



Odette was born and grew up in London to West-Indian parents and her father was in construction her whole childhood after leaving the army, so there may be some hidden brick-knowledge to be uncovered! After starting her teaching career in London, Odette moved to Warrington where she met her husband and had children. It was there that she became a member of the WI. The family moved down to Southampton 7 years ago and now live in Eastleigh which they love. Odette is now a WI president.

After teaching for over 20 years, the last few years have involved less and less time in the classroom as her children become busier – both into dancing and performing. Odette is also kept busy by her role as a Ceremony Officer for Southampton, as she performs wedding and Citizenship ceremonies one day a week at the registry office. Odette explained that: 'It is such a joyful job and I get to meet people on their happiest days. Hopefully both my teaching and registration work will feed nicely into my work here in education and engagement at the museum with a background in children, families, and community work.'

## John Wood Engines

We have 3 steam driven stationary engines on site. They are affectionately known as Number 1, number 2, and the (Worthington-Simpson) Steam pump.



Engine number 1, indoors, is believed to date from 1885 when it was operated by Hooper and Ashby at their brickworks at Chandlers Ford.

It was moved to Bursledon in 1897 and operated until 1974. When the engineers mothballed it in 1974, they did a wonderful job. It was able to be revived when the idea of a museum was formed.

In 2012 with the aid of a Heritage Lottery grant. The Museum Trust was formed in 2015 and now runs the site.

It is a horizontal, single cylinder, double acting, non-reversing, non-condensing engine. It does not have a serial number on it. But does have a plate showing it was made by John Wood.

There was a catastrophic event when the pugmill became jammed and the engine kept trying to turn. It eventually shook the engine from its mountings. Despite being badly damaged it was repaired. The repair metal can be seen attached to the engine by several large bolts.



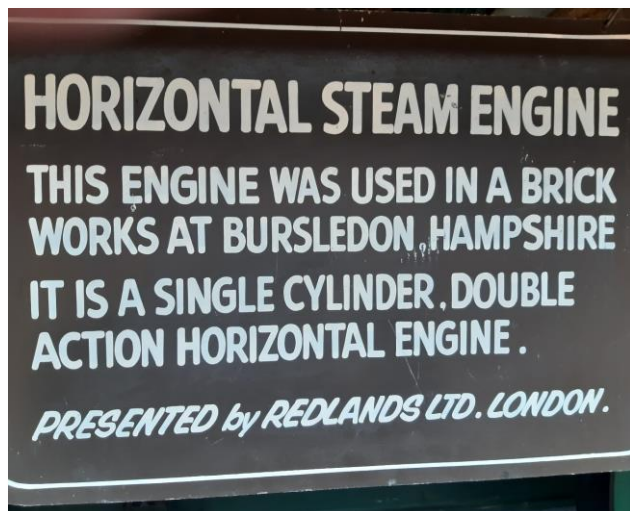
The 2<sup>nd</sup> John Wood Engine has quite a history. Originally installed in the Northern Block it was sent to the Poldark Mine in Cornwall as this sign shows.

Bob Palmer, one of the volunteer engineers that worked on restoring engine number 2, reported that “Eventually, Poldark changed their emphasis to only showing Cornish mining equipment so, with the aid of some grant money for transportation, the engine was returned to us. It sat under wraps in the workshop for a while. Then it was moved into the reception display area and, finally, after another spell outside,

on the 20th of August 2015, we took it into the workshop and started stripping it down and cleaning it. That was a great day.” It took until 2017 to get it up and running. Some further adjustments were made in 2018 and it has been running well ever since.

The serial number of this engine is 1281.

These two engines are believed to be the only John Wood engines still in steam.



Richard Newman

## Creating a new museum exhibit

Have you watched 'Secrets of the Museum' or 'Hidden Treasures of the National Trust' and marveled over the care taken by so many experts to preserve the objects in the collections? I have, and over the past year I have also witnessed how this work is done by a small museum largely dependent on the expertise of volunteers.

With the new roof over the kiln and some repairs to the firing floor of the kiln completed, it was possible to create a new kiln exhibition.

While the planning of a new display is done by the Museum Director (MD) and Collections Manager (CM), museum volunteers are heavily involved in everything from research to conservation to installation of new displays. Commissioning the walkway, bespoke interpretation and designing the layout, was done by the MD and CM, then museum volunteers put together the new exhibition.

Jim Beckett's report on research into gas firing of kilns appeared in March issue. Once the pieces of equipment that formed the gas firing system had been identified, they had to be inspected by the CM and members of the Conservation Team, to decide the best way to conserve the objects and prepare them for display. These are complex objects made from various metals and polymers, so each material needs a specific conservation process. The museum is fortunate to have a volunteer with expert knowledge of polymers and another with extensive experience of museum conservation work. With a plan of work agreed and written, the correct conservation materials were obtained so the work could start.

To produce a good representation of the gas firing system, the Workshop Team of engineers had to manufacture a replica piece from accurate drawings made by another talented volunteer.

While the conservation and workshop volunteers used their expertise to prepare the museum objects to be displayed on the firing floor of the kiln, museum volunteers from the construction, maintenance and gardening teams worked on preparing kiln chambers for new display and interpretation. This involved moving some museum objects. They also installed the new interpretation boards. Both the volunteer electrician and IT expert, were involved in putting the final touches to the new exhibit.

Another brave volunteer modeled for the figures included in the new exhibition area!

The Brickworks Museum cannot compare with the V&A or National Trust, but thanks to the truly amazing range of skills, knowledge and expertise that The Brickworks Museum volunteers have, it is possible to create lovely exhibits. Do take in this one on your next visit.



*Judy Bevis, Collections Volunteer*

## Richard's latest Report



The joists in some of drying sheds are recycled railway lines. They are particularly evident in the working life gallery and shed 5 drying room. With Emilie's assistance I managed to decipher the lettering on the rails.

The Inscription on the rail is **C ^ A BS75R Workington 4/37**.

Where ^ is the military broad arrow and **BS75R** is the **British Standard for Steel Rail**. Workington was the town of manufacture.

*Quote: "THEY turned off the lights, locked the gates and threw away the key to one of West Cumbria's oldest and greatest industries last Friday - amid tears, anger,*

*disbelief and another blow to the area's economy.*

*Steel rail-making is a Workington speciality that goes back 129 years that has gone for good. And so has the famous Mossbay works whose lineage as a producer of iron and steel, and as an employer of thousands, goes back to the cutting edge work of the great Victorian technician and inventor Sir Henry Bessemer."*

© Times and Star website. Dated 31<sup>st</sup> August 2006.

The tradition at this company started in 1877. Lastly the number **4/37** may relate to a date of April 1837. The Liverpool Manchester opened in 1830 and a rail of that date may well have been worn out (in rail terms) by the start of our construction in 1896.

## Two Drying Sheds

In mid-June, work began on the two drying sheds – sheds 1 and 2 – which are on the Historic England Heritage At Risk Register. The drying sheds at The Brickworks Museum are an important part of our history. They were patented by the original owners for their unusual method of heating. The heated drying sheds made the making of bricks a year-round possibility. Without heating, bricks could only be made in the summer.

These two sheds were modified in the 1960s when the factory was operational by having a flat roof put on them. The original pitched roofs had obviously started to fail, and this seemed the best solution at the time. Sadly, as many of those early flat roofs did, they began to leak and by 2011 were falling in taking the main walls with them.

The decision was taken to take the roof structure off completely before the uncontrolled deterioration did more damage to the main structure. Since then, the museum has been looking for a way to get them safe once more. Before the pandemic a project was begun that included selling a piece of land by the main gates

on Swanwick Lane to act as enabling development. This is a scheme whereby planning permission can be granted on sites that usually wouldn't be eligible if it can be shown it will help secure the future of a heritage site. In this case it was to take the two sheds off the At Risk Register.

The housing site is now being cleared and, running concurrently, is the work on the two sheds. The project will see the two sheds undergo a basic restoration. This will include putting back a similar roof profile to the original. The walls will be repaired and a steel frame installed to give the central corridor walls more strength. Finally, a new concrete floor will be laid in both sheds. This will secure the buildings and allow The Brickworks Museum to explore new options for their future use.

*Carolyn Haynes, Museum Director*



Site of development before filling station move

Drying sheds under repair

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## CONSERVING THE KILN GAS FIRING EQUIPMENT

When the Brickworks closed the gas firing equipment for the remaining kiln was left on top but unprotected. The kiln firing floor repairs necessitated its removal but, happily, Jim Beckett put some of the best examples into store for display use after conservation.

On examination, the steel burner lances were inevitably quite rusty. The jets, made of copper alloy and mounted in cast aluminium, were lightly corroded. Quick fit connectors for the gas were corroded sufficiently to be completely jammed. There was only one stand remaining, the museum volunteer workshop engineers have done a wonderful job of preparing a replica, nicely painted in black to distinguish it from the remaining original.

Most of the flexible hoses were in very good condition, the type of rubber used for this type of application is very resistant to weathering, ultraviolet radiation damage and mechanical abrasion. This was encouraging as they are over 50 years old. Some, however, had signs of heat damage including burns and cracking.

Our previous experience with some of the outside exhibits led us to a conservation strategy for the metal parts. The conservation team wire brushed off the loose scale and rust from the steelwork and then treated it with a drying oil which penetrates into the adherent rust to dry as a strong composite material. This oil also contains a corrosion inhibitor to protect against corrosion due to condensation. The cast alloy and copper alloy parts

were also cleaned, mainly with small nylon bristle brushes and pipe cleaners. These were treated with a clear lacquer, also with corrosion inhibitor.

The damaged hoses presented an interesting problem; how would we stop burned material from flaking off and prevent the cracks from propagating? An internet search of what to do did not really yield any promising solutions so we had to devise our own.

We were aware of a couple of polymers which are used as consolidants for historic items, which are also used as material to form paint on but removable labels. Both were reported to have good light stability. These two materials have slightly different molecular structures and so we chose the one which would give greatest flexibility. This material was made up in white spirit as a paint which was applied to the damaged parts and encouraged to fill the cracks and coat the burns. It is also hoped it will have penetrated into the rubber surface and formed a composite to resist further cracking.

The application process went well, which was a great relief as the whole proposal was experimental. We will monitor the hoses to check their condition in future.

This was very much a team effort and the end result, together with the other components of the kiln firing floor display, is a tribute to those involved and, perhaps also to the men who did the brick firing, first by coal and, in the last couple of years, by gas.

*John Bevis, collections volunteer*

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## Archives News

The library and archive are now in very good order. This has taken a considerable amount of time since the move from the old archives room on the ground floor, because every item had to be matched against the catalogue entry to ensure it was in the correct place. This was an ideal opportunity to critically review the collection against the museum collections policy, and check for additional conservation or care requirements of items.

Some items were removed, because they did not fit with the collections policy criteria. Separate collections have been created for brickmakers catalogues and Friends of Bursledon Brickworks papers. Urgent cleaning of many of the plastic catalogue covers was undertaken after researching conservation of plastic products. (A report on the problems of conserving Barbie dolls provided some very useful information.) All the items to be added to the collection have been sorted into different categories to be added to different sections of the paper-based collections. Cataloguing of the books has now been completed and work has started on the other formats.

Significant progress has been achieved across the library and archives collections because individual members of the team have taken responsibility for different parts of the collection. Janet has created order from the archives of Pat Ryan and Jane Wight, while Jim is working on the many boxes of the Martin Hammond's archive. Sue is now cataloguing the brickmakers catalogues while Lisa is working through boxes of small objects and documents from Beacon Hill and Downton brickworks. Megan has joined the archives team for the summer, and will be cataloguing photographs. Daniel has most recently assisted me with the conservation storage of press cuttings and is willing to turn his hand to most things. I have started cataloguing all the odd, paper-based, things in the collection that also need specialist conservation storage. Nigel and Ann are in the process of cataloguing a very large collection of interesting bricks.

There is still a considerable amount of work to do before all the museum library and archive collections, and the brick collections are fully recorded and stored correctly, but we are making fantastic progress as a team.

I have deliberately not mentioned the digitisation project because John has provided the report that follows.

*Judy Bevis, Volunteer Librarian*

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## Photographic Digitisation Project

The archives team have begun a long term project to digitise and conserve the large collection of photographs at the museum. These include prints, slides, negatives, and material on CD / DVD format. The originals are to be stored in archive quality packing as a conservation measure. Some photographs have been found to have deteriorated and these, when digitised, will be enhanced as far as is possible to bring out important historical detail. Digital files are being backed up, both onsite and off site to guard against file loss. It is planned to eventually generate databases with error checking software in place and to make these available for study.

This work has recently revealed some useful information. The writer, having worked in the brickworks in his school holidays 1970 -72, has often been asked about the numbers of chambers in the Northern Plant kilns. Some photographs, taken in 1980, have been found which nicely show these:

C kiln, the one in the middle of the estate in aerial photographs can be seen to have 8 chambers per side in the photographs below:



F kiln, the last to be constructed and the northernmost, can be seen to have 7 chambers per side:



This is confirmation of what has previously been only understood from previous oral testimony.

It has also been possible to confirm something that Jim Knights, who some readers will remember as a long serving volunteer and contributor to Brickbats used to ask me about. To his disappointment I had no recollection of and emergency stop buttons on the South Plant engine. Now at last a photograph of the engine prior to any restoration works has been found:



It is possible to see electrical devices on the wall behind the engine cylinder and one or, both of these, must have been to do with emergency shut offs.

So, our old friend Jim was correct.

Finally, I have been asked on many occasions if the kiln burners had a little hut at the top of the kiln. The photograph below confirms that there was indeed a hut, which I could not remember!



We do not know who took these slides so we cannot give a proper attribution. We are nevertheless very grateful to the photographer.

*John Bevis, digitisation volunteer*

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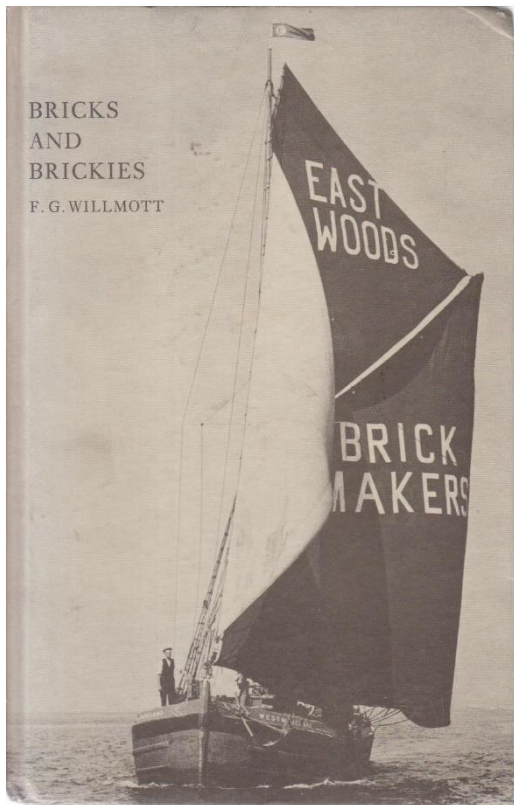
## Book Reviews

*Bricks and 'Brickies'* by Frank G. Willmot, published privately in 1972. This book tells the story of the company, Eastwoods and Co Limited, Builders Merchants by 1813 that later became brick makers and barge owners.

I thought this a promising title, but was rather disappointed to find that the term 'Brickies' related to the barges that carried the bricks as well as those employed in the manufacture of bricks, and barges proved to be the focus of the book.

17 pages cover various aspects of the Eastwood company, including cement work, road transport and Eastwoods Houses, the barges and bargemen of the company take up most of this section. The second section provides basic details of the materials used in the manufacture of the bricks and the various sites of brick manufacture, plus descriptions of how the bricks were made. The remaining 30 pages are devoted to the

barges, their history, and their skippers, with lots of pictures of working barges on the Medway and of rotting hulks.



I found that the clay used to make bricks was dug in winter, loaded into trucks that were pushed to a washmill where it was turned into slurry. The slurry was pumped to washbacks at either Rainham or Lower Hastlow. When the clay had solidified to the correct consistency it was directed down chutes to where it was needed. Leigh sand was used to stop the clay sticking to the moulds as well as preventing 'green' bricks from sticking together in the hacks. The basic fuel for firing bricks was 'rough stuff' or London Mixture. This was coke or ash from house refuse bins in London that was taken to various depots in London. The barges delivered bricks and returned with a load of fuel from wharves along the Thames.

The clay areas often included a layer of flint that went to the flint wharf to be barged to various parts of Kent and Essex for road-building.

The glossary includes many universal terms, but a few obviously local ones.

The incredibly detailed information about the histories and work of all the barges was tedious. Some variations on brickmaking were new to me, and the fact that domestic refuse from London was considered a valuable resource, worth sorting and transporting to brickyards was thought-provoking.

Published privately, this book was not subject to editing by a publisher that would have improved readability.

On the other hand, *Brick building in Britain* by E. W. Brunskill, published in 1990 by Victor Gollancz, ISBN:10575044578 is a very readable book covering the history of building with brick in Britain from Medieval to 1990. It has more than 200 illustrations, even in the glossary section, with examples from all over the country. Apart from providing an overview of the use of bricks in buildings, it covers brickmaking and an explanation of Brick Tax and the relatively modern development of the cavity wall.

A good starting point for anyone developing an interest in the history of bricks and brick buildings.

It also provided another meaning of BAT, as in Brickbats, this is 1/4, 1/2 or 3/4 pieces of brick used in constructing walls

*Judy Bevis, Volunteer Librarian*



**The Brickworks Museum**  
**Swanwick Lane, Swanwick, Southampton, SO31 7HB**  
[www.thebrickworksmuseum.org](http://www.thebrickworksmuseum.org)



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