



BRICKBATS

The Magazine for
Volunteers and
Members of The
Brickworks Museum

Free to volunteers and members, £2.50 when sold

www.thebrickworksmuseum.org

Introduction

Welcome to the refreshed face of Brickbats 2025, featuring the new Brickworks Museum logo. This issue is full of exciting news, from small innovations to the big drying shed project, plus multiple awards. As I write, the roof is going onto sheds 1 and 2, so be sure to check this out on your next visit.

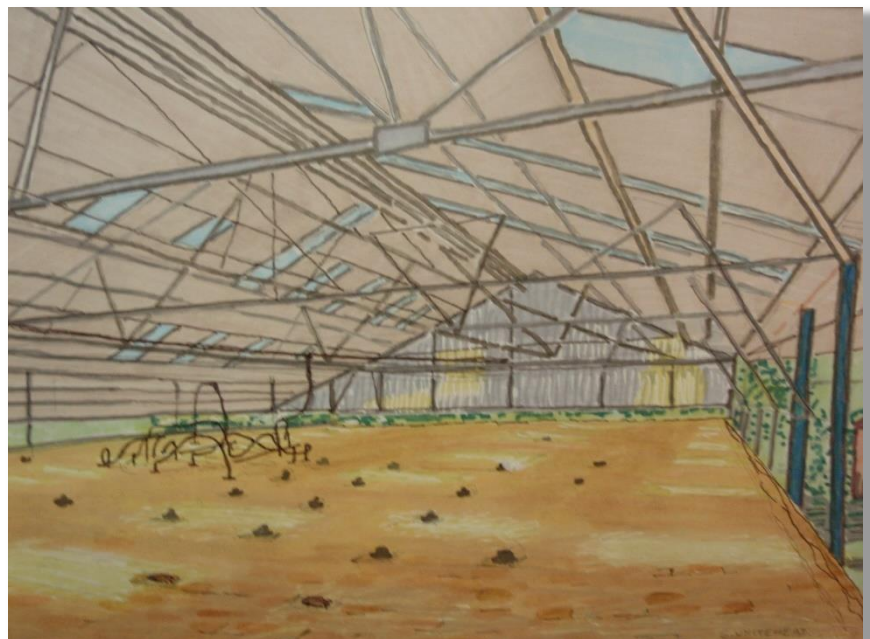
The open season kicks off early this year with a Spring Market on 9th March. May sees the, ever popular, Beer Festival and Lego events return in April, August and October. Not to be missed are the Big Steam Events of April and October. The website will give all the up-to-date details for every event, including extra ones in planning.

Inside, the Collections Manager explains the importance of Accreditation to independent museums, we delve into the personal life of Samuel Batley and pose an interesting question to brick making experts.

The Brickworks Museum has so much to offer visitors of all ages, come rain or shine, so please spread the word amongst your friends, neighbours and families about the museum of bricks and brickmaking that is so much more.

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Judy Bevis, Editor

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Brickworks News

- The Brickworks Museum stand at the Romsey Show was awarded 2nd place in the “Most Interactive Stand” category. Wendy, Linda, Sue, Nigel, and Bob obviously did a great job of representing and advertising the museum.
- A bicycle parking stand has appeared outside the Main Entrance of the museum. Upcycled by two very enterprising and skilled volunteers.
- A team of volunteers, led by Dave, removed many of the smaller dead trees from around the site.
- Autumn is a busy time for the team of volunteers that decorate the museum. The Brickworks looked spectacular for Halloween and Christmas.
- Cover photo of a Steve Whitehead artwork, that was snapped up by a fellow volunteer before it could reach the museum shop! Most rapid sale ever? Examples of Steve’s work are available to buy in the shop.
- The museum has received funding from the Talking Nature Grant scheme run by South West Museum Development, to help children understand biodiversity
- Congratulations to Margaret on passing her forklift truck driving test. Not an achievement she anticipated in her retirement!
- Museum volunteers visited Amberley Museum in November, and will host a group of Amberley volunteers at the Brickworks Museum in April.
- In spring 2025, construction started on a building for machinery from Downton Brickworks. This is part of the development plan for the outside exhibitions.
- To celebrate ‘Railway 200’ in 2025 the railway team are developing a mineral railway exhibit along the main drive. They have also been relaying part of the miniature line ready for rides in 2025.
- In January 2025, members of the Archives Team offered fellow volunteers the opportunity to find out about the various collections and how the team care for them. Richard Newman gave a talk on the brickworks during WW1 and WW2. In February Ken talked about the work and future plans of the museum railway team, and Nigel planned to introduce volunteers to more interesting bricks in the collection.



Departure of Emilie Brewer, Volunteer Coordinator

Emilie left The Brickworks Museum on 2nd January. In her two years in the role, she managed to ‘buck the trend’ across the volunteering sector by recruiting a steady stream of new volunteers. Emilie revised the recordkeeping system, organised training for volunteers and made sure that there were enough volunteers at every museum event and group visit, sometimes at short notice.

Emilie was also involved in the organisation of the shop and development of the period gardens. She organised the lovely Summer Volunteers BBQ parties and the Christmas Parties.

Emilie’s empathy and support was much appreciated by those volunteers she helped. We wish Emilie all the best for the future.

King's Award for Voluntary Service

On November 14th 2024, The Brickworks Museum volunteers were awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service (equivalent to MBE) and the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK. It was one of 281 local charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups given the award in 2024.

In the press release, Andy Elford, Chair of Bursledon Brickworks Museum Trust said:

"I am always amazed by the depth of knowledge and range of skills that our valued volunteers bring with them when working at The Brickworks Museum. It is our volunteers that really make the museum viable, with many hundreds of hours donated every year.

Receiving the prestigious Kings Award for Voluntary Service is the highest accolade possible, representing the ultimate reward for the skills and enthusiasm every volunteer brings to the museum and happily shares with each other and the wider public."

The museum volunteers greeted the news with delight and applause. The award will be proudly displayed in museum reception for all visitors to see.

Pam Formby, Volunteer Events Organiser

Now is the time to tell everyone about Pam's work for The Brickworks Museum. Pam provides Events News in Brickbats because she organises most of the big events that take place at Museum. You may also know she organises the book stall, now the pre-loved books shop, at the museum. When Pam is not booking stall holders and entertainers, organising books or setting up for events, she is involved in other activities at the museum as she runs the local history group and works in the wildlife garden.

Pam has also got grants for various projects, like setting up the period rooms displays and outside seating benches. She was instrumental in both Nigel Atkinson Esq, Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, and the Duke of Gloucester visiting the museum. These visits lead to a fact-finding visit from one of the Lord-Lieutenant's team and further requests for a lots of information from museum volunteers, Pam spent many hours gathering statements and answering questions.

Thank you, Pam for everything you do for the museum, and wear your KAVS Badge with pride.

Events News

The October, November and December Events of 2024:

Autumn Steam Up & Halloween October 27th: We ended the year well as in October we had 787 visitors, one of our most well attended events and the weather was just right. There were another 100 people on site with all the exhibitors & stallholders. The Steam Group arranged the yard which was full of Traction Engines, Miniature Steam, Stationary Engines, a Large Fairground Organ, Army Vehicles and Classic Cars, also various Steam Models. Queues all day for the ever-popular Trailer Rides. The Blacksmith was popular. Trains gave 297 rides. Halloween Decorations and Displays inside, Bat Group, Hedgehog Rescue, Wizards of the South, Spinning, Weaving and various Craft Stalls.

Christmas at the Brickworks November 24th: After a storm and high winds almost 300 people came to the Brickworks that looked magical with lights and decorations everywhere. 30 Craft & Gift Stalls, Lacemaking Display, Meccano Exhibition, Children's Craft Activities and Santa in his Grotto inside. Toastrack Bus from Southampton University, Blacksmith, decorated Mini Cars, and big woodcutting saw. Too windy for train rides, but a large Thomas Model Railway Railway was upstairs for.

Children's Christmas Special: This is a smaller event held each year and tickets sold out for children to see Santa in his Grotto. Festive decorations and craft activities including a card Christmas Tree, and Wreath and greenery Table Centrepiece. The large Thomas Model Railway Layout running inside and Train Rides outside and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Main Events at the Brickworks Museum in 2025

9th March - Spring Market. Stalls, Mini Car Club, Fun Uke Band, Blacksmith. **Museum Open but not in steam.**

27th April - Spring Steam Up. Traction Engines & other Vehicles - stalls inside.

25th May - Back in Time – Steampunk & Victoriana. Steampunk & other stalls, Supported by Gosport Steampunk Society.

29th June - Trains at the Brickworks. Large and small Model Railway Layouts inside and outside also stalls.

20th July – Midsummer Magic. Magic School and Magicians for all ages.

10th August – Wheels at the Brickworks. Vehicles & Stalls.

21st September – Harvest Home. Local History and other Displays. Also, our Fun Dog Show.

26th October – Autumn Steam Up & Halloween.

23rd November – Christmas Market.

6th/7th December – Christmas at the Brickworks

Pam Formby, volunteer events organiser

The Brickworks Museum Website has more details of all Big 'Museum in Steam' Events and lots of smaller events are also planned throughout 2025, so please regularly check the website for news.

Other Events include:

Lego Days: The Brick People are back at the museum on **April 16th-17th, August 20th-21st, October 29th-30th** (book tickets online)

6th April. Children's Easter Event (book tickets online)

10th April. Meccano Event.

May 17th Beer Festival. Booking in advance only. Tickets will be on sale from 1st March. Tickets sell very quickly for this popular event.

6th July. Flower Show

News from the Trust

BBMT was delighted to receive another donation of £1,000 from the Worshipful Company of Bricklayers and Tylers to support the work of the museum. The Worshipful Company has made several donations to The Brickworks Museum in recent years.

Unfortunately, the Lead Trustee for Health and Safety resigned from the Trust late in 2024, so the Trust is seeking a replacement Trustee for this role. The Trust also urgently needs to appoint a Vice-Chair. The vacant Volunteer Coordinator staff role also must be filled.

The major task facing the Trust in 2025 is to identify an appropriate end use for the new space created by the repairs to drying sheds 1 and 2 (see Museum Director's report below). At approximately 600 square meters, this represents a potentially significant new income source for The Brickworks Museum.

Once a viable use has been identified, the provision of appropriate services and fit out for the end use will be required, so finding the funding for this will be another challenge for the Trust.

From notes provided by Andy Elford, Trust Chair.

Museum Volunteer Profile

Millie has been mentioned in previous editions of Brickbats as she is an important part of the museum volunteer maintenance team. When Millie went to live with Wendy, she started to come to the museum too, because it was more interesting than staying at home on her own.



At the museum Millie likes running around to greet all her friends, she enjoys licking their bare legs, and checking the mess room floor for stray food items. She spends most of her time with the maintenance team, otherwise known as the 'Charmers', and patiently watches while they work.

Millie particularly likes riding in wheelbarrows, but she finds the Education room spooky and dislikes the toilets. She is not alone in finding some areas of the museum disturbing, but nobody can quite explain why.

Millie is a very progressive dog, with her own Facebook page where she shares her adventures, and she regularly deserts us at the museum to meet up with her canine friends at 'Doggie Daycare'.

Margaret Cooper: Artist

In late 2024 we received the news that Margaret had died in June. Margaret designed and installed the two steel sculptures at the museum after completing a BA (hons) and MA in Fine Art at Portsmouth University.

She came to making steel art forms later in life, after being a very successful flower arranger, designing displays for local cathedrals and exhibiting flower arrangements at the Chelsea Flower Show. Margaret was also an exceptional teacher.



Our sympathy goes to Gary, Margaret's husband of almost 60 years, and to her family and friends.

Golden Film Trophy awarded to The Brickworks Museum

On the morning of 16th November 2024, members of the National Traction Engine Trust (NTET) visited the The Brickworks Museum before travelling on to Portsmouth for their AGM. At the AGM, a Brickworks Museum representative was presented with the most prestigious award that NTET make, the Morris Lubricants Golden Film Trophy. This trophy is given to a body, society or group who support activities within the steam movement. The Brickworks Museum was chosen for the support given by hosting Steam Apprentices' Days.

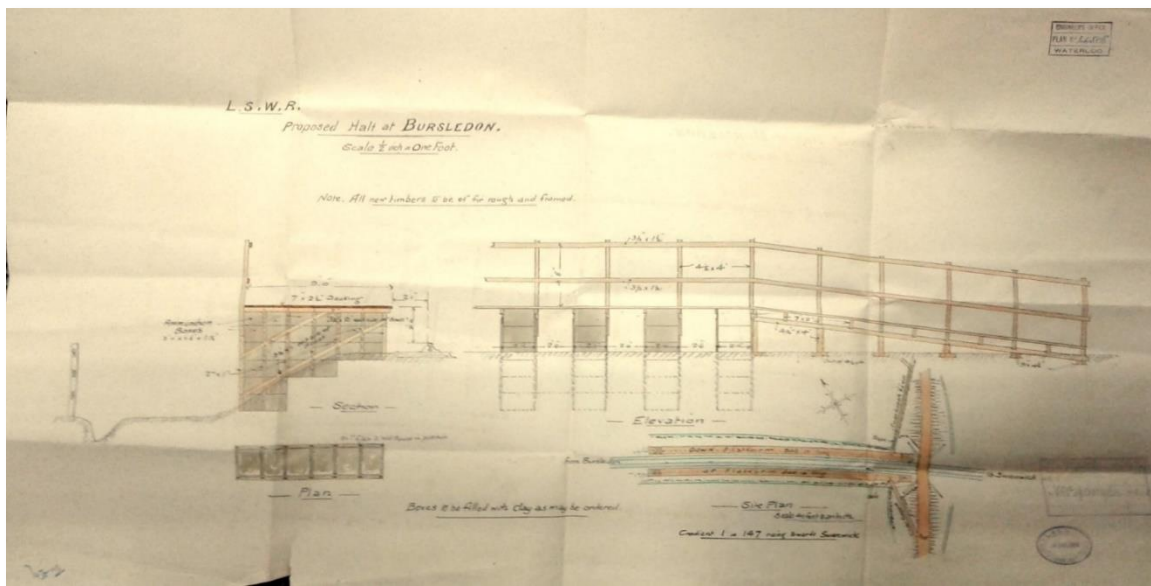
The trophy is now proudly displayed in the museum engine room, to be seen by museum visitors this season.

At the same NTET meeting, SHHSES were presented with the 'Doc' Romanes Trophy for their commitment to providing Steam Apprentices' Days at The Brickworks over many years.

Crow Park Halt

Those who have been Volunteers or members for some time may remember Railways at the Brickworks as a previous article in Brickbats. Mention was made of Crow Park Halt.

Crow Park Halt construction was ammunition boxes filled with clay to weigh them down, covered in planking. It was approved for use on 11th September 1918 for 'workers only'. It closed in 1920.

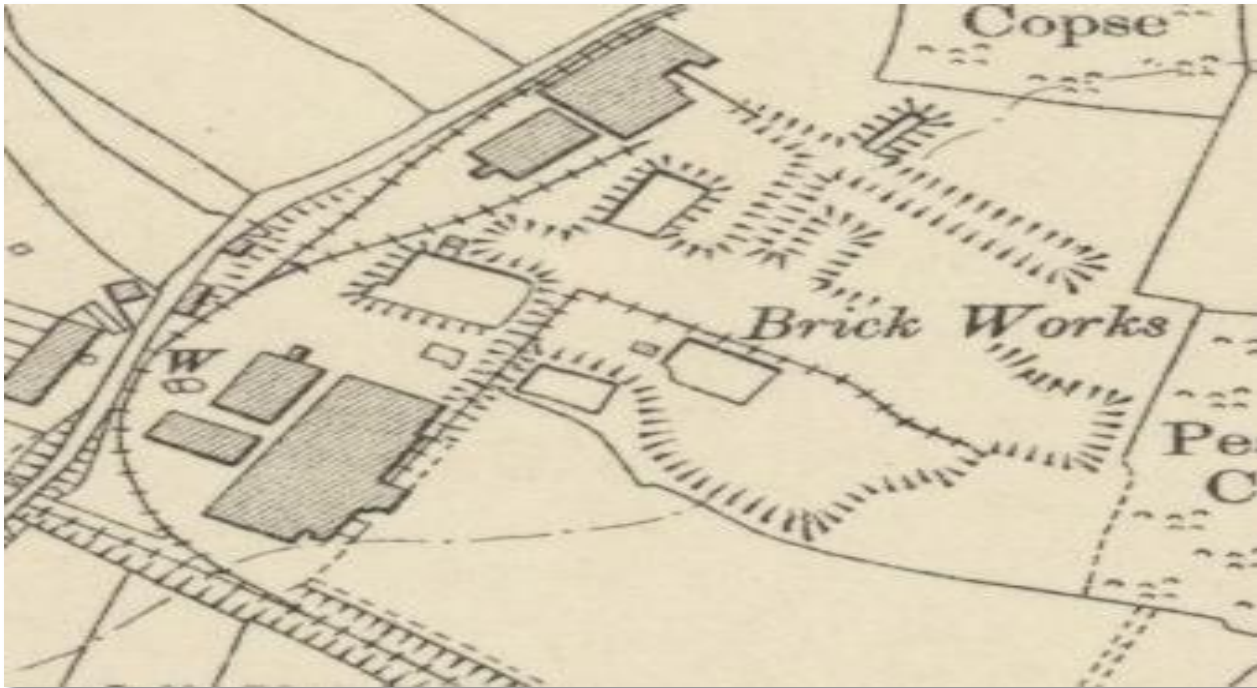


As can be seen from the drawing in the bottom right-hand corner of the plan the platform was located to the west of the bridge. It was accessed via Riverview Terrace. The signalling for the halt was controlled by Bursledon Signal Box.

It was part of the signaller's job to walk the line from the box, situated alongside the station, across the bridge, over the Hamble, as far as the ground frame for the Brickworks Siding. The retired signal man I spoke with, said the scariest part of the walk was on the Hamble Bridge as it did not have any "safe spots". He had to time his walk between the trains for fear of being crushed by one on the Bridge.

Albert Goddard was near what we now refer to as the "bungalow". The west side of the building was used as a station platform. On 4th March 1914 it was reported, at his inquest, that he was working nearby when a wagon became loose. He thought he could stop it, but was swept up by it, and crushed between it and the platform.

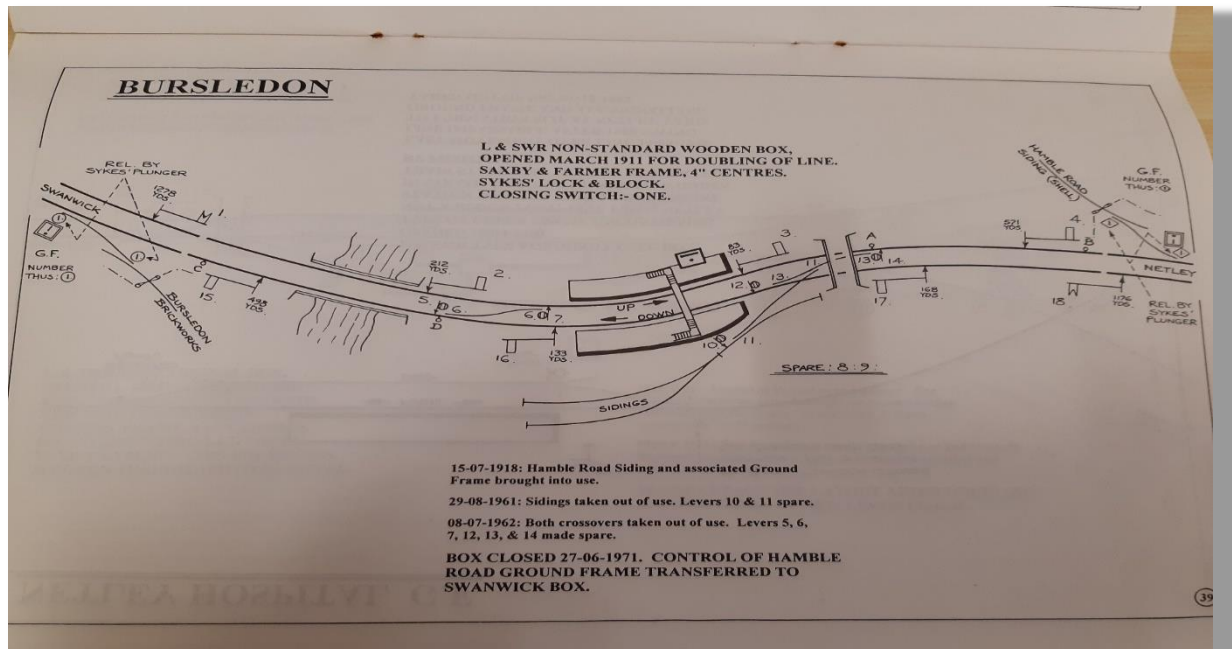
When he was removed, he said it was 'his own fault'. He was taken to Southampton General Hospital where he expired that evening. His death was recorded as 'accidental' by the Coroner.



The sidings ran across behind the kiln, passed the bungalow on the west side and formed two sidings which ran either side of the northern works. It was the presence of these sidings, and the fact that the northern works was inoperative in two world wars, which drew the Military to the site. The map above predates the bungalow.



Below is the signalman's map of the area he had to patrol and operate. This ran from the Hamble Road siding, for the fuel depot, to the west then to the east of our ground frame. The box was opened in 1911 when the track from Netley to Fareham was made into a double line. It had opened as single line working in 1899. The railway line was one of the deciding factors for the building of the brickworks on this particular site. The box closed on 27th June 1971 when control of the sector was passed to Swanwick.



The ground frame for our sidings is shown in the top left-hand corner. 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.

Richard Newman

Steam Apprentices' Day

The 2024 NTET Steam Apprentices' Day for members of their Steam Apprentices Club, organised by SHHSES, took place at the museum on Sunday 22nd September. This was an unexpected opportunity for museum visitors to see engines in steam as these events are usually held on Saturday.

The young steam enthusiasts spent the morning cleaning and preparing the engines, then got to drive each engine around the site during the afternoon. This year, several young drivers also practiced hitching a trailer, a more advanced part of their training. The day ended with a group photo and new achievements noted in the apprentices' logbooks.

Although there was intermittent heavy rain during the morning the young steam enthusiasts were undeterred, and their parents were totally supportive. Dry weather arrived in time for the afternoon of driving and a group of very dirty, tired, but happy young people departed late afternoon.

Photos of apprentices with 'their' engines are below.



Member's question: What is this?

"Whilst in Queensland, I visited the Ipswich Heritage Society Museum. It was once a coal-mining area with supplementary industries such as brickmaking. There were several exhibits that had come from local brickworks plus many examples of the bricks themselves.

The lady who took me on a comprehensive tour of the museum told me that there was one brickmaking exhibit that they had no idea what it was used for. I mentioned that I was a Brickworks Friend at Bursledon, and I would see if any of our knowledgeable members could shed any light on it."



If you know what this object is and what it is used for, please contact the museum membership administrator at: keith.miller@thebrickworksmuseum.org

We have ideas but are unable to find any supporting evidence so far.

THE PERSONAL LIFE OF SAMUEL BATLEY

Samuel Batley, full name Samuel Richard Short Batley, was employed by Edmund and Robert Ashby as their brickworks manager, about the year 1887. From the start, Batley was more than a manager. My research, over a number of years, has led me to the belief that without Samuel Batley it is very unlikely the Brickworks Museum, as we know it today, would exist. But this article is not about Batley's skill as a brick making expert, it is about the man, and what I have learnt about his journey through life.

Batley was born in 1852, in Church Lane, Chatham, right next to the Historic Dockyard, now a museum. Samuel's grandfather was a brickmaker in Norfolk, but his father was a soldier, living in Chatham Barracks before he left the army, and worked as a tailor.

At some time in the 1850s, the family moved to Rotherham, in South Yorkshire. This first experience of moving to a distant part of the country would have taught Samuel it was not necessary to continue living in the same area all your life, that there were other opportunities to be had in other places.

Samuel's older brother William Batley, was a successful brickmaker, and manufacturer of sanitary pipes, based in Rotherham. His works employed 31 men and boys and no doubt, among these, were members of the Batley family from Chatham. William was the inventor of many improvements to brick and pipe making machines and held numerous patents. He must have been an important influence on Samuel, because by the time Samuel was eighteen, he was experienced in making large diameter pipes, using the latest clay extrusion machinery.

In 1870, Samuel married Betsy Oxby and moved in with her parents in Rotherham. They had their first child when aged just 19, a son they named Arthur. Three years later a second child was born, they named her Mina. Sadly, as was so common in Victorian times, Betsy died soon after the birth. Samuel became a widower at just 23, responsible for looking after two infants. Two weeks later, Mina died, leaving just Samuel and Arthur alone. It is not known what happened next, but we do know Samuel moved to Scotland, and worked as a sanitary pipe maker. We think he may have lodged near the works, in a village called Tranent, near Prestonpans. There he met his landlord, William Sanderson, a baker, and his wife, Margaret. Margaret's sister, Elizabeth, a spinster, was about 14 years older than Batley, but the two struck up a friendship and the couple married in 1876. Where Arthur was living at this time isn't known, but Samuel's young son and his new wife would soon be reunited, living near Swansea, in South Wales. It is in 1879 that I found the first newspaper report about Samuel Batley. He addressed a public meeting held by The Briton Ferry Abstinence Society.

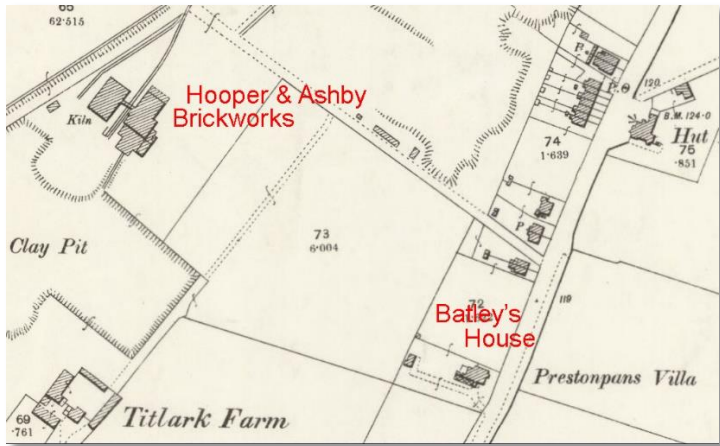
So, we now know a little more about the man. We know what it is that interests him, and that he must have been a good public speaker, saying something worth reporting in the local newspaper. Batley had moved to South Wales to join his brothers in a clay working enterprise. In the 1881 census he described himself as, *Earthenware manufacturer and foreman in a pipe works*.

Sadly, this business venture did not work out very well, so Batley decided to go into partnership, back in Yorkshire, this time manufacturing firebricks at the *Totley Fire Brick and Gannister Company*. This venture was also short lived, but we must remember about the experience Batley was gaining, using different materials and methods of manufacture.

It was just ten years since Samuel's second marriage that he once again found himself looking for another job. He was now 35 years old.

This was the age of self-tuition; there were text books printed on every technical subject and ample opportunity to learn about the latest techniques and machinery from specialized periodicals. In addition, his Wesleyan background would have given him access to the church's Further Education Institutes. In the technical periodicals, advertisements would have been placed for situations vacant. We cannot be sure of how Samuel Batley found out about the vacancy for a works manager in the tiny village of Chandlers Ford, 200 miles from Sheffield, but he did, and when he arrived in front of Edmund and Robert Ashby in 1887, they must have seen something promising in the applicant.

Perhaps it was Elizabeth who encouraged Samuel to apply for the job, in preference to going in to another partnership, with all the uncertainty. As it was, the Ashbys wanted more than a manager. They wanted someone to plan and execute the building of one of the most advanced and profitable brickworks in the county. They employed Samuel Batley and for both parties, that turned out to be, as they say, a marriage made in heaven.



Chandlers Ford Brickworks (OS Map c 1895 Reproduced with the permission of The National Library of Scotland)



Batley and his family moved to Chandlers Ford, initially they lived in a modest house but by 1894 had moved into a large, newly built house which he named *Prestonpans Villa*, after the town in Scotland where he had met his wife. The Ordnance Survey map shows the Batley's house near to the large modern Hooper and Ashby brickworks he planned and managed.

Prestonpans Villa as it is today

Samuel Batley settled into the Chandlers Ford community. He would have seen the village grow rapidly, and soon became involved in local affairs. The first we hear of him is in 1888, when he addressed a meeting of the Bible Christian Band of Hope in nearby Eastleigh. Samuel, as a Methodist, was a non conformist, at that time very much part of a movement striving to make things better for working men and women. We know his politics would have been in kilter with the Liberal Party of William Gladstone.

Batley was elected onto North Stoneham Parish Council, which contained Chandlers Ford at the time, becoming vice chairman by 1895. In 1897 he was elected onto the newly formed Chandlers Ford Parish Council and later, after he had moved to Lower Swanwick, he served on Fareham Rural District Council.

The reports of Samuel's activities which appeared in the local press are too numerous to mention in this article. Apart from his local government speeches he was constantly involved with fund raising activities in local Methodist chapels, and temperance movements, such as The United Kingdom Railway Temperance Union in Eastleigh. This all took place at the same time as he would have been working on plans for the eventual closure of the brickworks at Chandlers Ford and the opening of the new works in Swanwick. In addition, in 1896, he



shared with Edmund and Robert Ashby, a patent for a new type of heated drying shed, almost certainly his idea. He invented an improved hand brick press, which he patented in 1899. He must have been loyal to his friends as well, because the Batley Press would be manufactured by a company in Briton Ferry. I almost forgot to mention, in 1899 he entered one of his Orpington Ducks in the Romsey Fanciers Show and received a highly commended certificate. He must have loved his garden.

Makers plate on the Batley Patent Hand Press showing where it was manufactured. (Image: Jim Beckett)

What does all this tell us about Mr Batley? Surely, the thing that stands out is how hard he must have worked, and how much support he was receiving from his wife. He had invited his aged father to live with them in *Prestonpans Villa* for the last few years of his life. He died in 1895 at the age of 86. Elizabeth Batley did have some help in the form of a lady's maid, but there would have been a lot of work to run the large house, I can't see Samuel helping in domestic duties. She did have Arthur though; he lived at home until he married, in about 1900.

Jim Beckett, December 2024. To be continued.

Museum Accreditation

In November 2017, The Brickworks Museum achieved Accredited status. This was a huge achievement, representing many years of hard work. This year we should be asked to submit a return to ensure we still meet the standards. Work needs to begin now to make sure we are ready. I wanted to take this opportunity to share with our members what Museum Accreditation is and what it means for us.

Museum Accreditation in the UK: An Overview

In the United Kingdom, museum accreditation is a formal recognition granted to museums that meet specific professional standards and criteria. Managed by *Arts Council England (ACE)* in England, the accreditation scheme ensures that museums provide a high-quality service to the public and maintain rigorous standards in areas such as governance, collections management, and public engagement.

Accreditation is a mark of quality, awarded to museums that demonstrate a commitment to best practices in key areas, including:

1. **Collection Care:** Ensuring that objects are properly preserved and protected.
2. **Governance and Management:** Operating with clear leadership and responsible management structures.
3. **Access and Learning:** Offering educational opportunities and maintaining inclusive, accessible services for diverse audiences.
4. **Public Engagement:** Developing programs and activities that enrich the community and foster greater understanding of collections.

The accreditation process involves submitting an application and undergoing a detailed assessment, which is typically reviewed every five years. Accreditation is not just a sign of quality; it also helps museums secure funding, access national and international networks, and build public trust.

Accreditation is important for:

1. **Quality Assurance:** Accreditation assures the public, donors, and partners that a museum meets a set of recognised standards.
2. **Funding:** Many grant-making bodies and government funding agencies require museums to be accredited before they can apply for financial support.
3. **Professional Development:** Museums that hold accreditation are better positioned to attract staff with professional expertise, and they have access to a range of resources and development programs offered by national agencies.
4. **Networking and Collaboration:** Accredited museums gain access to a community of institutions that share knowledge, resources, and ideas, fostering collaboration and innovation.

Accreditation can elevate a museum's profile, helping it gain the support it needs to thrive. In addition to improved access to funding, accredited museums often enjoy:

- Enhanced credibility with visitors and the public.
- Opportunities to collaborate with other institutions, curators, and experts.
- Increased chances of receiving loans of artefacts from national and international collections.

In summary, museum accreditation in the UK is a vital framework that supports museums in delivering high-quality services and preserving cultural heritage. It benefits not only the institutions themselves but also the public, ensuring museums continue to be valuable educational and cultural resources for future generations.

Museum Accreditation at The Brickworks Museum

We are expecting to submit a return soon. A backlog at ACE and then the pandemic caused delay. All the policies, plans and procedures that are necessary for Accreditation are used to guide the museum operation. Therefore, the Forward Plan, Emergency Plan, Collections Management Framework, Audience Development Plan, Workforce Policy, etc. need to be reviewed and updated. After the initial award, came a letter specifying areas for improvement: provide an updated plan to strengthen financial standing, an update on items on loan without documentation, progress the documentation backlog and make improvements to the care and conservation of some of the collection. Huge progress has been made in all these areas since Accreditation and it is rewarding to reflect on the progress we have made, although there is still much more to be done.

The museum profession is very friendly and supportive. Museum Development Officers and Southwest Museum Development, Accreditation Advisor, and colleagues in other similar organisations help on this journey. The process is worthwhile to achieve the recognition of Accreditation and review practices as an organisation.

Mary Flinn, Collections Manager

Archives News

The archives team has been busy with most of the Brickmakers Catalogues, all press cuttings collection and individual documents now recorded on the museum catalogue. There is now a dedicated MODES computer for the archives team to use and a backup routine in place to ensure that these important records cannot be lost or damaged.

The original museum library and archive are now only a small part of the whole collection of Archives, either donated to, or hosted by The Brickworks Museum. Apart from the Jane Wight, Pat Ryan and Martin Hammond donated collections, the museum holds the Ann Los collection of British Brick Society documents. The museum has recently received a deposit from the Brick Development Association and been appointed custodians of the Edwin Course and Pam Moore Industrial Heritage Library.

Each new collection brings new challenges, so it was fortunate that the Mills Archives Trust offered Archives Care and Conservation webinars in November 2024. Two of the team took part in the webinars to refresh previous training from South East Museum Development, Hampshire Records Office, and National Archives. It has since been possible to share the training sessions and Reference Guide with the rest of the team. It was reassuring to know we are doing things correctly!

Paul, from Front of House, joined the Archives Team for winter months to produce an index of Brickbats articles. Brickbats has been produced almost continuously over more than 20 years, so he should gain considerable background information to pass on to visitors in his more usual role.

Judy Bevis, Volunteer Librarian and Archivist

Richard Newman's Researches in print

Richard does a lot of research into the brickworks of Hampshire. A small team of researchers at the Museum, have been updating the Gazetteer of known brickworks in the county, that was originally compiled in 1970s. He has also researched Bursledon Brickworks during both world wars. The next British Brick Society volume of *Information* will include an article by Richard about what happened to the brick industry in WW2. Many were closed to release 31,000 men for conscription, although brick making was a reserved occupation. Many brickworks never reopened.

Closer to home, *Fareham Reds* by Richard Newman is available to buy in the museum shop, Price: £5.00.

Other brick-related titles and books of local interest are also available in the museum shop.

Book Review

Brick Building in England: from the Middle Ages to 1550, by Jane A Wight, published by John Baker in 1972. ISBN: 0212984004.

Jane Wight believed the general assumption that there was no brick making between Roman times and 15th Century in England was not correct, so she spent ten years undertaking original research on medieval brickwork. This book is the result of her research that pushes native-made brick in England back to 12th Century.

Many of the original sources consulted by the author, as well as works produced by previous authors, are detailed in the book. Estate accounts, letters, histories, and diplomatic reports provided fragments of information about many lost brick buildings that existed before the 15th Century.

The main part of the book has seven chapters, including *The development of building in brick*, *The manor-house complex*, *Brick for the Bishop's Palace*, *Ecclesiastical building and the reformation conversions*, and *Terracotta*, that take up the first 221 pages. Followed by a Select Gazetteer with a list of buildings with brickwork from before 1450, as well as details about many buildings dating from between 1450 and 1550. A very useful Glossary is included.

The chapters are packed with architectural detail and references from original documents so the Glossary is essential for explanations of many of the terms. Fortunately, the author translated the original texts she quoted from Latin, French or old English! The Gazetteer profiles many of the buildings mentioned in the text so it is possible to draw all the strands together.

Many of the later documents referred to by Jane were produced by the Ministry of Work, later the Ministry of Public Building and Work, now English Heritage, the charity that continues to research and care for so many significant heritage buildings. The National Monuments Record (originally National Buildings Record) and Royal Commission on Historic Monuments, as well as Victory County History volumes were resources she used.

Proving bricks were made in England before the building of spectacular brick buildings in the Tudor period, was made difficult by the dissolution, and reformation conversions of many religious buildings. However, some ecclesiastical records referred to brick makers producing bricks for religious houses, and Kingston upon Hull was the first town known to be built of bricks. Bricks were used where stone was too heavy for soft ground areas, as in Hull. The skills required to build spectacular Tudor buildings would have taken many generations to perfect, by both makers and users of bricks, so it is not surprising that Jane did find evidence of brickmaking from as early as 12th Century. Tudor brick buildings are really the high point of creativity for both the expert makers and users of bricks, then bricks gradually became far more utilitarian until the industrial revolution.

Abandoned Roman buildings were a source of building materials, particularly by the Saxons. Pat Ryan included many examples of this in her first book. Religious buildings provided ready building materials, brick and stone, after the Reformation, so also vanished from the landscape. Bricks, like stone building materials, have been recycled into new buildings over the centuries, but the original sources of such bricks are far harder to trace.

Judy Bevis, Volunteer Librarian

Did the Industrial Revolution start with the Reformation?

An English Heritage lecture on the building of Iron Bridge included the proposal that the industrial revolution started with the dissolution of the religious houses by Henry VIII, because the natural resources of the religious estates went into secular hands for exploitation. The lecturer proposed that the direct exploitation of coal and iron resources made it possible for the manufacturers to develop techniques and skills until they were confident enough to build the Iron Bridge. By 1770s, it was possible to produce vast quantities of iron using fossil fuels, so iron and then steel became standard building material. From exceptional to mundane in 250 years.

Judy Bevis, Volunteer Librarian

Barry Jackson Fairweather: obituary

Barry Fairweather was a very active museum volunteer over many years. Like most volunteers at the museum, he brought the accumulated skills and knowledge of his previous working life and personal interests to the museum, so the museum benefited greatly from his presence.

Barry was born on 18th October 1937, so he was nearly 80 by the time I arrived at the museum to volunteer. At that time, he was the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of Friends of Bursledon Brickworks, one third of the volunteer management team and the editor of *Brickbats*. He also worked closely with the engineers and workshop team that kept the machinery working and undertook restorations. I believe that Barry worked for IBM in some capacity, as he was so pleased when one of the IBM buildings was identified as a building of significant modern built heritage.

I remember Barry spending many hours up a ladder, over many weeks, roofing the little cross-shaped building. His final project at the museum was the installation of the horse-powered pug mills display and the addition of the beam onto the Hall's brickmaking machine. Sadly, this winter the beam had become rotten and fell.

On museum event days, Barry was often to be found in the machine room talking to visitors about brickmaking, and this is where I first met him as a visitor to the Bursledon Brickworks Industrial Museum. When I became a volunteer, I worked in the same office as Barry and David. David introduced me to the library and his cataloguing system, so that I could carry on his work. Barry managed Friends Memberships and worked with David on the production of *Brickbats*, the Friends magazine. It was at this time that he told me of his vision for the future of Brickbats.

Barry was also responsible for bringing the first archive collection to be lodged with the museum – the Ann Los collection of British Brick Society documents. This was the first archive collection that I had encountered, so I had to learn to become an archivist!

Barry gradually withdrew from many of his commitments at the museum, especially as his wife became less mobile. He had managed to build committed teams of volunteers for engineering and restoration with his quiet, calm leadership style.

When I took on the role of editor of *Brickbats* in 2017, I used Barry's vision as my guide to build an interesting newsletter with in-depth articles. I was so pleased to receive praise from Barry for a recent issue, so hope I have gone some way to fulfilling his vision.

Barry died on 16th December 2024, his funeral service was held at St. Peter's Church, Bishops Waltham on 6th February 2025, followed by burial at South Downs Natural Burial Ground. Pam Formby represented The Brickworks Museum at the funeral service.

Judy Bevis.

I first met Barry at a steam event to which I had taken my parents. Barry realised I had worked in the brickworks and asked me if I would talk to visitors about the cutting table while the volunteer had some lunch as they were short of manpower that day and so I was enlisted as a volunteer. I remember Barry as a gentle man, unfailingly polite and extremely knowledgeable about buildings. He was very much respected by the engineering volunteers and shared his knowledge unstintingly. He cared deeply about the brickworks and the museum it became. He was one of those people it was a privilege to know.

John Bevis

The Drying Sheds at Bursledon Brickworks

Drying sheds played a crucial role in the brick-making process, evolving significantly over time to improve efficiency and product quality. In the early days of brick-making, freshly moulded bricks were dried outdoors. Bricks were laid out in rows or stacked under simple shelters to dry naturally in the sun. This method was highly dependent on weather conditions and could take several days to weeks

As the demand for bricks increased, especially during the industrial revolution, the need for more reliable and faster drying methods became apparent. By the late 19th century, drying sheds were used more widely. These structures provided a controlled environment, protecting the bricks from rain and allowing for more consistent drying times

The late 19th century saw the introduction of heated drying sheds. Bursledon Brickworks had ten drying sheds as part of its original factory unit. These were patented by the owners as they introduced an improved method of heating. Whilst the introduction of underfloor heating was not new, the use of timber slatted floors throughout was. The use of timber helped to protect the lower layers of brick from cracking.

When the factory became a museum, only two of the drying sheds remained in their original condition. Four had been considerably altered and two were derelict. The two derelict sheds have been part of a restoration project that is due to be completed in April 2025.

The restoration of sheds 1 and 2 has been supported by the sale of land at the top end of the site. This was sold to a developer as part of an enabling development. Permission to build housing was conditional on the money for the sale of the land being reinvested into removing the sheds from the Heritage At Risk register. The restoration work is basic but will help to keep the two sheds watertight and standing for many years to come.



Interior scaffolding in place whilst the new frame and roof are installed.



New windows cut through the external brickwork but have been temporarily blocked in.