



BRICKBATS

The Magazine for
Volunteers and
Members of The
Brickworks Museum

Free to volunteers and members, £2.50 when sold

www.thebrickworksmuseum.org

Introduction

Winter months at The Brickworks Museum are always very busy, both on site and for researchers. Although hampered by the weather, there has been considerable progress made in developing the new outside exhibition areas. Inside, the Batley Room is now bright, fresh, and welcoming.

Everyone is looking forward to the start of the 2026 Open Season in March. With a mix of new events and old favourites, 2026 should be a really exciting season for everyone. See Events News for those already confirmed, and check the museum website for new ones through the year. Also check for tickets on sale for the popular May Beer Festival.

The Brickyard Café, open Wednesday to Sunday from 10am to 3pm, provides a good place to pause during a museum visit, and the museum shop can provide a unique memento of your visit.

More than 70 volunteers work hard to provide visitors to the museum with the best experience possible, both front-of-house and by refreshing exhibitions, so do come and see what we have achieved during the winter.

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Judy Bevis, Editor



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Brickworks News

- September 2025 saw the completion of the work on drying sheds 1 and 2, and the gates were moved to the new entrance to the museum.
- NTET Steam Apprentice Day took place on Saturday 20th September, and once again their enthusiasm was not dampened by the intermittent showers.



➤ In October the first residents moved into the new houses by the entrance to the museum.

➤ Autumn brought the sad news that John Walker had died. John features in the museum film 'Beyond the Brickworks' as he worked at Bursledon Brickworks before it closed. He provided lots of information about the working brickworks, and more recently, regularly visited the museum with other ex-workers.

➤ The Halloween decorations were the most spectacular ever, although the team hardly had time to breathe before starting on those for the Christmas events.

➤ Much of the wood left on site by the wood recycling project has been sold, reused on site, or stored for future projects at the museum. The Heritage Library now has three bays of new shelving.

➤ In November Carlyne announced that the museum had been awarded another grant for several small projects, including new lights and floor in the Batley Room, plus redecoration.

➤ December included start of work by electricians, and the Volunteers' Christmas party.

➤ In January 2026, News of the death of Pam Moore reached us. Pam was Secretary of HBPT when Bursledon Brickworks Museum Trust was set up. The Heritage Library includes much of her personal book collection.

➤ Wendy, Rita and Robin spent much of the autumn improving the look of the brick displays and Children's activity area. Then moved on to redecorating the Batley Room in January 2026.



Events News

The **Halloween Event** of 26th October 2025, was attended by 415. The yard was full of Traction Engines and other vehicles, Miniature Steam, Traction Engine and Trailer Rides, Woodcutting Saw and a Fairground Organ. The University Toastrack Bus gave rides and the Bus Group greeted 149 people onto a Heritage Bus. 165 people enjoyed Train Rides. Inside were Halloween Displays, a Magician, Tarot Reader, Spinning Demonstration, Hedgehog Rescue, Hampshire Bat Group, Barge Ware, and a variety of craft stalls.

The **Christmas Festival** on 23rd November, found the museum bedecked with a dazzling array of Lovely Displays, Lights and Decorations. 488 people got to see the museum in full festive glory. Santa and his Elves made the children happy, while there were over 30 Craft Stalls to provide some inspiration for Christmas gifts. Hand Bell Ringers gave two performances by the Themed Christmas Trees in the annexe. There was also a Meccano Display. The Blacksmith, Fairground Organ, Large Woodcutting Saw, and Mini Car Club with their decorated minis were in the courtyard. The University Toastrack Bus gave rides to 271 people (and 2 dogs). The decorated trains gave 136 rides and a double decker bus welcomed 115 people aboard. 57 visitors were brought by Heritage Bus from Swanwick & Sarisbury Green throughout the morning then returned later.

Two **small Christmas Events** for children were held on 7th and 14th December, with Santa and his Elves, Children's Craft Activities (including make Christmas Gift Tags), Origami, Natural Table Decorations, Christmas Wish Tree and other crafts. The Thomas Model Railway was out and the Miniature Trains gave some rides although it was very cold outside. About 250 people came to the two events and the children really enjoyed themselves.

MAIN EVENTS AT THE BRICKWORKS MUSEUM in 2026:

15 th March	Mother's Day
29 th March	Easter at The Brickworks
8 th and 9 th April	Lego
26th April	Spring Steam Up
9th May	Beer Festival
31st May	World in miniature
21st June	Strawberries and Steam
12th July	Summer Fun and Dog Show
9th August	Wheels!
6th September	Trains
16 th September	Heritage Open Day
25th October	Halloween Steam Up
28 th - 29 th half term	Ghostly goings on
29th November	Christmas Fayre
6/7 th December	Christmas Events

Bold = Museum in Steam

Pam Formby

NB: As Brickbats went to press there were ongoing discussions about more smaller events, so please regularly check the website for the latest news.

Tool Sales

If you love nothing better than a rummage through second-hand tools or have found that perfect tool you really wanted on the museum tool stand, do not despair if you cannot find the stand on your next visit. Instead, ask for the new location of the second-hand tools. Les, Dave and Gary have kept busy during the inclement weather by constructing a cupboard for the tools for sale.

Is this yet another use of the timber left on site by the wood recycling project?

Brickyard Cafe

Open wednesday - sunday 10am - 3pm

Serving Breakfast, Homemade Cakes, Coffee, Lunch



Serving fresh homemade food.

Brickyard Cafe
Brickworks Musuem
Swanwick Lane
Swanwick, Southampton
SO31 7HB
enquiry@brickworkevents.co.uk



Brickwork
Events 

New Enquiries

The Brickworks Museum has received some interesting enquiries recently, including this one from Shanghai:

“We are a contractor company engaged in the restoration of a 1928 heritage building on the Bund, Shanghai – the *Shahmoon Building* (光陆大楼), originally the *Capitol Theatre*. Designed by Hungarian architect **C. H. Gonda** for **S. E. Shahmoon & Co.**, the nine-storey Art Deco landmark was completed in 1928 and is noted for its reinforced-concrete structure and elegant, restrained ornamentation.

During the renovation, we discovered in only one shaft the refractory/fire-bricks stamped with a distinctive interlocked monogram within a rounded square and the words “TRADE MARK.” A similar example we found online from another 1930s Shanghai building bears the abbreviation **C.B.C.**, which may represent the manufacturer’s mark. Based on the building’s construction period and historical trade background, we believe these fire-bricks were more possibly **imported from the UK to China for construction use** during the early 20th century.

We would like to ask whether your archives, publications, or members might have any information regarding **British fire-brick or refractory manufacturers active between 1900 and 1940**, particularly those exporting to Asia and using the mark **C.B.C.** or a similar monogram.”



Although there is no information in the museum archives covering the correct period, archives team members were able to establish through internet searches for the distinctive marks and checking the 1901 Clayworkers Handbook online, that the bricks were made at the Cakemore Brickworks, Staffordshire, probably by the Cakemore Blue Brick Company. Brick production took place at the site from 1880s until late 1920s, but there were various company names.

In January 2026 an enquiry about **Queen Victoria’s Jubilee Terracotta plaques** arrived. It has been possible to locate articles by the report author in British Brick Society publication “Information”, but a copy of her full report has proved illusive. The researcher, Kathleen Clarke, lived in Eastleigh, and wrote an article about Hampshire locations of these plaques. As I write, the search is ongoing, as we would love to know where the full report was deposited.

Judy Bevis, Volunteer Librarian and Archivist

Grant application success

At the end of 2025, we heard that an application to the National Lottery Heritage fund had been successful. This was exciting news for the museum as these grants are hard to obtain. It is for our new Connecting Communities project which will help the museum reach out to the new community growing in Whiteley.



The grant covers elements of business planning, audience development as well as more practical work such as improving the big rental space ready for 2026's events. A 'pop-up' museum is included, to take out and about in the community. Also, improvements to the website, leaflets, and other publicity material will be made. The overall aim is to encourage more family groups to visit.

The project will be running for a year, so regular updates will be provided. As always, thank you to all National Lottery Players without whose support none of this would be possible.

Carolyn Haynes, Museum Director

Jon Bradley, a volunteer profile

Strangely, I find it hard to get museum volunteers to write about themselves, so I have taken to cornering my chosen victim for a chat instead. This time I singled out a new member of the trains group as he probably would not have been warned about the Editor of Brickbats. As it happens, Jon was very willing to chat with me about being a volunteer at the museum.

Jon has been volunteering at The Brickworks Museum since January 2025. He joined the volunteer train group as they were doing winter maintenance and repairs ready for the 2025 season, then helped with running the miniature trains on event days throughout the season.

Jon's background is originally in engineering manufacturing, then he set up and ran a very successful packing and shipping company for over 30 years, before retiring early. He is a keen restorer of British motorcycles, mainly Triumphs, that he exhibits at events across the country, including at The Brickworks Museum!

Having retired, he decided that he needed more to do, so looked around for a local place to volunteer. Jon was familiar with The Brickworks Museum from attending the annual Beer Festivals, so after a visit he decided to volunteer at the museum because he loves all things mechanical (including steam engines).

Apart from helping to run the miniature trains on event days, track maintenance and rail stock repair and maintenance, the trains team has recently purchased a new locomotive and three carriages from the estate of a miniature train enthusiast. Once the new acquisitions have been serviced and restored, with new Brickworks Miniature Railway livery, they will provide more interest on the miniature railway passenger service at the museum. This project is funded by members of the trains team, and is central to their big plans for developing the Brickworks Miniature Railway in the future. In the best tradition of railways, it is intended that the engine will be named, in this case for the late owner.

Jon is bringing all his business experience to the development of a very exciting period in the life of the miniature railway that is based at The Brickworks Museum. Although Jon mentioned many aspects of the plans to develop B.M.R., during our chat, you will need to check for developments on The Brickworks Museum website and look out for details in the museum newsletters.

The new energy and enthusiasm within the trains team is very obvious, so I wish them every success with their plans for B.M.R. and will no doubt receive regular updates on progress for Brickbats.

Judy Bevis, Editor

Engineering News – Wagons for the mineral line

The end tipping wagon that we reported on in the last edition of Brickbats is now complete and has been given a corrosion inhibiting protective coating, which is water repellent, before being returned to the outside display.



The workshop team embarked on a project to return a tile or slate wagon to the mineral line display in December 2025. The wagon is shown below:



Sadly, it is in too poor a state to attempt conservation of the timber structure by wood preservative treatment followed by hardening and a conservation coating. The wagon has therefore been carefully measured and replacement timber identified for a reconstruction, incorporating the original metalwork, to be undertaken.

John Bevis

Sky line changes at The Brickworks Museum

On Sunday 28th September 2025 the skyline changed at the bottom of the museum drive. For some time, the distinctive yellow jib of one of the Ruston Bucyrus excavators has been visible to those driving along the M27. It has now been lowered into a far safer position. The work was carried out by the excavator team of volunteers and an outside contractor.

The museum has two excavators; one set up as a crowd or facing shovel and one set up as a drag line. The drag line excavator is the one with the 40 ft tall metal jib of lattice work construction. The metal had started to deteriorate over the years to such an extent that it was becoming a concern in high winds. Should it have collapsed there was a real problem that, with its location alongside the Motorway, it could have enhanced the Brickworks Museum publicity in the wrong way, by falling onto the Motorway!

The volunteers and an outside contractor set up a system of wires, chains, pullers, and anchor points and successfully carried out a controlled lowering of this jib to land it on a pre-made wooden rest.

It did not go all according to plan however, as initially the jib refused to move from its upright position and it was found that the deterioration had extended to the pivot fixings at the base of the jib. These were solid with corrosion. Persistence, gentle rocking, continual pressure, and a lot of head scratching did the trick, and, after a couple of false starts, it was slowly lowered. With the jib in a safe position restoration work can start again.

Two of the excavator team attended the Threlkeld "Quarry and mining Museum" in the Lake District, on the weekend of 20th and 21st of September 2025 as ambassadors for the museum. Whilst there they were able to gather large amounts of useful information and inspiration. They also benefited from tuition as to how these excavators work and operate by riding alongside one of the drivers.

Moving forward, the aim is to return the two excavators to some of their former glory so that they can be on display to visitors.

The volunteer team – Ken, Fred and Roger – will be very happy to discuss their progress if you would like to visit.

Ken Guy, excavator team volunteer



Now



and before!

Observations on researching Brickworks in Hampshire

When I started to consider the Hampshire Brickworks, I was given a list of 115 compiled by Malcolm Davison, former historian, and Archivist for Redlands.

I also had a copy of Gazetteer of Hampshire Brickworks by WCF White and Tony Wright's Gazetteer of Northeast Hampshire. Allowing for the overlap of sources there were 148.

I soon found that the Word document I had started, became unwieldy, taking twenty minutes to save if at all.

I decided to break it down into alphabetical chapters. As an example, 'A' currently has 31 brickworks listed.

There are 19 volumes now. The list is 240 and rising quite frequently. New works coming in regularly from a

request I put on the internet.

My estimate was to complete the task during the winter of 2025/26. I think it may take a lot longer than that for a proper study to be completed on each works.

Richard Newman, November 2025

An example from Richard's research is:

A Hampshire Estate Brickworks

'The Staunton Estate Brickworks was a temporary, on-site brick-making operation established in the grounds of what is now **Staunton Country Park, Havant, Hampshire**. It operated in the early to mid-1860s specifically to manufacture the bricks needed to build the new mansion for the estate's owner, William Henry Stone.

History

- **Establishment:** William Henry Stone purchased the Leigh Park estate (which later became Staunton Country Park) in 1861 and quickly established a brickworks on the land.
- **Purpose:** The primary purpose of the brickworks was to produce enough bricks to build Stone's new mansion, designed in the Swiss style, and other local buildings like the Coach House.
- **Operations:** The brickworks was a Victorian-era operation with at least one brick kiln. Volunteers from a local archaeology group have been excavating the remains of this kiln.
- **Closure:** The brickworks closed after the mansion's construction was completed in 1865. The house itself was later demolished in 1959, but the bricks for it were made on site nearly a century earlier.

Current Status

The Staunton Estate Brickworks is **no longer in existence or operation**. The site is now part of the wider Staunton Country Park, and only the archaeological remains of the kiln are still present. The bricks produced there were generally unmarked, but archaeological teams have found some and are working to trace any potential manufacturers. © AI via Google 09/11/25'

Richard Newman, volunteer researcher

New addition to museum collection

We have recently received a delightful donation for our collection. It is a figurine, approximately 20 cm tall, of a man handmaking bricks. The detail is exquisite. In the following photos see whether you can spot the discarded brick on the ground, the bow on the front of his cap and even the water in the bucket! Etruria clay from Staffordshire was used in its manufacture.

The figurine was commissioned by Steetley Brick Ltd to celebrate the opening of the Parkhouse Factory in Newcastle Under Lyme in the 1980s. The figure was modelled on Dave, the manager of the Specials Plant at

the time. Made by Staffordshire Fine Ceramics, this is one of forty-three and was given to our donor who was employed by Steetley at the time. It appears that Steetley Brick Ltd were bought out by Redlands, who also owned Bursledon for the final 20 years, and then later taken over by Ibstock.

If you have any further details about any of these companies, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Mary at collections@thebrickworksmuseum.org.
Mary Flinn, Collections Manager



THE CHANDLERS FORD QUESTION

When I started volunteering at The Brickworks Museum, I was told that the brickmaking machinery we have on display was moved from Chandlers Ford to Swanwick in 1897, when the works moved to its new location. I found this very interesting, because I live in Chandlers Ford, and as I was later to discover, just a few hundred yards from the Hooper & Ashby brickworks.

I decided to research the history of brickmaking in Chandlers Ford, which covered around a dozen or so businesses, that set up works in the area. I was surprised to find that the Hooper works did not close in 1897, but continued for a further 5 years. I won't go into all the evidence for this, but much of it can be found in my book, *"The Chandlers Ford Brick Industry,"* which can be found in the library, and other writings, in *"Brickbats."* It appears no one had noted Bill Biddlecombe's testimony from 1993, when he stated he was born in Chandlers Ford in 1903, before his family moved to Swanwick, and the family were shown living in Chandlers Ford at the time of the 1901 census. So where did the story that the brickmaking machinery was moved to Swanwick originate?

Some years ago, Julian Ashby wrote a short history of the Ashby family which he entitled, *"The Southampton Ashbys"*. Not very much of this document was about the brickworks, because the brickworks was only part of the story, the remaining part being about the builder's merchants. The actual words he used which are relevant were:

"The clay fields at Chandlers Ford had been worked for at least 30 years and by this time were running out, and the machinery installed in 1886 that drove the brick-making machines was moved from Chandlers Ford to Swanwick in 1887."

The 1886 date agrees with my research, but the 1887 date is clearly a typo, and should have been 1897. We know of no supporting documents, so Julian, writing a hundred years later was probably relying on verbal hand downs. But, if accurate, it certainly suggests the steam engine was moved, if not the machine. I had assumed that this statement was inaccurate, and that the engine and machine were moved to the Northern Works when it opened in 1903.

I now have to admit it appears I was wrong. New evidence discovered by Richard Newman suggests the steam engine was moved from Chandlers Ford. It all comes down to the dates when the Southern and Northern works engines were built. The following is from Richard Newman:

The first engine, Southern Block, is John Wood & Co which they were apparently from 1881 to 1895 source local directories. They became Wood & Gee in 1895 until Gee left in 1902 which would fit nicely with the Northern Block Engine which bears John Wood & Sons. It was purchased in 1903.

Our main engine would have been built between 1881 and 1895.

The Northern block engine was built after 1902.



So, this appears to prove the engine **was** moved from Chandlers Ford. But what of the Bennett and Sayer machine? I suggested that was installed in The Northern Works in 1902/3, and because it was 10 years older than the machine in the Southern Works it was replaced, and scrapped, in 1935. Am I wrong? Very likely, but the truth is we may never know exactly what happened. There are a dozen possible scenarios I can think of, but I'm not going to share them with you, because I, and you the reader, may shortly lose the will to live.

I hope this has helped clarify the situation, but at any rate, it must have stimulated debate into the question of exactly what did happen in 1897. But remember! Evidence is the key.

Jim Beckett, January 2026

The trials and tribulations of finding evidence

As Jim commented above, evidence is key, so Richard has spent some time searching for evidence of Hooper and Ashby being at Providence Hill, Bursledon. He could find no documents or maps to show where the brickworks was located. Now he has the answer - it was the wrong Providence Hill!

He found a document in Hampshire Archives detailing a draft lease 'for 21 years of 6a of Providence Hill, Otterbourne, between Scantabout Copse and Peverells Wood, by Tankerville Chamberlayne to Hooper & Co (Robert and Edmond Ashby) for brickmakings, 1896'

The editor: This kind of red herring constantly send researchers down rabbit holes, so it is fortunate for The Brickworks Museum and Brickbats, that Richard and Jim are so tenacious!

Coralent at Bursledon

Many readers will recall artist Emma Smith's installation at the museum entitled Coralent, which was with us during 2022 and 2023. The suspended miniature bricks, inscribed with the initials of brickmakers were a moving reminder of those who worked at Bursledon Brickworks and elsewhere.

Emma has now produced another installation on a similar theme at the park in Long Lane, Bursledon. This time she has used full sized bricks made with the assistance of Bulmer Brick and Tile Works and once again they carry the initials of brickmakers.



The seats were wet on the November day that I visited but it would be a nice place in summer, to sit and reflect on all of the brickmakers who are quietly commemorated there and to remember the people whose initials I recognized.

John Bevis.

Education 2025 -Talking Nature Grant

We were very pleased to have been awarded the Talking Nature Grant last year. This enabled us to spend up to £5000 on bringing eco-diversity as a focus for our museum collection. We already had a good working partnership with the local company Animex who specialise in ecological research. Despite the museum's industrial nature, the site has a rich ecological nature we wanted to celebrate.

One of the ways in which we were able to use the funding was to invite groups into the museum who may not have otherwise been able to visit. A KS4 class from a SEN school in Winchester were able to take advantage of the sessions as well as a group of home educated children and their families.

We were thrilled that the team at Animex were keen to run part of the day and talk about how we can monitor and support biodiversity in any setting (using the museum as a great example), inspiring the young people to create while on site and take away their art and knowledge back to school as well as their homes.

Participants had a tour of the museum as well as the wildlife garden with our volunteers and collected items to use in their creative workshop. They created clay leaf imprints and bug hotels and made some beautiful items to take away.

As part of the grant, we also had an online workshop for Home Educators and they were able to take advantage of our at-home workshop kit full of lovely things to do to again learn about and encourage biodiversity at home or near their homes.

We have also created two back packs ready for visitors to use in the spring to explore the wildlife on site as families. Finally, we have two new pieces of interpretation being created; a lectern panel which shows a children's maze to go in the wildlife garden designed by one of the home educated children and a panel to show the wildflowers found on site so visitors can read all about it.

Archives News

Although not strictly news from The Brickworks Museum archive, I am delighted to report that the Edwin Course/Pam Moore Heritage Library now has three lovely new bays of shelving. Huge thanks to Les for turning a load of second-hand wood into the bookshelves that were so desperately needed for the Heritage Library. Thank you to the volunteers that worked with Les on this project. The whole collection is now shelved and there is room to spare!



The collection has been sorted into subject areas and catalogue cards are being written by Sue and Daniel. Once this task is completed, it will be possible to create a card catalogue of the collection. This will allow the collection to be opened to researchers by appointment. In the future it should be possible to create a computer catalogue for the collection, but this depends on getting a computer!

The Heritage Library is in the museum, and looked after by the Archives Team, although it was originally a project of Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust Officers. Sadly, neither Phil Turner or Pam Moore have lived to see their vision realised.

Now, the news from The Brickworks Museum library and archive is that more conservation boxes have been obtained for the correct storage of photographs and papers, some books from the estate of Barry Fairweather have been added to the collection, the formal backup procedure for the archives computers is working well, and all team members continue to make progress with their sections of the collection. Janet has completed work on the papers of Barry Fairweather and will next sort documents about a brickworks that have been received. Jim is now scanning slides in the Martin Hammond collection.

Not long after I started volunteering at The Brickworks Museum, Ann Los asked for her collection of British Brick Society papers to be stored in the museum library, for safe-keeping. Until now, this has been an unrecorded deposited collection. The wealth of information in this collection is so valuable, that it will now be fully recorded like the other archives deposited at the museum.

Judy Bevis, Volunteer Librarian and Archivist

News from the Trust

2025 has concluded as one of the best years for the museum in recent history as we finally saw footfall returning close to the numbers seen before the Covid lockdowns, and our yearly finances reflecting a strong position going forward.

The single most important task for the Trust this year is going to be finding a suitable occupant for recently refurbished Sheds 1&2. Renting of this space will see The Museum become financially secure for the foreseeable future, removing a huge pressure from both the Trustees and Staff. We are putting together a small working party to move this forward, and any volunteers with relevant experience are invited to come forward to help with this task. Please contact me in the first instance.

2026 is looking to be an exciting year, with several grants either received or about to be announced. Additionally, the new oak building is progressing well (carpentry being completed indoors, ready for erecting when weather permits).

The Miniature Railway Group has had an influx of very enthusiastic new volunteers, who have recently acquired some new (personally owned) rolling stock. This is expected to make a big improvement to the quality of service offered on our Steam Up days and it is also hoped to be able to offer rides on Thursdays during school holidays.

Regarding the BBMT, we have recently welcomed Aubrey Slavik to the BBMT board and hope to recruit a Health and Safety specialist soon. Looking forward to working with you all during 2026, and don't forget, if you have any suggestions or questions - don't be afraid to speak up!

Andy Elford, Chair of Bursledon Brickworks Museum Trust

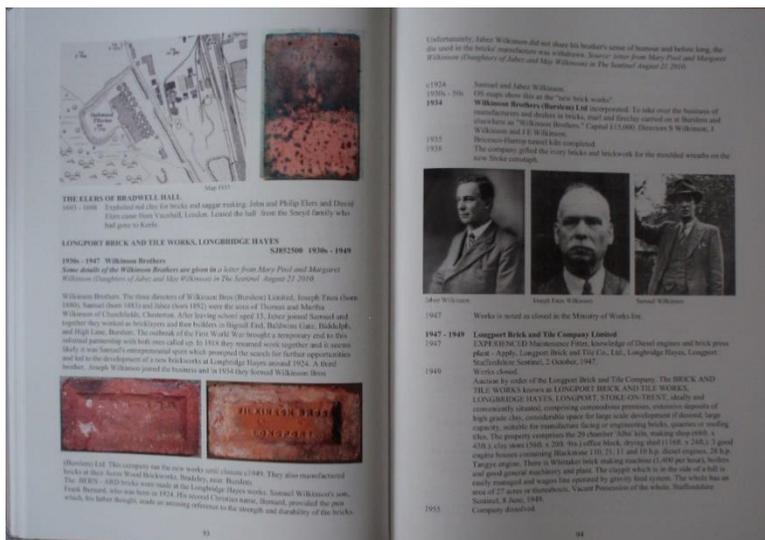
Book Review

The Brick and Tile industries of Staffordshire Potteries, a history, by David Kitching, published by Brocross Books in 2025. ISBN: 9781836887102

This large, hardback book is a recent addition to The Brickworks Museum library thanks to David Kitching.

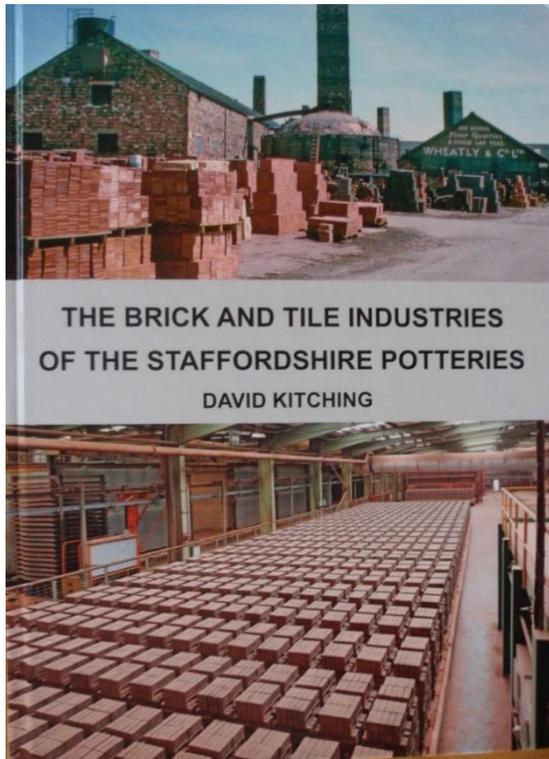
Across more than 300 pages, the author details everything he has been able to find out about the brickworks that have existed across the Staffordshire Potteries area. The information brought together in this volume includes location, significant dates, people, events, names of brick and tile making companies, maps, photographs of people, sites, and product examples. The period covered is mainly from 1818 to present day, although there are now only three works still producing bricks or tiles in the area.

The author comments that it is a complex industry with few primary records surviving, so research was tricky. He started with the lists of brick and tile manufacturers in trade directories of 19th and 20th century. This produced names and dates for nearly 700 entries, although trade directories are not always accurate. Other sources used were online newspaper archives for advertising and reported incidents, and census records. The London Gazette provided information about business partnerships, bankruptcies, and dissolutions of businesses. "The Directory of Clayworkers" (1901) was also a useful resource.



produced names and dates for nearly 700 entries, although trade directories are not always accurate. Other sources used were online newspaper archives for advertising and reported incidents, and census records. The London Gazette provided information about business partnerships, bankruptcies, and dissolutions of businesses. "The Directory of Clayworkers" (1901) was also a useful resource.

The book is liberally sprinkled with pictures of sites, important people, workers, and plant. There are many colour photos of bricks and tiles mainly taken at Apedale Heritage Centre or from online websites. The author has also benefited from personal recollections of workers and local people.



This is not a book to read from cover to cover, but interesting to dip into, especially if researching a specific manufacturer or area. After the introductory chapters, the various geographical locations are covered. Newcastle-under-Lyme in chapter 5, Stoke-on-Trent is divided into North, Central and South over chapters 6 to 8. There is a list of sources, a further reading list, and a very good index.

Chapter 9: Appendix is a reproduction of "Brickmaking as practiced in the Staffordshire Potteries" by R. Prosser, C.E. Taken from the 1850 publication "A Rudimentary Treatise on the Manufacture of Bricks and Tiles" by Edward Dobson.

The incidents reported include criminal cases (including the breaking of Factory Acts rules), injuries, deaths (often by crushing under falls of clay), and fires. These provide a much more rounded picture of many of the businesses. While the bankruptcies show how very precarious the brick and tile industry could be.

I was particularly interested in the involvement of Ibstock and Redlands at various locations. A clay figure recently added to the museum objects collection was associated with the Steetley Brickworks. (See Mary's article.)

Copies of this tile can be bought from website:

<https://www.brocross.com/Bricks/Penmorfa/Book/book.htm>

Judy Bevis, Volunteer Librarian

Photos provided by contributors, Sue Broomfield and Brickbats Official Photographer

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www.thebrickworksmuseum.org



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BETTER CHOOSE
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This issue of Brickbats is kindly sponsored by the Brick Development Association