

BRITISH
BRICK
SOCIETY

INFORMATION

No 29

Feb '83

OFFICERS OF THE BRITISH BRICK SOCIETY

Chairman	T W T Tatton-Brown B.A.	2 Mill Lane, St. Radigunds, Canterbury, Kent.
Hon. Sec.	Mrs J A Costigan	Avoncroft Museum of Buildings, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, B60 4JR 0527 31363
Membership Sec.	Mrs M W F Laurence (who also receives all direct subscriptions: £1.00 p.a.).	44 Lyncombe Hill, Bath, Avon, BA2 4PH
Hon. Tr.	Mr M D P Hammond (only matters concerning the annual a/cs and expenses etc.).	13 Jackson Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset
Editor of 'Information'	Mrs W A Loss	"Peran", Plaxton Bridge, Woodmansey, Beverley, E. Yorks, HU17 0RT
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Registrar	W R Serjeant	County Hall, St. Helen's Street, Ipswich, IP4 2JS

OFFICERS OF THE BRICK SECTION OF THE BRITISH
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Chairman	T W T Tatton-Brown B.A.	(address as above)
Hon. Sec.	M Hammett RIBA	9 Bailey Close, Lucas Road, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP13 6QA 0494 20299
Membership sec. of B.A.A.	Miss I B McClure	61 Old Park Ridings, Winchmore Hill, London, N21 2ET

* Members of the Brick Section of the B.A.A. are affiliated to the British Brick Society.

The Annual General Meetings of the BBS and the Brick Section of the BAA will be held at 12.30 on Saturday 26th March 1983 at Wye College, Nr. Ashford, Kent, as part of a weekend study of brick. Members may attend just the AGM's if they wish but may take part in other activities. Please note the reply slips at the back of this 'INFORMATION'.

**WEEKEND STUDY COURSE 25th to 27th March 1983 at Wye College
" BRICK BUILDING AND BRICK MAKING IN KENT"**

The course will study the use of brick in building and its manufacture in Kent. Starting with Roman brick and tile, we will go on to look at the introduction and use of medieval brickwork. The first uses of red brick, the major role of brick in Kentish building from the 16th to the 19th centuries.

Wye College was founded in 1447 as the College of St. Gregory and St. Martin and in 1900 was admitted as a School of the University of London.

Surrounded by the North Downs, Wye is one of the most attractive small towns in East Kent, and the main college buildings are situated near its centre. Accommodation is mostly in single study bedrooms.

Course Directors:

T.F.C. Blagg, M.A., Ph.D.
Lecturer in Archaeology, School of Continuing Education, University of Kent at Canterbury.

T.W.T. Tatton-Brown, B.A.,
Director, Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

Lecturers:

C.P. Burnham, M.A., M.Sc., Ph.D.,
Senior Lecturer in Geology, Wye College, University of London.

K.W.E. Grayett, M.Sc.(Eng.), F.S.A.

J. Newman, M.A., F.S.A.,
Senior Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London.

T.P. Smith, B.A., M.A., M. Litt.

F.G. Willmott.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS:

4th March, 1983.

BOOKINGS TO :-

Ms. A. Harrison
Tutorial Organiser
The School of Continuing Education
The University
Canterbury
Kent CT2 7NX

FEEES :- Residents : £39.00

*Non-Residents : £33.00
(this includes the cost of all meals except breakfast)*

* Saturday only £16.50
incl. lunch+dinner

PROGRAMME:

● FRIDAY, 25 MARCH -

Students are asked to arrive in time for dinner at 19.00

BRICK AND TILE CLAYS IN KENT 20.00
Paul Burnham

● SATURDAY, 26 MARCH -

Breakfast 08.30

BRICKS AND TILES IN THE ROMAN AND EARLY SAXON ARCHITECTURE OF KENT 09.30

Tom Blagg

Coffee 10.45

MEDIAEVAL AND TUDOR BRICKWORK IN KENT AND ITS ECCLESIASTICAL CONNECTIONS 11.15

Kenneth Grayett

★ AGM's 12.30

Lunch 13.00

Field Trip 14.00

* visit to a specialist brick and tile maker - with an opportunity to throw some bricks *

Dinner 19.00

HAND BRICKMAKING IN KENT 1840-1900 20.00

Frank Willmott

● SUNDAY, 27 MARCH -

Breakfast 08.30

RUBBED AND GAUGED BRICKWORK BEFORE c. 1730 09.30

John Newman

Coffee 10.45

BRICK-TILES (MATHEMATICAL TILES) IN KENT: THEIR DISTRIBUTION AND USE. 11.15

Terence Paul Smith

Lunch 13.00

LOCAL BRICK BUILDING IN CANTERBURY. 14.00

Tim Tatton-Brown

Tea and Depart 16.00

THE SIZE OF A BRICK

During a recent visit to COVE BOTTOM brickworks in Suffolk, a remark about "small" bricks which were being made for fireplaces etc., set me thinking about why a brick is the size that it is. A simple question, with an obvious answer. Let us see.

All the references I could find¹ either implied, or stated plainly, that the size of the bricklayer's hand was always the determining factor. Only JANE WIGHT hints at another² reason, viz: the amount of clay it is easy to tap down in a mould.

What size is a brick? Smallest are the hard pale "Dutch dinkers", supposed to have been brought in by Dutch ships in the 17th century. The smallest I have seen is $6\frac{1}{8}$ " X $2\frac{5}{8}$ " X $1\frac{1}{4}$ " weighing 1 lb. 6ozs. and it came from one of the towers on Great Yarmouth town wall. Another one in my collection is $6\frac{7}{8}$ " X $3\frac{1}{4}$ " X $1\frac{11}{16}$ " weighing 1 lb. 14 ozs. and came from the Middlesgate area of Great Yarmouth.

The largest is more difficult to determine. At St. Margaret's House, King's Lynn a brick 15 " X $5\frac{1}{2}$ " X $2\frac{1}{4}$ " has been recorded and at Caversham, near Reading are some late 17th century bricks 22 " long³ by 6 " broad.⁴ Roman bricks range from 6 " X 3 " X 1 " to 24 " X 24 " X 2 "⁵. These are the two extremes, which surely illustrate that there is more to the size of a brick than the size of a bricklayer's hand.

How a brick is made and the material it is made from may provide some clues. The Romans brought their technique with them, found the materials which would produce what they wanted, and with suitable modifications for our climate produced excellent bricks. With their military organisation they were able to transport bricks to where they were required. We know little of their methods, but the thinness of their bricks was partly dictated by the difficulty of drying and firing thick sections. More of this later.

When "we" began to make bricks, possibly around 1180, at Little Coggeshall, Essex, everything went right and some remarkably good bricks were produced. Sizes varied, but all were large, 13 " to 14 " long, 6 " wide and $1\frac{1}{4}$ " to 2 " thick, and many moulded specials. The technique then seems to have been lost. Several reasons could be involved. Until the 16th or 17th centuries transporting bricks would have been very difficult, very time consuming and very expensive. Therefore bricks had to be made as close as possible to the site of the building and material on the site had to be used. To make consistently good bricks requires a good fuel for firing them. Wood and turves can suffice for inferior clay, but a good clay mix may need coal and this was not available to many. Records show that coal was in use for royal works in 1437⁶. Until the 17th century clay used for brickmaking would invariably be soft weathered, glacial, and recent deposits, either on or near the surface⁷. Most contained harmful salts which needed to be leached out. Most needed the addition of sand and fluxes⁸. Until the 17th century it was not common to mix sand with clay⁹, not necessarily through ignorance but because suitable machinery was not available, and if it had been available could not have been used for temporary on site work. Usually the potential brickmaker set to work with fine grained, sticky unconsolidated mud and clay. His problems were just beginning. How to shape this into any sort of brick?

He could not use a mould, unless he were prepared to allow his sticky substance to partly dry out in the mould. This was obviously impractical as he would need thousands of moulds. A method which is proposed by many is the pastry board method. A large sheet of clay is prepared and trodden out with the feet¹⁰ on a layer of straw to prevent sticking, and then cut into bricks. If anyone believes this method to be practical, I would suggest they try it. Firstly, how do you get a fairly even sheet? It's too sticky to roll out and too stiff to tamp, but both would be very time consuming. Next you need to set up some sort of cutting guide and get on the sheet to cut it in two directions. Now if you leave it, it will tend to fuse together again and will take ages to dry. If you attempt to separate the bricks they are not only stuck to each other, but have a mat of straw embedded in them. It may be possible, and have been the method used for a very short time, probably, only until 1350¹¹. Then I suggest a far more efficient method was used.

Bricks are still made in some countries by using a frame, and this is the obvious method used by our medieval brickmakers. One man places dollops of clay at intervals on a bed of straw and another man follows with a simple wooden frame and small container of water with a brush and stick in it. He brushes water on the inside of his frame, places it over the lump of clay, presses this into the corners of the frame, strikes off any surplus with his stick, lifts off his frame and moves onto the next brick. The brick stays where it is to partly dry¹². Each brick is separated by at least the thickness of the frame, say 1" to 2", so there is fairly even drying and no sticking together. Some will argue that cutting from sheet is the only method which can give the size variation found in early bricks. JANE WIGHT¹³ refers to NORWICH COW TOWER where the length of bricks vary up to 4" and width by 2" as proof of the cutting method. But these bricks are also of varying colour, texture and made by unevenly mixed clays.¹⁴ These size variations are due to several causes, different clay or mixtures of clays, different sized frames. Frame made bricks have size variations as a result of the above plus sagging and damage whilst the clay is still wet, i.e. wider and thinner at one end.

Now we come back to size. This sticky clay is very difficult to dry, therefore the brick had to be made thin to aid drying. When making in a frame, as much weight of clay as possible is required in the frame, with as little vertical area of contact with the frame as possible. This all lessens the chance of sticking and lifting the brick up with the frame. Also the thinner the brick the less the chance of the clay creeping and spoiling the vertical edges. As in all things a compromise has to be reached because too thin and uneven drying will warp the brick. 1½" to 2" seems about right.

Still two more dimensions to find. It is useful if the length is slightly greater than twice the breadth, not only in the final building but when stacking and firing. We have to consider the weight of the raw clay lump required to be placed for the making and also the weight of the half dry green brick and the final fired brick. Much of this stacking and moving was done by the women and children. Also very important is the thickness of the final wall to be built from the bricks. A 9" to 10" thick wall can be built any length without strengthening piers or buttresses, and to a height of 12 to 15 feet¹⁵, even by today's standards suitable for most purposes. Bricks 10" x 20" would be too heavy, so all of this makes the 10" x 5" x 1½" brick a logical outcome. With the added bonus of being able to build 15" thick walls when required,

still using these standard bricks. A 10" X 5" X 1½" in my collection has a dry weight of 5½ lbs. and needs about 10 lbs. of clay to make it.

Our next stage is drying and firing. This appears to be the least understood part of the process. Some writers on bricks seem convinced it is the same process as baking bread! Here again we find size of bricks a critical factor. Bear in mind that these early bricks were made from unsuitable material, with almost no tradition to act as a guide, no machinery and on temporary sites. This fine grained sticky clay in 1½" to 2" slabs requires a long time to dry especially in our climate. It may be several weeks before the brick is suitably leather hard on the surface to enable it to be stored or stacked. At this point we ought to consider how drying works.

* Part 2 to be concluded in INFORMATION 30 May 1983.

REFERENCES

- | | | |
|-----|---|-------|
| 1. | "The Pattern of English Building" by Alec Clifton-Taylor | P.220 |
| | "English Brickwork" by R. Brunskill & A. Clifton-Taylor | P.12 |
| | "Bricks to Build a House" by John Woodforde | P.22 |
| | "A Typology of Brick" by L.S. Harley, Journal of the
British Archaeological Association Vol XXXVIII 1974 | |
| | "Bricks of Eastern England to End of the Middle Ages" by
L.S. Harley in Essex Journal Winter 1975/6. | |
| 2. | "Brick Building in England" by Jane A. Wight | P.43 |
| 3. | "Brick History" Occasional paper Number One 1970
Produced by The County Technical College - King's Lynn. | |
| 4. | "The Pattern of English Building" by A Clifton-Taylor | P.249 |
| 5. | "Bricks of Eastern England to End of The Middle Ages" by
L.S. Harley in Essex Journal Winter 1975/76. | |
| 6. | "Brick Building in England" by Jane A. Wight. | P.40 |
| 7. | "Brick Building in England" by Jane A. Wight | P.33 |
| 8. | "The Story of Brick" (1) in Harrison Mayer Ltd, Monthly
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| | "Brick Building in England" by Jane A. Wight | P.35 |
| 9. | The Story of Brick (1) in Harrison Mayers Ltd., Monthly
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| 10. | "The Pattern of English Building" by A. Clifton-Taylor | P.213 |
| 11. | "Brick Building in England" by Jane A. Wight | P.40 |
| 12. | "A Typology of Brick" by L.S. Harley Journal of the
British Archaeological Association Vol. XXXVIII 1974 | |
| 13. | "Brick Building in England" by Jane A. Wight | P.40 |

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14. "Brick Building in England" by Jane A.Wight P.340
15. "Building Regulations"

November

M.G. Reeder

OLDEST HOFFMAN KILN

Over much of the year I have been working on a survey of a brick kiln for a measured drawing competition sponsored by the Architect's Journal. The kiln, 12-chamber transverse-arch Hoffman, is at Burlesdon Brickworks, 4 miles east of Southampton. It was built in 1897, and is probably the oldest surviving example of its type.

December 1982

M.D.P. Hammond

BRICKMAKING IN ASIA

Twenty or thirty years ago there were many brickworks operating in Britian but today the Industrial Archaeologist investigating the sites of these and older brickyards has only one or two places where he can see bricks still being made by hand and fired in traditional kilns. However, there are still places abroad where the old methods survive, as we discovered during a visit to Sri Lanka and Nepal three years ago.

In Nepal we visited a small brickworks at Harrisdu, about ten miles south of Katmandu, where the clay was being excavated by hand from fallow paddy fields around a large, open-topped kiln. In essence, the bricks were moulded in exactly the same way as in Britian. A piece of clay was worked into shape by hand and thrown into a mould, the excess being struck off with a stick. The brickmakers did not use a bench but worked squatting on the ground, steadily moving as they covered the ground with bricks. The moulds were constructed of wood, reinforced with iron, and were remarkably similar to those used in East Anglia except that they had a fixed bottom, shaped to produce a frog with numbers in Nepali script on each brick. After a few days the bricks were lifted from the ground and piled up to continue drying. We were there during the winter, when the temperature is fairly low and there is little rainfall, and we saw no precautions being taken to protect the drying bricks from the weather.

The kiln was a large, open-topped, brick structure, similar in plan to a Hoffman kiln but with two large, metal chimneys rising from the centre, around which was an undivided firing chamber. We were told that the kiln held approximately 500,000 bricks and was fired twice a year, using a mixture of coal and wood. (Kilns of similar plan were seen from the air in India, close to Calcutta Airport.)

Nowadays we are used to industry operating with the minimum of manpower, but here was a striking example of how things must have been in former days; at this site there were a least forty workers, including a group of women and children sitting on the ground breaking coal into small pieces with hammers.

Others were cutting firewood, mixing clay and carrying sand to the moulders.

It would appear that many of the workers come to the area just for the brickmaking season as some of them were living in temporary houses on the site, no larger than pigsties, built of unfired bricks and thatched with rice straw.

While travelling in Sri Lanka we saw bricks being fired in clamps at the site where a house was to be built, the clay being dug from an adjacent field. These clamps consisted of a rectangular pile about 5m. x 8m. with spaces between the bricks for the heat to rise, except at the outer edges where the bricks were stacked closely together and plastered with mud. At the bottom were formed two parallel firing holes into which lengths of coconut palm trunk were placed as fuel. A temporary roof of palm leaves on a wooden framework was constructed above the clamp to protect it from the torrential tropical rainstorms while firing was in progress.

December 1982

Jane Jones
(Suffolk Industrial Archaeology
Society)

BRICKS FROM THE SEA

MARY ROSE : Members may know from pictures and documentaries of the brick-built galley found in the hold of the Tudor warship. I approached the Mary Rose Trust earlier this year, putting the expertise of the Society at their disposal in their analysis of the bricks. Now that the hull has been raised it should be more convenient to go to Portsmouth and examine the bricks. They were found as a tumbled heap, but each individual brick was tagged and its position recorded before being raised to the surface. It seems that they have also been drawn and measured. The date of manufacture could be between 1509 and 1545.

December 1982

M.D.P. Hammond

SHAKESPEARE IN CLAY

In Stratford as one turns from Chapel Street into Ely Street, the branch of the Midland Bank situated there has a series of fifteen relief panels depicting scenes from Shakespeare's plays. The panels are in Terra Cotta and are the work of Samuel Bardfield of Leicester in 1883.

October 1982

Alan Hulme

Were these panels one off, or have any other members spotted similar panels in their own towns? Does any member know anything more about the man or the work of Samuel Bardfield? Replies please to the Editor.

WALKERINGHAM BRICK YARDS

Information 28 page 5 carried an article about the old Walkeringham Brick Yards being used to make a powder to clean silver, and we now follow that up with a few details about the brickyards themselves.

The yards at Walkeringham were owned by Mr. Cocking until his daughter married G.C. Cooper who then became the owner of the yards; Cooper sold out to Messrs Hill, another local man who also owned yards at Misterton and Gringley; the threat of the mass produced L.B.C. brick reduced the staff from 28 to 12 and Hills sold out to Smith and Co, of Stockport who closed the works after making their last bricks in 1956.

The yard had four kilns each having a capacity of 50,000 bricks and one kiln was fired each week. Coal was used to fire the kilns and this was brought by narrow boats on the Chesterfield Canal from Shireoaks Colliery. The boats carried 22 tons of coal each and had to be unloaded by hand with a shovel and a wheel barrow on piece work at 3¹/₄ old pence per ton --- the men were expected to unload a boat in 4 hours. The canal boats were also used to deliver the bricks and these too had to be loaded with a wheelbarrow. The majority of the work in the yard was piece work and wheeling bricks to the kiln was worth three shillings and six pence (17¹/₂p). A good weeks work in the 1920's was worth £2-1sh-7d (£2.08) and was five days from 7am to 5pm and Saturday 7am to 12noon. In times of bad weather or no demand it was a case of no work no wages.

The yards were famous for their bricks many of which were made from their local white clay. They also manufactured the high quality pan tile that is such a feature of this area of Nottinghamshire.

June 1982

Information from the
Retford Times.
Supplied by Mr. Gee.
Article compiled by W.A. Los

I have in my collection two white bricks from this yard both double frogged.

Brick 1		
front frog "COCKING&SONS"	back frog	"WALKERINGHAM GAINSBOROUGH"
Brick 2		
front frog "COCKING & SONS"	back frog	"WALKERINGHAM NOTTS"

These were found in Hull and Hessle so it is obvious their fame had spread and perhaps the Trent came in handy for a bit of cheap transport.

Editor

WILKES GOBS

A visit to Measham, Leicestershire, primarily for the Red Bank works, which formerly made bricks but now concentrates on its speciality, chimney pots and air bricks; but also to find some Wilkes' Gobs. There are several buildings still standing which are constructed of these bricks. The standard size is 235 x 110 x 110mm, and they are dark red, slop-moulded, no frog, and usually well burnt. They are known locally as 'jumb bricks'. I was able to find a sample after a brick search around a derelict site. I also got Red Bank and Coronet bricks, saturated with fuel oil, from the foundations of old kilns at the works I visited.

December 1982

M.D.P. Hammond

EARLY BRICKWORK IN THE TOWER OF LONDON

Recent cleaning of the Beauchamp Tower (completed in 1281) has revealed that much of its interior is faced in brick. Examination of the interiors of the later buildings erected against the curtain wall on each side of the Beauchamp Tower showed that the embrasures and rear arches of the arrowslits piercing the wall were similarly constructed. This discovery is published by Peter Curnow (Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments) in a French Journal ('Some observations on the plan and construction of the west inner curtain of the Tower of London', Mélanges d'archéologie et de l'Histoire médiévales en honneur du doyen Michel de Bouard, Mémoires et documents publiés par la Société de l'École des Chartes XXVII (Librairie Droz, Geneva and Paris) 1982, pp.65-74.

A quantity survey indicated the use of upwards of 200,000 bricks (each about 25 X 12 X 6cm., the colours ranging from dull pink to green/yellow).

Attention is drawn to the purchase of around 1/4 million bricks (quarellorum de Flandria) from John Bardown of Ypres in 1278 and the documented use of a similar quantity in the Tower at about that time - the exact number depends upon whether they were counted by the 'long hundred' (120) or not.

Although a Fleming had been brought over to advise on the digging and water-filling of the moat outside the inner curtain wall in 1276-80, when the clay from the ditch was sold to London tilers, there seems to be no evidence for local brickmaking.

It may be appropriate here to mention that there is a considerable amount of similar bricks, used in positions inside Allington Castle (Kent), probably built at about the time of its 'licence to crenellate' of 1281.

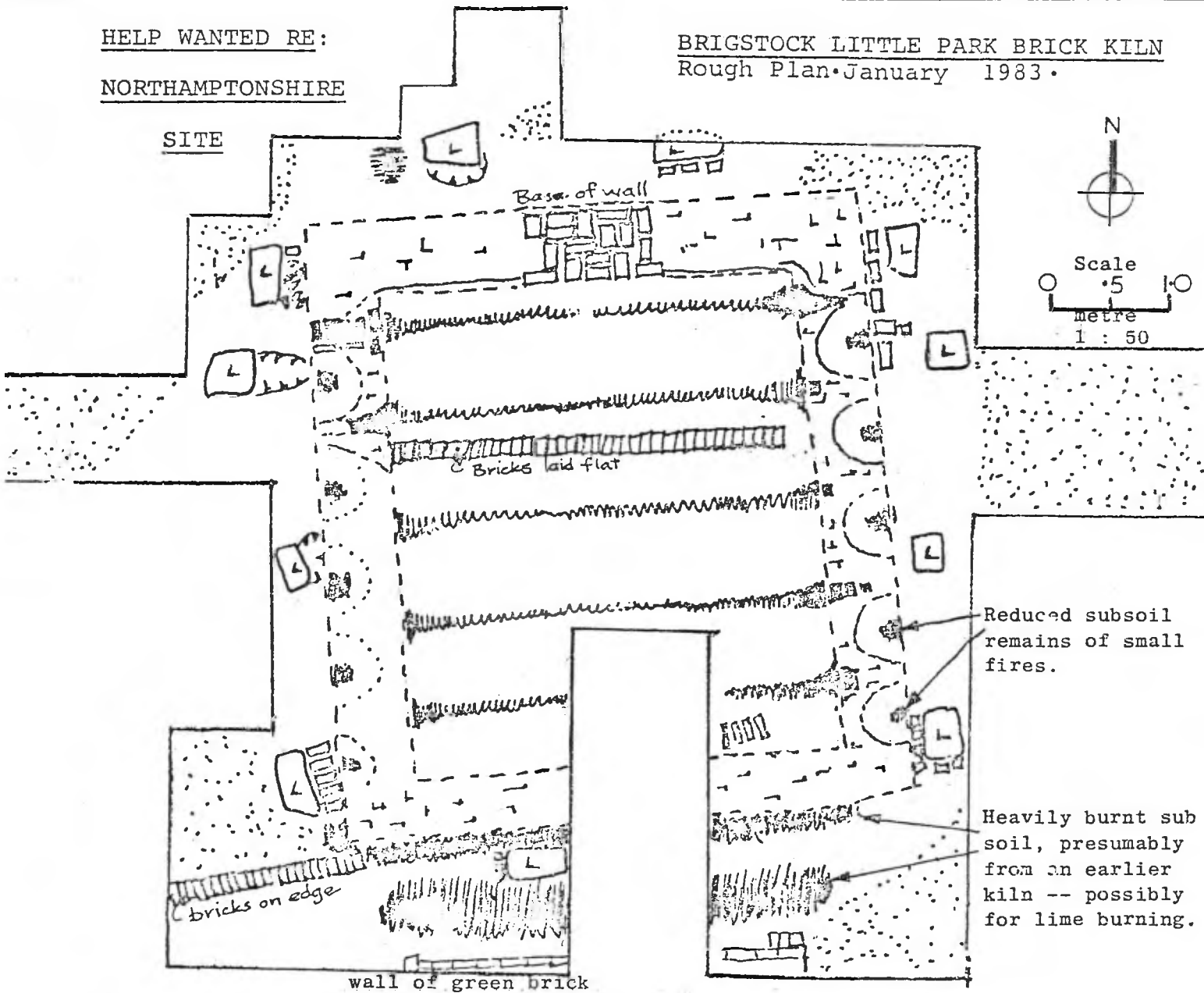
December 1982

D.F. Renn

HELP WANTED RE:
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

BRIGSTOCK LITTLE PARK BRICK KILN
Rough Plan January 1983.

SITE



•••••	Heavy scatter of coal fragments	[Symbol]	Black burnt bricks; reduced black sub-soil in burnt charcoal.
L	Limestone pads, base of buttresses	[Symbol]	Sandy mortar base of wall brick impressions remaining.

The above is a rough plan of a kiln being excavated in January 1983. The fire mouth in the NW corner is standing two bricks high and two bricks wide and there are small piles of unburnt coal just inside of what remains of each firemouth or stoke hole. The southern end of the site has produced the remains of an earlier structure, with possible evidence of lime burning.

The bricks measure 21.5cm by 10.5cm by 5.5cm and are not frogged, but have stacking marks on the slides. They are extremely soft, dark red, sandy, with large inclusions of stones etc.. Several wedge shaped bricks and several pieces of heavily slagged bricks have been found but it is not possible to say how they were used.

Documentary evidence has not answered the question of how high the walls of the kiln were or why there were small fires set in the outside of the wall.

* Replies please to Gill Johnston, Church Farmhouse, Glapthorne, Peterborough, PE8 5BE.

Vale TLB, Ave MHP!

News has reached me recently that Thomas Lawrence of Bracknell's works at Gough's Lane, Warfield has closed and the well-known TLB red rubbers are no longer made. Meanwhile I have been experimenting with blends of red-burning clay and sand to produce a brick which can be cut and rubbed to shape. As at Bracknell, the clay is first reduced to a slurry and screened to remove roots and stones. It is allowed to settle and the excess water drained off, then mixed with an equal quantity of local building sand. Further drying is necessary before moulding. Some have been fired. The colour is light red, not quite as orangey as the Bracknell bricks, and of rather coarser texture. Tests for weather resistance are being carried out this winter.

Preparing the clay is a time-consuming process, so the less needed the better. It is proposed to mould the bricks roughly to shape and rub them true after firing. 10% reduction from the original mould size should be allowed for.

December 1982

M.D.P.Hammond

BRICKS TO BUILD THE ALBERT HALL

I was amused to read on page 7 of Information 28 that a brick and tile works at Fareham, Hampshire were said to have made bricks which were used in the building of the Albert Hall. I have been told that brickworks which were at Chingford, Essex and another brickworks at Ballingdon (near Sudbury on the Suffolk/Essex border) also made bricks for the Albert Hall. The latter bricks being transported from Ballingdon by barge down the River Stour to the sea and then along the River Thames. It is possible that all three (or perhaps more) brickworks supplied bricks for building the Albert Hall. Perhaps a member may wish to research into what bricks were actually used in the construction of this well known building.

Incidentally, Eli Cornish who was a well known brickmaker in Sible Hedingham, Essex made the bricks for many buildings including 16 Churches in North London. The bricks were red bricks and were marked E.C.C. or H.B.Co. The mark E.C.C. was used by Eli Cornish to distinguish his bricks from those made by his relation Edward Cornish (E.C.) elsewhere in Essex. H.B.Co. was Hedingham Brick Company which was owned by Eli Cornish in the early 1900's. Eli Cornish made bricks at Hedingham on his own account between 1886 and 1932. Does anyone know the location of these 16 Churches please or any other buildings constructed with Hedingham bricks?

January 1983

Adrian Corder-Birch

HELP WANTED AT BRADWELL

In 1980 and 1981 a late seventeenth and early eighteenth century water-mill at Caldecotte, Bow Brickhill, Buckinghamshire was excavated. Among the finds and incorporated in the structure were bricks, some probably from an adjacent clamp kiln observed during sewerage works. If anyone is willing to study and report on these bricks will they please get in touch with Mr. M.R. Petchey, Archaeology Unit, Bradwell Abbey Field Centre, Bradwell, Milton Keynes, MK13 9AP. Telephone Number (0908) 74000.

HELP WANTED AT WOODSTOCK

From a letter received at the Brick Development Association
“(The B.B.S) might be able to help me. We recently excavated a medieval manor site at Chalgrove in Oxfordshire and recovered samples of various building materials which were in use during the 14th and 15th centuries. Among the more puzzling pieces of material were several cream coloured objects which looked very much like bricks but they are quite different in fabric and indeed in colour from any medieval bricks I have seen in Oxfordshire before. I may say that we do know quite a bit about the medieval bricks of Oxfordshire since this Museum has involved itself in a research programme connected with the brick industry for the last two or three years. These objects however, look more as if they are made of solid mortar and I send you a piece of one of them in order to ask your opinion. Can you tell me whether you think that this object has been fired in a kiln like a brick - if so, why is it this strange colour and what sort of clay do you think has been used? Have you come across any comparable bricks in your experience? If it is not a brick, what is it?”

The O.S. Geological map shows a small isolated outcrop of gault clay near to Chalgrove. Without the benefit of any laboratory tests an expert in modern bricks at the Brick Development Association feels the cream brick might be a fired gault brick. Can any member comment on the occurrence of such bricks in medieval Oxfordshire?

Replies and offers of help to Mr. John Steane, Oxford County Museum, Fletcher's House, Woodstock, OX7 1SN. (Telephone Woodstock 811456).

ENQUIRES1. PAVOIRS OR VENTILATORS?

Have any members come across wirecut bricks with a one inch diameter hole running from one end to the other with the hole exactly central to the face of both header ends. It has been suggested that they were used as pavoirs with the hole to assist drainage or a damp roof course; or were they used in barn walls for ventilation purposes or have members any other ideas?

Replies please to the Editor or Mr E.W. O'Shea, 14, Pelham Terrace, LEWES, East Sussex, BN7 2DR.

2. GALLETING

Galleting is the use of pebbles or chips of stone pushed into mortar joints, probably for decoration but possibly for strengthening. If any members have any details of this in their area will they please reply to Mr. E.W. O'Shea address as number 1.

3. SCOTTISH BRICKS

If any member has any details of the following bricks found in Scotland in 1982 will they please reply to Mr M.D.P. Hammond, St. Annes, 13, Jackson Road, Parkstone, POOLE, Dorset, BH12 3AJ.

<u>NAME ON BRICK</u>	<u>WHERE FOUND</u>	<u>OTHER DETAILS</u>
KELVINSIDE	Port Ellen Islay	Buff flashed brown. Stiff plastic pressed shale 230 X 115 X 98.
BROADLIE	Port Ellen Islay	225 X 105 X 75
UFP	Oban Railway Station	-----
BLANTYRE	Oban	-----
DOCKEN	Port Ellen	Hand made fire-brick
S B Co	Oban Railway Station	-----
---OLTNESS	Oban	Die rather worn and lettering indistinct.
---TERENOS P	Oban	
P. & M. HURLL Ltd GLASGOW	Baile Mor Iona	
CALENDAR	Baile Mor Iona	

<u>NAME ON BRICK</u>	<u>WHERE FOUND</u>	<u>OTHER DETAILS</u>
DEWAR	Oban river tunnel	
ELECTRIC CABLES SOUTHHOOK KILMARNOCK	Oban foreshore	Cable cover, buff pressed shale or fireclay. 9" X 6" X 2".
All the above are of stiff plastic pressed colliery shale, brownish pink with black kiss marks and cores.		
SYMINGTON	Stobcross Quay Glasgow	
COLTNESS	Stobcross Quay Glasgow	

4. NORTH ESSEX

Any details of brick, tile and pottery works in Castle Hedingham, ible Hedingham, Halstead, Gestingthorpe, Gosfield, Great Yeldham, Stambourne, Earls Colne, Colne Engaine, Hures Hamlet, Ballingdon, Bulmer and Haverhill Hamlet, including maps, documents and photographs would be most welcome.

Replies please write to Adrian Corder-Birch, "Berriewood", Church Green, Little Yeldham, Halstead, Essex, CO9 4LB.

EDITORIAL

My sincere thanks to all members who have sent in articles as a result of my editorial in Information 28, thus making this issue a pleasure to produce. We extend our apologies to J.A. Wight for the wrong spelling of her name on page 8 of the last issue.

L.S.Harley our founder President has had a heart attack and we send him our very best wishes for a speedy recovery. Please note that a spelling error was made in his article on page 4 of the last issue -- --Sana's should be spelt San'a.

Derek Renn of Surrey informs me that there is a splendid exhibition of Medieval Brick Work going back to 1150, if not earlier in the new gallery of the National Museum Copenhagen. This may be an idea for those taking holidays in this area. Our treasurer however suggests there is an area of study for those taking their holidays in Bali. Parry's "Brick making in Developing Countries" says that Bali has a flourishing indigenous brickmaking industry. The farmers make bricks when work in the rice fields is slack. They use multiple moulds, hack drying and fire in small Scotch kilns. The inhabitants originally came from India and the Dutch have been in the area since the late sixteenth century, so there are two brick making traditions they could draw on. I am indebted to Martin Hammond for this information and we would both welcome reports from members who visit Bali! Martin Hammond also informs me that some of the temples on the Island of Bali are built of fine guaged brickwork with stone dressings, including special shapes like bullnoses, plinth stretchers and external returns.

Thanks to Michael Hammett and the B.D.A. for the superb cover for information.

The article on The Size of a Brick by M.G. Reeder will be concluded in the next issue, which will also contain "Bricks and Canals" by Philip Daniel, a glimpse at Anglesley yards by Brig. A.P. Trevor and reports of the AGM for those who were unable to attend.

In the future..it is hoped to run a series of articles illustrating the material that is available on a local record office, a central record office or that may be hidden in the back room of a library. This will begin with an article by Molly Beswick on the country brickmakers of the Weald showing the type of information available in probate inventories. I would welcome articles on this source or any other source in this field.

To help break the ice at the AGM and to help members put a face to the names they have only read about it has been suggested by a member that those attending the AGM should wear a name tag if at all possible.

All items for INFORMATION 30 should reach me by Saturday 30th April 1983. Mrs. W.A. Los, Peran, 30, Plaxton Bridge, Woodmansey, Beverley, East Yorkshire, HU17 0RT.

HELP US TO HELP YOU

Two reply slip forms make up the final page of this 'INFORMATION' one is to help with AGM arrangements, the other to up-date our membership records. Please complete and send off one or both without delay.

February 1983