

Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting of the BRITISH BRICK SOCIETY

Held in the Education Room, Treasure House, Champney Rd., Beverley, HU17 8HE at 11.00 a.m. on Saturday 22 June 2013.

Present: Mike Chapman Chairman
Mick Oliver Secretary
David Kennett Editor, Congresses, Visits Coordinator
Mike Hammett Enquiries Secretary
Graeme Perry Treasurer

Brenda Chapman, David Easton, Chris Emery, Barry Fairweather, Alan Hulme, Mike & Pamela Kingman, Ann Los, Ken Redmore, Jacqueline Ryder.

Guests: Angela Fairweather, Moya Hammett, Peter Los, Michael Ryder.

1. Chairman's remarks

The Chairman drew attention to the meeting being the Society's 40th AGM and welcomed members and their guests. Ann Los presented him with the Chairman's badge of office, and ornamental bricks originally from Mike Hammett, with the legend "Spread a little happiness".

He reviewed the Society's activities in the year, thanked David Kennett for producing 4 editions of *Information*, described the works visit to Hanson Brick's modern plant at Measham, next door to the older plant at Red Bank, stated that the committee had met regularly, considered the membership stable at c250, but ageing (an experience shared with other groups), identified the Society's website as an activity which needed attention, and congratulated Mike Hammett for achieving a reference to the Society in *Have I got news for you*.

He thanked the officers of the Society, both those who were present and who were absent, for the work they had done over the year..

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from C Baile, P & R Berry, A Corder-Birch, M Carter, E Handley, A Langridge, H Lyus, B Matthews, A Palfre-Martin, A Preston, G & J Sheard, T Smith and D Sullivan.

3. Minutes of 2012 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2012 Meeting at Faversham on June 9 2012 had been circulated to all members with *Information 121*, and circulated separately to new members who had joined since. The meeting accepted the minutes as an accurate record unanimously (proposed Ann Los, seconded David Easton).

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. BBS Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the Financial Statement (shown here on p3) which showed an increase in expenditure, caused by publishing and circulating four issues of *Information* in 2012, (compare 3 issues in 2011).

Ann Los proposed the accounts for 2012 should be accepted, Brenda Chapman seconded, carried unanimously.

The Treasurer introduced a wider discussion on the £12 annual subscription, which was approved at the 2012 AGM, for introduction in 2013. He stated that he received standing order mandates from the Membership Secretary, but this had only happened after the renewal date. Members at the meeting reported being debited by £7 (sub associated with BAA brick section membership), £10 and £12. Ann Los recalled that the increase from £7 to £10 had caused the same problems, and it was agreed that the cost of using direct debits rather than standing orders (to allow easy adjustment of changes in future) was prohibitive.

It was agreed that the Chairman would contact the Membership Secretary to clarify the current position, and that Chairman and Secretary would prepare a letter to all members, by the end of August, asking them to write or email to confirm that they were already paying £12 p.a. or that they would take steps to do so.

6. Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary, Anthony Preston, was unable to attend and the Secretary read his report:

“Since June 2012 we have attracted 10 new members, a trend remaining the same as this time last year, thus new membership continues to be stable. The total membership this year is 246, down from 258 in 2012 and 251 in 2011. The cause of this drop is the removal of 15 members who, after repeated reminders in *Information* and by post, failed to pay their subscription. Of the 18 members who had not paid their subscription by June 2012 only 3 had responded and paid. Without this problem we could have seen an increase in membership. Should I include a subscription reminder with the last 2013 issue of *Information*?

Last year we had a drive to convert members to pay by bankers order and have largely been successful, but 63 members still pay by cheque and failure/oversight to pay continues. This year there are 19 non-payers by cheque, (compare 46 last year), and 2 non-payers by Visa, thus 21 overall. I will contact the non-payers in the hope we get a response, but with rising postal costs there is only limited opportunity to continue mailings over non-payment.

We continue to have members from across the world, including France, Greece, Australia, Italy, USA (including one in Alaska), an unknown recipient in China, Eire and Jersey.

Over the years I have been in contact with a number of members, and have been able to encourage our Greek member to take a UK Masters degree, and to start a home-based PhD.

**BRITISH BRICK SOCIETY
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2012**

<u>2011</u> £	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2012</u> £
38.69	Postage and miscellaneous expenses of Officers	345.64
3,119.33	Information, Notices, etc	3,553.30
22.35	AGM Costs	80.00
73.63	Website	0.00
3,254.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3,978.94
<u>INCOME</u>		
2,109.00	Subscriptions	2,249.00
9.54	Bank interest	8.42
2,118.54	TOTAL INCOME	2,257.42
3,254.00	DEDUCT TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3,978.94
-1,135.46	SURPLUS	-1,721.52
9,094.89	SUPLUS FROM EARLIER YEARS	7,959.43
7,959.43	TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	6,237.91
259.43	Current account balance 31.12.2012	629.49
7,700.00	Deposit account balance 31.12.2012	5,608.42
0.00	Unpresented cheques	0.00
7,959.43		6,237.91

06.03.13

Adrian Cordeiro *Birt*
Hon. Auditor 06.03.13

22.06.13

M. Chapman
22-6-13,

22.06.13

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS (GJP)

- 1 Income down by 6%. Expenditure up by 22%.
- 2 Another quiet year.
- 3 Three editions of Information in 2012. four in 2011.

7. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported:

“As Secretary I often find myself as the point of first contact for enquirers, and many of these I pass to other members of the committee. My details are the first to appear on the website, but Mike Hammett's appear next, and there is a separate entry for membership – just a little surprising that I am the first point of contact for many who have enquiries or who wish to join as members. All get full attention from our Enquiries Secretary or Membership Secretary – or if appropriate from our Chairman, Treasurer, Editor or Publications Officers, and I would like to pay tribute to them for the help they give.

At previous meetings we discussed John Tibbles' role as custodian of back copies of *Information*, and whether this was necessary as the website held back copies as pdfs. We asked John to continue in this role until the 2012 AGM, but he received no requests for hard copies of *Information* during that year. We agreed that we should recycle the stock if there was no demand – we will make sure we have a complete archive of hard copies, some spare copies for display and circulation at conferences, and John has undertaken to recycle the remainder. I would like to record the Society's thanks to John for giving house-room to *Information* for all of this millennium.

Our Chairman has been in touch with Gerard Lynch on how the Society can sponsor a candidate for the “Introduction to Gauged Brickwork” course he runs at the Weald and Downland Museum. This course is usually held in May, and the course fee was £350 this year. We need to consider what form our award should take – do we aim to pay for subsistence as well as the course fee? David Kennett has identified colleges which run courses whose students could be interested in the Society's award, and a task that is still outstanding is to prepare publicity to promote the Society and its award. (Gerard is recovering from an operation, and we send him our good wishes.)

Over the year Richard Harris and Sandra Garside-Neville have been cooperating on the website, and we owe both of them our gratitude for their work to date. Richard is able to pursue this over the next two months. Independently, our Chairman has had other discussions – suggest that we should harmonise their separate initiatives.

In previous years I reported a long-standing piece of correspondence which involved Anthony Preston, Chris Blanchett and me, an enquiry from a third party on whether one of our members was receiving *Information*. We believed the third party was satisfied, but the correspondence has continued. We now realise that the problem related to a different member, abroad – we have supplied the back numbers of *Information* that were not received, and trust the matter is resolved.

I had an important birthday during the last year, and would like to give notice that, if I am reelected today I do not intend to stand again as Secretary after next year's AGM. To close, I would like to record my thanks to members of the Society and of the committee who have helped me during the year.”

David Easton asked whether the Society should consider a limit on the length of time an officer of the Society should serve – other members had experience of this in other societies, and were generally sympathetic to the idea.

The Secretary agreed he was prepared to assist a potential candidate into the role, and agreed he would prepare a flyer to attract interest from potential candidates.

8. Enquiries Secretary's Report

Michael Hammett reported:

“The decline in enquiries continued this year and as I commented in last year's report I think that this reflects the increase in the availability of information on the Internet. As examples: David Sallery's excellent website illustrating and identifying brickmarks goes from strength to strength (www.penmorfa.com/bricks); other enthusiasts in the exploration of industrial archaeology have interesting and relevant photographs on Flickr - the photo sharing website.

During the twelve month since the last AGM I have received about 20 enquiries, slightly less than last year. With such a small number the variety of enquiries is less than it was. Questions on aspects of history are popular, accounting for about 30%. Requests for identification of bricks, generally by brickmarks, account for about 25% and brick usage, technical performance, and conservation another 25%.

Some enquiries are unclassifiable and some have little to do with bricks as we know them. An enquiry from an Australian lady about a small gold brick of her grandfather's marked “The Society of Bricks” was intriguing. She thought it dated from about 1919. She could not find any reference to such a trade organization and I suggested she might try philanthropic organizations, in particular Great War fellowship or comrades groups. A month or two later she wrote to tell me she had found references in the Sydney Morning Herald archives. In Sept 1919 there was a report of a Society of Bricks concert in support of cots at the RSS Hospital for the AIF & Navy. Another in 1926 reported a memorial to E J Card who founded of the Society in 1914 to help disabled soldiers returning from the War.

I have asked some members for help with particular enquiries and I am very grateful for their support.”

Mike Hammett also described a recent enquiry about glazed Durex (sic) brickwork.

9. Report from the Editor of *BBS Information*

David Kennett, as Editor of *BBS Information* reported:

Since the 2012 AGM, four issues of *Information* have appeared:

120,	May 2012,	40 pages	
121,	September 2012,	36 pages	
122,	December 2012	40 pages	Bricks and Literary Matters issue
123,	February 2013	36 pages	Brick Churches issue
124,	June 2013	40 pages	Fortieth Anniversary issue is imminent

Three issues are in active preparation:

- A** a general issue including extended reports on visits.
- B** an issue devoted to aspects of the brick buildings of Sir John Fastolf.
- C** an issue with articles and other material on Transporting Bricks

The exact order has yet to be finalized, but these will form

125,	October 2013	36 or 40 pages
126,	February 2014	36 or 40 pages
127,	April 2014	36 or 40 pages

New or occasional contributors have been Derek Barker, Graham Brooks, Philip and Dorothy Brown, Mike Chapman, Alan Cox, and Mike Kingman.

Notable items in recent issues include:

- 120,** Pre-Reformation Brick Building in Staffordshire (Mike Kingman)
Bricks, Tiles, Pipes, and Pottery: Nineteenth-Century Cotswold Estate
Brickyards (Philip and Dorothy Brown)
Bradford, West Yorkshire: the rise and fall of an urban brick industry
(Derek Barker)
- 121,** Potteries and Brickmaking: Gloucestershire Examples (P. and D. Brown)
Review Article: The March of Red Brick: Building English Universities in the
1960s
(D.H. Kennett)
- 122,** Suburban Sahara Revisited : Charles Dickens and the Brickfields (T.P. Smith)
Stranger than Fact: L.P. Hartley and The Brickfield (Alan Cox)
- 123** Guest Editorial: 1812 Overture (T.P. Smith)
The Church with the Railway Station Interior: St James, Tebay, Cumbria
(Graham Brooks)

Work on *British Brick Society Information*, **124**, was completed in May 2013.

It will contain:

Editorial: British Brick Society enters its Fifth Decade
Love Story: A Brickmaking Family (Alan Cox)
A Mid-Eighteenth-Century Brick Clay Mill? (Mike Kingman)
Brick for a Day: Measham Brickworks, Leicestershire (Michael Chapman)
The Red Bank Manufacturing Company, Measham, Leicestershire (M. Chapman)
Brick for a Day: The British Brick Society in London, 2009 and 2012 (D.H. Kennett)

Work on the next two issues of *Information* is in progress. Which appears first depends on which is finished first:

Issue A will contain:

Brick in Faversham (Arthur Perceval)
Phoenix Brick Company, Barrow Hill, North Derbyshire (Mike Chapman)
Plus reports on meetings and Brick in Print

Issue B on the brick buildings of Sir John Fastolf will include:

The Building Activities of Sir John Fastolf (D.H. Kennett)
'Drayton Lodge: A Fifteenth-Century Hunting Lodge near Norwich' (T.P. Smith)
These two substantial articles have been received and set:
There are various book reviews and Brick in Print.

Issue C on 'Transporting Bricks' will include:

'Contrasts in Procurement, Contrasts in Transport: Caister Castle and Cow Tower'
(David H. Kennett)
'Delivering Bricks in Ireland 1940-1970 (the late Desmond Sloane)
Plus a book review and 'Brick in Print: Transport and Industry'
All of these have been set.

Projected issues include ones covering

- Brick in Asia
- Brick Churches
- Brick and its Uses in the Netherlands in the Twentieth Century
- Brick Structures for Waterworks

Material has been received and set for the first two of these; the editor knows of one completed paper for 'Brick in the Netherlands'; two papers have been suggested for the issue on 'Brick Structures for Waterworks'.

In the issue of *Information* to be published in April 2016 it is hoped to include an article on 'Brick in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire: the last Fifty Years' which has been delayed due to the availability of the periodical literature in the new Library of Birmingham. (Shakespeare died on 23 April 1616.)

The editor thanks all contributors. The four issues between June 2012 and June 2013, including *British Brick Society Information*, **120**, attracted nine authors.

Especial thanks are due to Chris Blanchett who has successfully organised the printing and distribution of *Information* in the past year.

Ken Redmore suggested that print quality could be improved if silk finish paper was used, but David Kennett indicated that using a scanner (which he now possessed) would also achieve this.

10. Report from the Visits Coordinator

As Visits Coordinator David Kennett reported that 3 visits have taken place since the last AGM.

- On Saturday 18 August, South Westminster.
Beginning at the polychrome brick of St James the Less, Westminster; and including LCC housing of various periods from 1890s to 1930s; the Royal Horticultural Society Hall, Westminster Kingsway College and other buildings around Vincent Square (Westminster School Playing Fields); Rochester Row; Westminster City Archive Office; and Tate Britain.
- On Saturday 6 October,
Hanson's new brickworks at Measham, Leicestershire, arranged by Mike Chapman

Reports on both of these are in *BBS Information*, **124**, June 2013.

- On Saturday 18 May 2013 Soho Square and Charles Dickens
Morning walking from Leicester Square to near Soho Square.
Afternoon, examination of buildings on Soho Square and then north of Oxford Street to Charles Dickens' childhood home on Cleveland Street and the Cleveland Street Workhouse, with buildings nearby ending at All Saints church, Margaret Street (1850-59, William Butterfield).

Report to appear in one of the next two issues of *BBS Information*.

Visits arranged for later in 2013 are:

- Saturday 7 September 2013
Northcot Brick, Blockley, a brickworks visit being arranged by Mike Chapman.
Possibly with walk round Shipston-on-Stour in the afternoon.
- Saturday 12 October 2013 (rearranged from Saturday 20 July 2013).
Royal Leamington Spa: pump room, former library/museum, 1920s cinemas, St Mark's church (1876, George Gilbert Scott jnr) Arts and Crafts school buildings

The projected weekday in August to Tilbury Forts is now being scheduled for 2014.

Other ideas for visits in 2014 include Oxford (S and W); London, Lambeth or Mayfair; Worcester.

Possible visits for 2014-5 are Marlborough (School and town), and/or to Harrow School.

Potential ideas for visits in 2015 and beyond include Derby, Warwick and Macclesfield.

Potential London visits for future years include buildings on Marylebone Road and Harley Street; from Alexandra Palace to Hornsey Town Hall (this is downhill); and Mayfair or Lambeth (whichever is not visited in 2014).

David Kennett concluded by stating that he always welcomed ideas for visits and offers from volunteers to organise them, and he repeated his plea from previous meetings that after almost two decades of organising and coordinating visits, he has begun to run out of ideas and at some point would like to hand the task on to another.

11. Report on Congresses

David Kennett reported on Leeds International Medieval Congresses:

Dr Kingman's paper 'Early Brick Buildings in Staffordshire and Beyond', presented at The Leeds 2011 International Medieval Congress was published in *BBS Information*, **120**, May 2012.

The theme of the 2012 Leeds International Medieval Congress was 'Keeping the Rules (or Not)'. The society did not have a session but David Kennett spoke on 'Prestige, Control, Defence, Display: The Brick Gatehouse in England 1400-1610, Urban, Monastic, Domestic, Educational'. Publication is in preparation for a future issue of *BBS Information*.

The society is not having a session at the 2013 congress but, David Kennett is speaking on 'Trouble finding Bishops: the Episcopal Crises of Henry VII'. [Between early 1499 and late 1505, every diocese in England and Wales except one (Lincoln) changed bishop at least once and many twice. They are an interesting group who also built in brick.]

One advantage of the society's contribution to the Leeds Congress is the possibility of papers for future issues of *Information*.

We have been asked if the society would like a stand at the Historical and Antiquarian Societies' Fair on the Wednesday afternoon of the congress. We have had a stall at each of the last three years, and we now have an exhibition to use at future events. David Kennett is willing to man this. What is needed is good publicity material and a stock of back issues of *Information* to display.

David Kennett is willing to try to organise a session for the Society at the 2014 and 2015 congresses.

12. Election of Officers

All officers elected in 2012 were all willing to stand for a further year, and no other nominations were received. Alan Hulme proposed the existing committee should be re-elected en bloc, Ann Los seconded, carried unanimously.

13. Election of Auditor

Adrian Corder-Birch had indicated his willingness to serve as Auditor. (Proposed by M Oliver, seconded by M Hammett, and reelected unanimously).

The Chairman thanked Adrian for his continuing service in the role and the meeting asked the Secretary to write formally with the Society's thanks.

14. Result of Ballot for 2014 AGM

The Secretary explained that a ballot paper for the 2014 AGM in a "southern" location had been circulated with the papers for the AGM. The locations proposed were Abingdon, Bury St. Edmund's and Layer Marney. Weighted voting (3 for first choice, 2 for second, 1 for third) gave 31 choices for Bury St. Edmund's, 28 for Layer Marney and 22 for Abingdon.

After discussion on the timing of the AGM and in the expectation that an earlier date might result in a better attendance, it was agreed to hold the Bury St. Edmund's meeting on Saturday May 17th.

A shortlist of three locations in a "northern location" for the 2013 AGM was prepared which will be put to the whole membership in a ballot. Members at the meeting were given a list of six possibilities prepared by the committee, and voted for Beverley (9 votes), Port Sunlight area (6), and York (6). Newcastle-on-Tyne (5), Stockport (5) and Birkenhead (4) were not selected.

15. Preparation of shortlist for AGM venue in 2015

The meeting selected 3 locations for a northern meeting in 2015 from 7 proposed by the committee. Results were **Stoke-on-Trent 11, Port Sunlight 9, Dudley 7**, Sheffield 6, Middlesbrough 5, Manchester 4, Newcastle-on-Tyne 3 – the 3 locations in **bold type** are to be offered to the Society's members for a postal ballot during 2014.

16. Any other business

Barry Fairweather described the developments which had taken place at Bursledon since the Society's AGM there in 2006. Their trading company which specialised in supplying conservation materials had ceased trading in 2008, and Bursledon were now concentrating on clay products and had received a Heritage Lottery award on £750,000 to fund a conservation officer, education officer and volunteer co-ordinator, and to enable the museum to accommodate school parties, and in future colleges. The museum planned to open from April 2014 for three afternoons per week, Saturday and Sunday, and to hold eight open days per year. He offered to provide an article for *Information* on their activities. He described recent acquisitions of a Halls patent brickmaking machine (facilitated by Mike Hammett), and a Monarch Piccroft extruder from Hayling Island.

David Kennett described an article in the Guardian on Tattersall Castle and Lord Curzon which stated 700,000 bricks had been used in its construction. He informed them that 7,000,000 bricks had been used, and they published a correction.

Graeme Perry pointed out that some societies circulate their magazines electronically, successfully, and asked if the Society should consider this. He agreed to provide an article for *Information* to describe this possibility.

The Chairman thanked the committee and members for their contributions and effort in the previous year, and the meeting closed at 1.05 p.m. Members reconvened for a tour of brick buildings in Beverley, led by David Kennett.