

Unapproved Minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting of the BRITISH BRICK SOCIETY

The meeting was held in Hall 2, The Black Country Living Museum, Tipton Rd., Dudley, DY1 4SQ at 1.45 p.m. on Saturday 30 May 2015, after a tour of the museum led by Selwyn Owens (Facilities and Construction Manager) and a presentation by John Beckerson (Senior Curator).

Present:

Mike Chapman	Chairman
Mick Oliver	Secretary
David Kennett	Editor, Congresses, Visits Coordinator

Brenda Chapman, Pat Chapman, Bevis Durham, Chris Emery, Ellie Gabbay, Richard Harris, Mike and Pat Kingman, and John Wells.

Guests: Denise Durham and Andy Chapman

1. Chairman's remarks

The Chairman, wearing his Chairman's badge of office, explained that the meeting's timing had been adjusted to allow Selwyn Owens to give his tour of the museum and description of his work in the morning. He stated that the recovery in the brick industry that had started in 2014 had continued, and that mothballed works at Ewhurst, Claughton Moor and Accrington had now resumed production. Changes to the industry have continued with Ibstock acquired from CRH by Bain Capital and Hanson Building Products acquired from Heidelberg Cement by Lone Star Capital. Both owners are US based venture capital organisations. Further investments are anticipated, with Ibstock planning to build a new factory in Leicestershire.

He reported, with regret, the deaths of members during the year: Philip Brown, Stanley Cox, John Helsdon, Terry Knight and Charles Thurlow.

He stated that there had been 3 issues of *Information* during the year, and that the website was now a most useful feature for the Society, and thanked the Society's officers for their work during the year.

2. Apologies for absence

were received from J Beckett, J Benning, R & P Berry, C Blanchett, A Corder-Birch, B Fairweather, E Handley, M Hammett, A & P Los, G Perry, A Preston, K Redmore and G & J Sheard,

3. Minutes of 2014 Annual General Meeting (Bury St. Edmund's, May 17)

The minutes of the 2014 Meeting had been circulated to all members with Information 127, and separately to new members who had joined since. The meeting accepted the minutes as an accurate record unanimously (proposed Mike Kingman, seconded Brenda Chapman).

4. Matters arising There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Treasurer's Report

The statement for 2014 was accepted (proposed Chris Emery, seconded Pat Chapman), unanimously

BRITISH BRICK SOCIETY FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2014		
<u>2013</u> £	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2014</u> £
151.80	Postage and miscellaneous expenses of Officers	520.70
2,885.91	Information, Notices, etc	2,412.37
17.50	AGM Costs	100.00
0.00	Miscellaneous	64.00
<u>3,055.21</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>3,097.07</u>

<u>INCOME</u>		
2,599.93	Subscriptions	2,566.00
6.71	Bank interest	5.57
<u>2,606.64</u>	TOTAL INCOME	<u>2,571.57</u>
3,055.21	DEDUCT TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3,097.07
<u>-448.57</u>	SURPLUS	<u>-525.50</u>
6,237.91	SUPLUS FROM EARLIER YEARS	5,789.34
<u>5,789.34</u>	TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	<u>5,263.84</u>
274.21	Current account balance 31.12.2014	243.14
5,515.13	Deposit account balance 31.12.2014	5,020.70
0.00	Unpresented cheques	0.00
<u>5,789.34</u>		<u>5,263.84</u>

19.03.15

Adrian Cordell
Hon. Auditor

19.03.15

30.05.15

30.05.15

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS (GJP)

Pat Chapman
PAT CHAPMAN
CHAIR.
18-6-15

6. Membership Secretary's Report (read by the Secretary as AP was absent)

“Please accept my apologies for my non-attendance, my reasons having been expressed to the Honorary Secretary.

Between January and May this year the Society gained 10 new members. Last year we had, by the end of the year (December), a total of 15 new members but only 7 by March. We are, therefore, ahead by 3 new members over a similar period. Thus membership continues to grow steadily.

The total membership this year, however, stands at 242. Last year it was 249, a slight increase from the 2013 figure of 246. We have lost some of the seven members due to their sadly passing away and some have resigned indicating increasing age as the significant factor. On a brighter note some of our new members are younger and some have indicated our journal was an influential factor.

Low membership numbers have an effect on finance and year on year we continue to have problems with those members paying by cheque who forget to renew their membership subscriptions. A greater number of members have assisted the Society by moving over to bankers order payments but we still have 14 members who have not paid their annual subscription (£168). In the first instance if there is an email address I will contact them with a reminder via this method to see if this works. I will follow up others by letter.”

7. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported

“I am happy to continue to serve as Secretary for 2015-6 if re-elected, but I am not getting any younger, neither are the rest of the committee.

In the last year the committee considered the position of members of the brick section of the British Archaeological Association, who traditionally have enjoyed a reduced subscription. Until July 2009 “Information” referred to a £7 subscription for BAA members and no charge for BAA life members – the current application form refers to a “special reduced rate” (figure not specified). The committee's proposal is that this reduction should be defined, at £2 - for discussion at this meeting.

My postbox this year has included details of publications from Archaeopress with little brick content, which I have discontinued, and from the European Federation of Associations of Industrial and Technical Heritage, with the misleading acronym of E-Faith. Otherwise I am sometimes the first point of contact for enquiries which are more appropriate for other members of the Society, and I pass these on as appropriate. I would like to acknowledge the cooperation I get from the other members of the committee – members are well served by the officers they have. And the website is a very valuable resource – for members and enquirers.

8. Enquiries Secretary's Report (read by the Secretary as MH was absent)

"We have had another bumper year of receiving enquiries and have slightly exceeded the total of 69 reported at last year's AGM. By mid-May this year the total was 75. The majority indicate that our Website is the source of their contact. There has been no media mention of the Society this year to boost the numbers.

Enquiries followed a similar pattern to former years: approximately 43% were about history (including 8% about dating structures by brick identification), about 33% sought identification of brickmarks or the names of companies, about 13% were sundry, fringe or unclassifiable and about 11% were on technical matters (not our remit, but I help where possible and/or refer to industry sources).

Last year we had eight enquiries from overseas, but this year only two - and then only from across the Irish Sea.

Some responses have been referred to particular members for assistance and I am most grateful for their help and support.

I had hoped that the idea of an "Enquiries News" page on the Website that was mentioned at last year's AGM might have been inaugurated by now, but very little suitable material has cropped up - but the intention is there and will not be forgotten.

9. Report from Editor of *British Brick Society Information*

David Kennett as Editor of *British Brick Society Information*, reported

Four issues of *British Brick Society Information* have appeared since the last AGM:

127	July 2014	44 pages
128	November 2014	44 pages 'Brick in Asia' issue
129	February 2015	36 pages
130	May 2015	44 pages 'Brick in Churches' issue

Notable items in recent issues include:

- 127** 'Drayton Lodge: a Fifteenth-Century Hunting Lodge near Norwich' (T.P. Smith)
'Some Further Dragons out of Grendel's Lair' (Alan Cox)
'Flying over Oxford' (D.H. Kennett)
'Phoenix Brick Company, Chesterfield, Derbyshire: A Footnote in History' (Mike Chapman)
- 128** 'Measuring the Great Wall of China' (D.H. Kennett)
'Unloading a Clamp and Transporting Bricks: A Mid-Nineteenth-Century Depiction' (T.P. Smith)
'From Claypit to Colliery in Assam, India' (Ann Los)
'Modern Brickmaking in India: A Photographic Essay' (Lawrance Hurst)
'Aspects of Brick in Central Burma' (Verity Montagu)
- 129** 'Bakestones: Medieval Cooking Aids or Bricks' (T.P. Smith)
'The Long Brick' (Mike Kingman)
'Brick Query: A Brick from Market Harborough' (Mike Chapman)

- ‘A Further Firebrick from London’ (T.P. Smith)
‘Finding the Yellow Brick Road’ (D.H. Kennett)
‘Brick Query: Bricks from Karura Forest, Kenya’ (Harvey Croze)
130 ‘Brick and its Uses in Churches: Soho, Westminster’ (D.H. Kennett)
‘Holy Trinity Church, East Hyde, Luton: An Early Essay in Brick by Benjamin Ferrey’ (T.P. Smith)
‘A Lost Example of Nineteenth-Century North European Brick Tracery in Luton’
(T.P. Smith)

The issues had Editorials, reports on the society’s meetings as ‘Brick for a Day’, book reviews (sometimes quite long reviews), and shorter book and article notices in the ‘Brick in Print’ column.

The Editor thanks all contributors over the past twenty-five years, not only for their contributions but also for their patience and their forbearance.

Work is progressing on the next issue of *British Brick Society Information*, namely *BBS Information*, **131**, September 2015, in which there is still space, the projected contents of which were noted. This will be the last issue to be sent to members in 2015. The editor would particularly like to have contributions from as wide a group of authors as possible.

In 2016, there may be three issues or *British Brick Society Information* or possibly four issues, depending on how much is submitted. Planning for the first two anticipated issues in 2016 is in progress. The deadline for contributions to *BBS Information*, **132**, February 2016, is 25 December 2015. The idea of an article on 'Brick in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire: the last Fifty Years' to coincide with the 400th anniversary of the death of the town's most famous son, the playwright William Shakespeare, has not materialised. There is also an editorial on 'Brick and Anti-Brick in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire' to accompany this projected article.

British Brick Society Information, **130**, May 2015, was devoted to 'Brick in Churches', and an item was held over for use in a further issue devoted to 'Brick in Churches' and one review is suggested. The editor would welcome contributions on 'Brick in Churches' particularly ones written by other than the two gentlemen who wrote all of *BBS Information*, **130**.

Amongst future issues various ideas have been proposed for themed issues:

1. We hope to have an issue devoted to 'Brick and Tile in the Netherlands' in 2016 or 2017, for which we have one item which has been set and one very long proposed item which is complete.
2. An issue to be devoted to 'Brick in Northern England' to be sent to members in late 2016, for which three pieces have been received, on 'Jerry Building in Brick: Engels' Manchester Redivivus', on 'Brick Men and Manufacture in Preston before 1750', and on 'What can we learn from a piece of brick?'. Papers have been proposed on brickmaking in Nottinghamshire; on a Yorkshire brick collection; and on Clarke Hall and Red House, Gomersal, West Yorkshire. For this issue, there is also the suggestion of a reserve paper on 'How Many Bricks are there at Tattershall Castle, Lincolnshire'. Apart from the editor (the author of the reserve suggestion), so far the issue has attracted five different authors.
3. An issue on 'Brick in Churches' in 2017 for which three potential papers are in progress, one of which was held over from *BBS Information*, **130**, May 2015.

4. An issue on 'Brick in Asia' in the early part of 2018. A number of small items were held over from *BBS Information*, **128**, November 2014.

5. Five papers have been received or suggested and some are partially set for one or two issues with articles on fifteenth-century brick buildings particularly on the brick buildings of Sir John Fastolf. (One possibility is that the group could be issued together and sent out in the same envelope; weight will be kept below 250 grams, a total between the two issues of 72 pages, including the covers).

The editor thanks all contributors over the last year not least Terence Paul Smith. The four issues between May 2013 and May 2014, including *British Brick Society Information*, **130**, attracted ten authors, most of whom have not been regular contributors: Mike Chapman, Alan Cox, Richard Harris, Lawrance Hurst, Mike Kingman, Ann Los, Peter Minter, Verity Montagu.

The contributions of all authors are much appreciated. It would be good to have some further new authors.

Adrian Corder-Birch has given David Kennett and Anthony Preston the address of the Office of the Agent for the Legal Deposit Libraries, which is now in Edinburgh.

10. Report from the Visits Coordinator

Three visits have taken place since the last AGM.

Saturday 26 July 2014 Worcester: Guildhall, Edwardian brick and terracotta, railway buildings and structures, eighteenth-century hospital buildings.

Saturday 6 September 2014 Aldershaw Homemade Tiles, near Seddlescombe, Sussex, (arranged by Mike Chapman)

Saturday 11 April 2015 Oxford – Town not Gown: South and West

Visits arranged for later in 2015 are:

Saturday 27 June 2015 Battersea, London

Saturday 25 July 2015 The Fringes of Milton Keynes: Brick Churches and Railway Stations

Saturday 19 September 2015 York Handmade Brick Company, Alne, North Yorkshire (arranged by Mike Chapman)

Ideas for visits in 2016 and 2017 include:

Alvechurch, Worcestershire: brick church with polychrome brick interior, canal buildings.

Derby: silk mill, library and museum, railway buildings of two companies, eighteenth-century houses, market hall.

Macclesfield, Cheshire: the Biancchi building, silk mills in the town, brick church.

Slough and Maidenhead area: Langley Marish church, disused brickworks at Knowl Hill, the Horlicks building in Slough, Slough town hall.

South Oxfordshire: fifteenth-century brick houses in Pyrton and Shirburn, the buildings at Ewelme, market hall in Watlington, Nettlebed kiln, Henley-on-Thames, Wallingford.

At least one of the visits in the next two years will be to part of London.

Potential London visits include Mayfair, buildings on Marylebone Road and Harley Street; a downhill walk from Alexandra Palace to Hornsey Town Hall; Chelsea, particularly the river edge; and Lambeth.

The possibility of visits to Tilbury Forts; and Marlborough, Wiltshire, including Marlborough School, and/or to Harrow School is being explored for 2016 or 2017.

Ideas for visits and volunteers to organise are always welcome.

After two decades of organising and coordinating visits, the present Visits Coordinator 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 Congress 2014 and the forthcoming congress in July 2015. Leeds International Medieval Congress is an annual event.

The society did not have a session at either the 2013 or the 2014 congress, although David Kennett spoke at both, this was on episcopal topics not brick ones.

At the Leeds IMC 2015, the society is sponsoring Session 702, 'Medieval Brick Buildings: Patronage and Construction' on Tuesday 7 July 2015 at 2.15 pm to 3.45 pm when the speakers will be:

David Kennett, 'Shared Assumptions or Conflicts or Interest: Patron and Brickworker in Late Medieval England',

Michael Tutton, 'Robert Darcy and the Patronage of Brick: Moot Hall, Malden, Essex',
and Robert McCleary, 'Saljuk Brick Architecture in the Twelfth- and Thirteenth-Century Anatolia'.

The society mounted an exhibition at the Historical and Antiquarian Societies' Fair held on the Thursday afternoon of the 2014 congress. We have had a stall at each of the last three years, and we now have an exhibition to use at future events. As a result of the exhibition material at the 2013 congress, David Kennett was invited to contribute short papers to the *Ricardian Bulletin* on the fifteenth-century brick buildings, drawings and photographs of which are on the various exhibition sheets. David Kennett has prepared further exhibition material on 'Early Brick in Yorkshire' for the 2015 congress.

David Kennett is going to man this year's display, which is now almost all day on the Thursday. What is needed is good publicity material and a stock of back issues of *British Brick Society Information* to display.

David Kennett is willing to try to organise a session for the Society at the 2016 congress and has placed a flyer to this effect in the May mailing. One advantage of the society's contribution to the Leeds Congress is the possibility of papers for future issues of *British Brick Society Information*. David Kennett is also willing to mount a display at the Historical and Archaeological Societies Fair in 2016, but next year may be the last time he seeks to present a paper at Leeds IMC.

12. Election of Officers

All officers elected in 2014 were willing to stand for a further year, no other nominations were received, and the existing committee were re-elected en bloc.

13. Election of Auditor

Adrian Corder-Birch had confirmed his willingness to serve as Auditor, and was re-elected unanimously.

14. Result of Ballot for 2016 AGM

A ballot paper for the 2016 AGM in a “southern” location had been circulated with the papers for the AGM. The locations proposed were Bursledon, Chichester and Salisbury. Weighted voting (3 for first choice, 2 for second, 1 for third) gave 27 choices for Chichester, 26 for Bursledon and 25 for Salisbury. It was agreed to continue to hold the meeting in mid-May, when a meeting room was available.

David Kennett agreed to produce an article on Chichester for *Information*.

(Since the meeting Anthony Preston has offered to make arrangements for a meeting on May 21st.)

15. Preparation of shortlist for AGM venue in 2017 (in a northern venue)

The meeting selected 3 locations from 10 proposed by the committee. Results were **Port Sunlight 9**, **Southwell 6**, **Newcastle-on-Tyne 5**, Ripon 4, Sheffield 4, Grimsby/Cleethorpes 3, Wigan 3, Barton-on-Humber 2, Manchester 0, Scunthorpe 0 – the 3 locations **in bold type** are to be offered to members for a postal ballot during 2016.

16. Any other business

The Chairman reported a letter from Marion Tattersall seeking a home for her brick collection, which he hoped Bursledon would be able to accept.

He also described the Society’s intention to fund a student on the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum’s autumn course “Repair of traditionally constructed brickwork” led by Gerard Lynch, and arranged to discuss how this could best be done with Richard Harris.

The Secretary invited members to sponsor Chris Blanchett, the Society’s previous Distribution Secretary on a bike ride for the British Heart Foundation, and the Chairman thanked the committee (absent and present) and members for their contributions and effort in the previous year, and the meeting closed at 2.47 p.m.