

Unapproved Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting of the BRITISH BRICK SOCIETY

The meeting was held in the first floor Conference Room. Chichester College. Westgate Fields, Chichester, PO19 1SB at 11 a.m. on Saturday 21 May 2016.

Present:

Mike Chapman	Chairman
Mick Oliver	Secretary
Mike Hammett	Enquiries Secretary
Anthony Preston	Membership Secretary

Brenda Chapman, Bevis Durham, Chris Emery, Ellie Gabbay, Mike and Pat Kingman, Judith and Geoffrey Sheard.

Guests: Denise Durham

1. Chairman's remarks

The Chairman invited Anthony Preston to give a safety briefing, and thanked him for making arrangements with Chichester College to host the meeting, and organising the afternoon tour.

The Chairman reported a successful year for the Society, in particular for David Kennett's work as Editor of *BBS Information* which is circulated to all members, and his personal pleasure in issue 132's coverage of water towers in Luton; and with visits - the most recent tour had been to Stourbridge, and a works visit had been made in the autumn to York Handmade Brick, previously owned by the Armitage family. He stated that the house-building industry had begun to slow down, with the consequence that stocks of brick were increasing and that imports were reducing. Changes to the industry have continued with Ibstock PLC now reformed, and once again associated with US Glengery Brick and with Forterra the new name for Hanson Building Products.. Weinburger UK, the Austrian-owned company was back in full production at all of its sites. Michelmersh Brick Holdings is still British-owned.

He thanked the Society's officers for their work during the year.

2. Apologies for absence

were received from J Beckett, A Corder-Birch, B Fairweather, E Handley, R Harris, D Kennett, A & P Los, N Middleton, J Morrad, G Perry, and J Wells.

In his apology, Richard Harris reported that the website was attracting around 300 hits a day, and that the pages attracting most searches were "Information" and enquiries history.

3. Minutes of 2015 Annual General Meeting

The Secretary reported that his report in minute 7 referred to 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 referring to a “special reduced rate” (figure not specified). The report proposed that this reduction should be defined, at £2 - and discussed at the meeting. The proposal had been discussed after item 8 and was carried, but this decision was not reported in the minutes and has not yet been implemented. The Secretary apologised for these omissions.

With this addition, the meeting accepted the minutes as an accurate record unanimously (proposed Geoffrey Sheard, seconded Mike Kingman).

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

5. Treasurer’s Report

The Chairman explained that he had been in contact with the Treasurer, who had reported his health was improving and that he felt able to continue in post for another year, and that Steve Glasgow had expressed interest in the Treasurer’s position and in cooperating with him during 2016. He warmly praised the Membership Secretary and Auditor for their cooperation during the year, and acknowledged the help he and the Society had received from his PA Susie in his time as Treasurer.

Ellie Gabbay commented that the Society’s subscription represented wonderful value. Chris Emery proposed accepting the financial statement for 2015, Pat Kingman seconded, and the meeting accepted unanimously. The statement is reproduced on page 3.

6. Membership Secretary’s Report

Anthony Preston reported “so far this year the Society gained 9 new members. There was, for unknown reasons, a surge of 7 members in January with 2 in February, so, based on the same period last year we are ahead by two members. Thus membership continues to remain stable and has every chance of a slight increase over last year.

The total membership this year, at the current time, remains the same as last year, 242. Again we have lost some 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.

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 15 members who have not paid their annual subscription (£180). Last year it was 14. In the first instance if there is an email address I contact them with a reminder via this method to see if this works. There is a problem when some emails (4 so far) do not work or do not exist. So like those without email addresses I will follow up by letter.

I have suggested in the emails, and will repeat in the letters that future issues of the journal will not be sent until payment is received and should members wish to obtain the missing issues then these will be forwarded provide sufficient postage is received to cover costs.”

BRITISH BRICK SOCIETY
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2015

<u>2014</u> £	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2015</u> £
520.70	Postage and miscellaneous expenses of Officers	568.72
2,412.37	Information, Notices, etc incl. Postage	2,244.56
100.00	AGM Costs	132.00
64.00	Miscellaneous	
3,097.07	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,945.28
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	<u>INCOME</u>	
2,566.00	Subscriptions	2,560.50
5.57	Bank interest	11.25
2,571.57	TOTAL INCOME	2,571.75
3,097.07	DEDUCT TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,945.28
-525.50	SURPLUS	-373.53
5,789.34	SUPLUS FROM EARLIER YEARS	5,263.84
5,263.84	TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	4,890.31
243.14	Current account balance 31.12.2015	358.36
5,020.70	Deposit account balance 31.12.2015	4,531.95
0.00	Unpresented cheques	0.00
5,263.84		4,890.31

Joanne King (Hon Treasurer)
09.04.2016

21.05.2016

Adrian Cordes - Bink
(Hon. Auditor)
09.04.2016

21.05.2016

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS (GJP)

- 1 Subscription income much as last year
- 2 Expenditure is down despite increases in postage, etc
- 3 The costs of producing information are down

DM
21st May 16.

The Chairman explained that the Society were considering granting a bursary to a self-employed bricklayer who wished to extend his skills into conservation work, in particular for the course Gerard Lynch ran at the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum. The Society were able to give a grant of £500 but would not be able to do so every year. He explained that giving publicity to this bursary could attract new members to the Society, and the Secretary pointed out that a previous holder of the bursary had contributed an article to *BBS Information*.

Concern was expressed whether a list of members should be available to other members. It was agreed that the Chairman, Secretary and Enquiries Secretary should hold a list of members and their interests, and that David Kennett should give an explanation for this situation in *BBS Information*.

Mike Kingman gave details of a list of internet sites for local historians he had found useful, and undertook to alert the group to the Society's website.

7. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported "the committee has met during the year during visits, and once separately at a central venue in the Midlands. I am often 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.

My postbox this year has included information from the European Federation of Associations of Industrial and Technical Heritage, which has an event in Antwerp on June 17-19, the Landmark Trust, which gave short notice of an open day at Queen Anne's Summerhouse, a survey on associations by Exeter University, and most recently an enquiry from an artist in textiles who has used brickwork in Reading as a theme for her work."

8. Enquiries Secretary's Report

Mike Hammnett reported "we have received 60 enquiries since our 2015 AGM, less than the previous two years but still above our average of 50 per year since 2002 when I started keeping a tally - we have just had our 700th since then. We have not had any media mention of the Society this year to boost awareness of our presence, but our website obviously attracts attention. The majority of enquirers indicate that it is their source of their contact.

Enquiries followed a similar pattern to former years: approximately 33% were about history, about 33% sought identification of brickmarks or the names of companies, about 20% were sundry, fringe or unclassifiable and about 11% were on technical matters (not our remit, but referral to industry sources is often possible).

We only had three enquiries from overseas this year: one from a US museum, one from Japan and one actually from "at sea" - from a research ship that dredged up some unusual bricks from the North Sea each marked "BOCM", "1¼ lb" and "1915". We have not been able to dredge up anything about them or their purpose.

Some responses have been referred to particular BBS members for assistance and I am most grateful for their help and support. In particular David Cuffley, a structural engineer, who responded to the enquiry from a Japanese TV company preparing a shoot in the UK for a documentary about a 19th century industrial pump house built to a British design in Japan. David was able to give excellent information and arrange shooting in a similar building in Chatham dockyard - sadly we won't have an opportunity to see the results on screen as the documentary was for the Japanese home market.

David Cuffley is also a genealogist with a special interest in family history records relating to brick making. Our website invites enquirers to contact David directly and my tally does not include those.

I am still hopeful of something for an "Enquiries News" page on the Website that has mentioned in years past, but no suitable material has cropped up. However, the idea will not be forgotten."

9. Report from Editor of British Brick Society Information

The Chairman expressed the Society's thanks for David Kennett's work in his 3 roles. In his absence three Officers read his reports in items 9, 10 and 11:

"Since the last AGM, three issues of *BBS Information* have appeared:

<i>BBS Information</i> , 131, September 2015	44 pages
<i>BBS Information</i> , 132, February 2016	44 pages
<i>BBS Information</i> , 133, May 2016	40 pages

Notable articles have included:

- In 131 'An Unusual Collection of Leicestershire Brickmaking Accounts' (Mike Kingman)
'John Knowles & Company, Wooden Box, Leicestershire' (Alan Cox)
'Bedford Greys' (Alan Cox)
- In 132 'The Moot Hall or D'Arcy Tower, Maldon, Essex' (Michael Tutton)
'Water Solutions: The Drought of 1898 and Luton's Brick Water Towers' (T.P. Smith)
- In 133 'Roman Roofing *Tegulae*; an alternative use' (T.P. Smith)
'Brick Building in Kent: The Evidence from Old St Albans Court, Nonington'
(Gareth Daws and Peter Hobbs)
'Washington Square: New York City' (D.H. Kennett)
'What Can We Learn from Bits of Bradford Brick?' (Derek Barker)

Each issue has included an 'Editorial', book reviews, the 'Brick in Print' pages, and reports on the society's meetings. There has been the occasional 'Brick Query' pages, as space has permitted.

The editor thanks all contributors for providing articles, papers and notes and for their prompt return of proofs. Those submitting electronically have much reduced the burden of typing. Each of these makes the editor's tasks easier. Including the editor, there were eleven contributors to the three issues. It has been a pleasure to edit other people's work. The editor thanks Derek Barker, Mike Chapman, Alan Cox, Gareth Daws, Peter Hobbs, Mike Kingman, Michael Tutton, and, particularly, Terence Paul Smith for their longer contributions. He also thanks Richard Harris and Peter Minter for their responses to a query from Angus Neil.

Work is progressing on the next issue of *British Brick Society Information*, namely *BBS Information*, 134, September 2016, in which there is still some space; the projected major contents are two articles

on aspects of the bricks and brickwork of Caister Castle, Norfolk. This will probably be the last issue to be sent to members in 2016. As time would be short between a notified final submission date of 31 July 2016 articles for a 'Brick in Northern England' issue to be *BBS Information*, 134, to come out in early September 2016; this is now to be compiled in the latter part of this year with the idea of giving it to the printer around Christmas 2016 to be issued to members in January 2017 as *BBS Information*, 135; the projected contents remain as given in last year's minutes. The editor is working on both these issues.

In 2017, there will probably be three issues of *British Brick Society Information* but this depends on articles being submitted. Planning is in progress for the first two anticipated issues in 2017: *BBS Information*, 135, January 2017, as noted, and *BBS Information*, 136, April 2017, for which two papers have been received.

Potential themed issues in late 2017 and beyond were noted with the progress in soliciting contributions. These ideas range from a further 'Brick in Asia' issue for which five items by three different persons have been suggested, of which four contributions have been received: they cover the ancient Near East (a review article), Roman Turkey (a one-page note), medieval Vietnam, medieval and later Central Asia, and modern India. These five articles are the work of three different contributors, two of whom are new to our pages. For another 'Brick in Churches' issue, four papers have been suggested, although only one is definitely ready for publication and two others require further documentary research whilst the fourth paper may or may not still be in existence. This potential issue has the disadvantage of being written by only two people. There is a further suggestion of soliciting potential papers for an issue to be devoted to 'Brick in South-West England'.

In the longer term, there are a series of articles in preparation entitled 'At Leisure and at Play: New Brick Buildings in Oxford 1920-1940': 'Part One: Passive Interaction' is nearing completion and will probably appear in one of the issues of *BBS Information* in 2018; 'Part Two: Active Participation' is in progress and some work has been done on 'Part Three: the Brickwork of the Public House'. The idea is to bring these out one each year over the three years 2018 to 2020. The other potential long paper is a study of 'Brick in the Netherlands in the Twentieth Century' which Terence Smith wrote some years ago.

Whilst there seems to be no shortage of potential contributions to be available over the next three to four years, it should be pointed out that two of the principal authors who write for *British Brick Society Information* are both in their eighth decade."

10 Report from Visits Coordinator

"Since the 2015 AGM at the Black Country Living History Museum, Dudley, West Midlands, on 30 May 2015, four visits have been held:

Saturday 27 June 2015, to Battersea

Saturday 25 July 2015, to Brick Churches in north-east Buckinghamshire

Saturday 19 September 2015, to the York Handmade Brick Company, Alne, North Yorkshire and Beningborough Hall, North Yorkshire

Saturday 16 April 2016, to Stourbridge, West Midlands.

Between five and seventeen people attended individual events.

Reports of these have or will be included in *British Brick Society Information*.

'Buildings Notes' issued for the day have been placed on the society's website.

Visits planned for later in 2016 are:

Saturday 21 June 2016, to Chelsea, starting from Sloane Square

Saturday 16 July 2016, to Derby, starting from the railway station

Saturday 1 October 2016, to the Weinerberger's Kingsbury works, Staffordshire

Thanks are due to Mike Chapman for organising the brickworks visits in 2015 and 2016.

Ideas for visits in 2017 and later years include

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

Macclesfield, Cheshire: the Bianchi 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.

Worcester: a tour of industrial brick buildings starting at Shrub Hill Station, itself a brick building.

Oxford: Brick for Bluestockings – the women's colleges: Somerville, Lady Margaret Hall, St Hugh's, St Hilda's and (not brick) St Anne's.

Dudley, the town: two eighteenth-century brick churches; cinemas; 1930s town hall.

Ideas for London visits include:

Bedford Park and Chiswick (with time at the end to visit Chiswick House)

Blackheath, Charlton, and Greenwich Park

Lambeth and Brixton."

11. Report on Congresses

"The British Brick Society sponsored Session 702 on Tuesday 7 July 2015 at the Leeds International Medieval Congress.

Speakers were

David Kennett, 'Shared Assumptions or Conflicts of Interest: Patron and Brickworker in late Medieval and early Tudor England'

Michael Tutton, 'Robert D'Arcy 1391-1449 and Patronage of Brick: Moot Hall, Maldon, Essex'

Unfortunately, Richard Piran McClary, who was due to speak on 'Saljuk Brick Architecture in Twelfth- and Thirteenth-Century Anatolia' had to pull out.

Michael Tutton's paper has been published in *BBS Information*, 132, February 2016; David Kennett's paper is being written up for a future issue of *BBS Information*.

There was only a small group of participants but the session produced lively discussion and brought a new member to the society.

The British Brick Society participated in 'The Historical and Archaeological Societies Fair' element in 'Making Leeds Medieval' on Thursday 9 July 2016 and attracted favourable responses.

Only one member volunteered to give a paper at Leeds IMC 2016; a paper on 'Bedfordshire, 1279, 1297, 1309 and 1332: The Great European Famine, Population Dynamics, and Church Expansion', which is to be given in Session 519, at 09.00-10.30 on Tuesday 5 July 2016.

The British Brick Society is again participating in the 'Historical and Archaeological Societies Fair' in 'Making Leeds Medieval' on Thursday 7 July 2016.

A call for papers for Leeds IMC 2017 was issued in May 2016. There is a potential seed paper: 'The Afterlife of Medieval Brick Buildings' looking at the late C17 and C18 history of some of the brick buildings erected between 1400 and 1550. Work is in hand for a potential paper for a BBS session at Leeds IMC 2018 entitled 'Building Cycles and the Larger Brick House 1410-1570'."

12. Election of Officers

The meeting noted Graeme Perry's intention to involve Steve Glasgow in the Treasurer's work. All officers elected in 2015 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 he was willing to serve again, and was re-elected unanimously. The meeting expressed its thanks for all his work and asked the Secretary to write accordingly.

14. Result of Ballot for 2017 AGM

A ballot paper for the 2017 AGM in a "northern" location had been circulated with the papers for the AGM. The locations proposed were Newcastle-on-Tyne, Port Sunlight and Southwell. 5 voting papers were received, with one only giving a first preference. Weighted voting (3 for first choice, 2 for second, 1 for third) gave 14 choices for Port Sunlight, 7 for Southwell and 6 for Newcastle-on-Tyne. It was agreed to hold the meeting in mid-May when a meeting room was available.

15. Decision on AGM venue in 2018 (in a southern venue)

In view of the small response received in the ballot the meeting agreed to select 3 locations from 11 proposed by the committee, then to make the decision from this shortlist. The shortlist created, and the results of alternative voting was Layer Marney 2, Marlborough 4 and **St. Albans 7**

16. Any other business

Ellie Gabbay introduced a discussion on a repeat application for demolition of a heritage building in the East Riding, which English Heritage had declined to list, on the imbalance of power between local authorities' planning depts. and developers, and that architecture and building were not subjects listed on the BBC's website. The Royal Town Planning Institute was considered as a useful resource for such disputes.

The Chairman reported the death of Maurice Page of Colliers Brickworks of Marks Tcy, stated that Peter Minter had provided an obituary for *BBS Information*, gave details of the funeral, and undertook to write to the family.

The meeting closed at 1.10 p.m. and members reconvened later for a tour of brick sites in Chichester led by Anthony Preston.

MSO 17.6.16.