

Unapproved Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting of the BRITISH BRICK SOCIETY

The meeting was held in the Woodshed, Ripon Workhouse Museum, Sharow View, Allhallowgate, Ripon, N Yorks, HG4 1LE on Saturday May 18th 2019

Present:

Mike Chapman	Chairman
Mick Oliver	Secretary
Graeme Perry	Treasurer

Derek Barker, Sallie Bassham, Brenda Chapman, Pat Chapman, Bevis and Denise Durham, Alan Hulme. Mike and Pam Kingman, Ann Los, and Jacqueline Ryder, and one guest.

0. Welcome from host

Richard Taylor, Chairman of Ripon Workhouse Museum and Vice-Chair of the Ripon Civic Society, welcomed the Society to the Museum and promised to lead a tour of brick sites in Ripon later, with Mick Stanley.

1. Chairman's remarks

The Chairman, wearing his badge of office welcomed members to the 46th meeting. He thanked Jacqueline Ryder for her part in making arrangements for the meeting and town tour, and Alan Hulme for publicising the Society and its work in relevant pages on Facebook.

He reviewed progress in the year. "In the past 12 months the fortunes of the UK Construction Industry have been greatly influenced by the continued surge of private sector new house builds. The Brick Industry has been running at pretty much full capacity and despite the present economic uncertainty has pushed forward with further increases in production capacity. Ibstock Brick's new Eclipse Soft Mud factory is now fully operational adding 100 million brick into the market. The company has also sold its American Glen-Gery business, so is now solely focussed on the UK. Forterra has also announced plans for a new wire cut brick factory for its Desford, Leicestershire site, again adding 100 million bricks capacity. The total investment for both these new factories is around £200 million."

He cautioned that the industry being at full capacity had stimulated imports, some which could be from sources of doubtful quality and durability.

"In other sector developments, Michelmersh Brick Holdings, the UK's largest independent manufacturer has recently acquired Floren a Belgian brickmaking business making wire cut bricks for the Belgian and UK markets.

During the year, Society has completed task of reviewing membership details, and although made progress in getting the full £12 subscription rate from members, there remain some discrepancies, which are being actively followed up.

The Society has arranged a number of visits during the year, of which the one to HG Matthews works in September, enjoyed a record attendance and the committee would appreciate suggestions for visits and offers of help. The coming visit to Forterra's King's Dyke works is fully subscribed"

The Chairman reported with sadness the deaths of Owen Ward and Lawrence Hurst, and offered his grateful thanks to all the Society officers for their hard work throughout the year.

2. Apologies for absence were received from J Beckett, A Corder-Birch, C Emery, M Hammett, D Kennett, J Morrad, A Preston and K Redmore.

3. Minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting

The meeting accepted the minutes as an accurate record (proposed Alan Hulme, seconded Pat Chapman) unanimously.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

Any matters arising were covered by items on the agenda.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the 2018 Financial Statement was distributed with *BBS Information 141* and continued

"Expenditure on producing and distributing *BBS Information* has increased only slightly, edition upon edition, despite yet another increase in postal costs and again we are grateful to David Kennett for his continuing good works in this respect.

Postage and miscellaneous expenses again are much the same as for 2017. Your Committee endeavours to keep expenses to a minimum but in 2018 a lot was spent on postage trying to retrieve underpaid subscriptions, a matter upon which others have commented/will comment at this meeting. Subscriptions are up on 2017 due primarily to your Chairman's efforts to bring the underpayers into line.

Santander have re-classified accounts and now considers the BBS as a business. As a result we now get charged for issuing cheques, and I avoid this if possible. I will monitor the situation but know of another example of this - clearly a change in banking policy.

Finally, may I take this opportunity of thanking Adrian Corder-Birch and my fellow Committee Members for their ongoing help and co-operation.

The financial statement was approved – proposed by Alan Hulme, seconded by Pat Chapman and carried unanimously. The statement is reproduced as page 3 of these minutes.

**BRITISH BRICK SOCIETY
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2018**

<u>2017</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2018</u>
£		£
318.73	Postage and miscellaneous expenses of Officers	322.58
2,111.12	Information, Notices, etc incl. Postage	1,840.59
90.00	AGM Costs	165.00
25.00	Miscellaneous inc visits	0.00
2,544.85	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,328.17
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	<u>INCOME</u>	
2,477.00	Subscriptions	2,652.00
20.07	Bank interest	13.22
0.00	Other income	0.00
2,497.07	TOTAL INCOME	2,665.22
2,544.85	DEDUCT TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,328.17
-47.78	SURPLUS/LOSS	337.05
4,914.72	SURPLUS FROM EARLIER YEARS	4,866.94
4,866.94	TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	5,203.99
292.26	Current account balance 31.12.2018	616.09
4,574.68	Deposit account balance 31.12.2018	4,587.90
0.00	Unpresented cheques	0.00
4,866.94		5,203.99

[Signature]
Hon Treasurer
25th January 2019

[Signature]
Hon. Auditor
29th January 2019

[Signature]
18-5-19

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS (G/P)

- 1 Surplus for the year some from subscription recovery
- 2 Subscription income much as last year but some members are still paying at the old rate depriving us of valuable income
- 3 Expenditure is down primarily due to one less copy of *Information* paid for in the calendar year but postage increase
- 4 The costs of producing *Information* are much the same as last year

6. Membership Secretary's Report

The officers who were present shared reading the reports from officers who were absent.

“Since last March 2018 we have attracted 6 new members. We hope that more individuals should be joining us in the coming months based on past experience. The total membership this year currently stands at 224, slightly down from the previous year's total. The Committee have, however, spent a considerable period attempting to persuade non-paying members and those still paying the old subscription to join the paid-up members to return to the correct membership subscription method. We have therefore unfortunately had to withdraw those who did not respond to our request.

In 2018 we had a drive to convert members to pay by banker's order and have largely been successful, and I thank those members, but we still have members who pay by cheque and sometimes fail to do so.

We need to remind these members that the Society needs these payments, as publication and postage for *Information* is a major portion of our expenditure. Paying by Bankers Order reduces the cost of reminders being sent to members who forget to forward the subscription. With the annual rising cost of postage, we cannot continue mailings to those who do not pay the small £12.00 subscription.

New regulations relating Data Protection came into force in May this year and we have been asking members to complete the appropriate BBS Membership Data Protection permission form. This gives the Society permission to hold your information and to maintain communication with you and allow us to forward our journal *BBS Information*. The appropriate form was sent out with *BBS Information 139*”

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 details of courses, and an invitation to a Landmark Trust open day at Queen Anne's Summerhouse this weekend, easily accessible to anyone travelling south on the A1. The greatest fun was a request to remove a member from our membership list, who turned out to be unknown to us, but was a subscriber to *Brickbats*, a cartoon journal by John Stuart Clark.

8. Enquiries Secretary's Report

“We have received 50 enquiries since our AGM last year, which approximately corresponds to our average rate of expectation since 2002 - about one a week, all by email, but not evenly spaced and by no means consistently demanding.

Approximately 50% were about some aspect of history - brick building, brick making and brick manufacturers; 40% were about brick identification and origin; and 10% asked for technical guidance or references to authoritative sources of such information.

Six enquiries have come from overseas. From Germany and California two sought details of how to build replica Tudor brick chimneys; from the Black Sea coast of Turkey one asked for identification of a brick marked with a fish; two from Finland and Spain asked for information about English refractory bricks found in domestic stoves and ovens; and a US student preparing a Master's Degree thesis sought information and references concerning the rebuilding of Port Royal, Jamaica, after its destruction by an earthquake in 1692.

David Kennett provided a lot of material for that US university student, which reminds me to acknowledge the help I get from him and other members of the Society with special interests and knowledge that help me with a response to some enquiries. As always I am very grateful for their assistance.

I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to any members who may not have stated their special interests in bricks when they joined BBS. I would appreciate a note of interests and also of membership of any Local History Society. A brief note will be sufficient, either sent by post to my address inside the cover of *BBS Information* or as an Email to mike@mh1936.plus.com. I promise that I will not pass contact details to any enquirer, nor will I forward any enquiry presuming that you will deal with it.

9. Report from the Editor of *BBS Information*

Since the last AGM, two issues of *BBS Information* have appeared:
BBS Information, **140**, November 2018 52 pages

‘Brick and Commemoration of the Great War’ issue

BBS Information, **141**, April 2019 48 pages

Two issues were sent to members in the early part of 2018, therefore between May 2018 and May 2019 only two issues have appeared.

Notable articles have included:

In **140** ‘Ypres, the Somme, and the Sea: National Memorials of the Great War’, (D. Kennett)

‘The Great War Remembered in Brick and Terracotta: Buildings and Memorials’,
(D.H. Kennett)

‘Sir Nicholas Crispe (1598-1666) – “the inventor of the art of making bricks as now practised”’, (Alan Cox)

‘A Nightmare on George Street: Watson Fothergill’s Office, Nottingham’,
(J.A. Sheard)

‘Three Bricks from Claybury Hospital, Woodford Bridge, Ilford, Essex’,
(Jeremiah O’Mahony, Michael Chapman, D.H. Kennett)

‘Loughton Station, Essex: Unusual Bricks. Unique Design’, (T.P. Smith)

In **141** ‘Winter Bricklaying in Early Tudor London: Working for the Bridge Wardens
1537-1538 (T.P. Smith)

‘Brick and its Uses by the Church of England: The Archdeaconry of Cleveland
1541-1836’ (D.H. Kennett)

‘Brick Making in Gedling Borough, Nottingham’ (Mike Chapman)

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’ item, where 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 people’s work. The editor thanks Mike Chapman, Alan Cox, Michael Hammett, Jacqueline Ryder and, particularly over many years, Terence Paul Smith for their contributions.

Work is progressing on the next issue of *British Brick Society Information*, namely *BBS Information*, 142, July 2017, a ‘Brick in London’ issue, in which there is still potentially some space. Preliminary work is on-going on *BBS Information*, 143, November 2019 and some work is in hand on *BBS Information*, 144, April 2020, ‘Brick in South-West England’ issue, postponed to 2020 on account of the impending Annual General Meeting in Bridport, Dorset.

Themed issues beyond early 2020 include a ‘Brick in Asia’ issue and a ‘Brick in Churches’ issue. Articles have been suggested for both of these. One paper which the editor is keen to be published fairly soon is an extended study of ‘Brick in the Netherlands in the Twentieth Century’ which Terence Smith wrote some years ago and has not so far been published. Michael Chapman has proposed potential articles on Brickmaking and Brickyards in Nottinghamshire. Other potential contributions in future years are mostly by David Kennett, particular on brick buildings for leisure activities in Oxford. Whilst there is no shortage of potential contributions over the next three to four years, it should be pointed out that two of the principal authors who write for *Information* are now both well into their eighth decade.

In discussion Bevis Durham complimented David Kennett on his work with *BBS Information*, which he described as a top-notch publication.

10. Resolution to reclassify grades of membership

The Secretary explained that the Society offered life members of the Brick Section of the British Archaeological Association a concessionary membership fee of £7, and that the Association had discontinued offering life memberships in 2016. He introduced David Kennett’s analysis of the expenditure and loss to the Society of this concession. This showed that annual mailings of *BBS Information* to UK members cost £9.60 or £12.80 (for 3 or 4 mailings).

The meeting voted on the corrected resolution:

That from 1 January 2020 the British Brick Society will have only one class of Membership and ceases to offer concessionary subscriptions to members of the British Archaeological Association, both Ordinary members and Life members.

Acceptance of the resolution was proposed by Alan Hulme, seconded by Mike Kingman, and approved unanimously.

11. Report from Visits Coordinator

Since the 2018 AGM in St Albans, two visits have been held:

Saturday 14 July 2018, to Stafford, starting from the railway station

Tuesday 18 September 2018, to the H.G. Matthews Brickworks, Chesham, Buckinghamshire

Between five and twenty-two people attended individual events. Reports of these have been or will be included in *BBS Information*.

Visits for later in 2019 are:

Friday 17 May 2019, York Handmade Brick Company, Alne, North Yorkshire

Saturday 1 June 2019, Forterra's King's Dyke Works, near Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire

Saturday 22 June 2019, Alvechurch, Worcs. *rearranged to September since the meeting.*

Reports of these will be included in a future issue of *British Brick Society Information*. Where appropriate, the 'Buildings Notes' issued for the day have been placed on the society's website.

Thanks are due to Mike Chapman for organising the brickworks visits in 2018 and 2019.

Ideas for visits in 2018 and later years were noted. However, as the transport complications on Saturdays remain for the visits coordinator and look likely to continue, an appeal will be issued in the next mailing for a member to organise and lead a London visit in 2018 or 2019.

12. Report on Congresses

The British Brick Society did not sponsor a session at the Leeds International Medieval Congress in either 2018 or 2019. David Kennett is scheduled to speak on 'Paying for Posterity: Individual Wealth, Building Materials, and their sources', in Session 114 on Tuesday 2 July; he spoke on 'The Afterlife of Medieval Brick Buildings' looking at the late-seventeenth- and eighteenth-century history of some of the brick buildings erected between 1400 and 1550.

The British Brick Society was not able to participate in 'The Historical and Archaeological Societies Fair' element in 'Making Leeds Medieval' on Thursday 5 July 2018 and is not scheduled to participate in this year's event.

A call for papers for Leeds IMC 2020 will be included in the July 2019 mailing. There is a potential seed paper Work is in hand for a potential paper for a BBS session at Leeds IMC 2020 entitled 'The Kuznets Cycle; How Far does it Apply to Larger Brick House 1410-1570?'

An explanation was given at the meeting that the Kuznets cycle relates the age of marriage and reproduction to the demands for housing.

David Kennett gave a paper on 'The Cry of the Brickyard Children is Unheard from the Indus to Beyond the Yangtze', to a small conference organised by Royal Holloway, University of London, arising from their work on slavery in brickyards in Cambodia.

13. Election of Officers

All officers elected in 2018 were willing to stand again, no other nominations were received, and were re-elected en bloc. Proposed by Alan Hulme, seconded by Bevis Durham, carried unanimously.

14. Election of Auditor

Adrian Corder-Birch had confirmed he was willing to serve again, and was re-elected unanimously. Proposed Mick Oliver, seconded by Ann Los. The Chairman expressed his thanks for all his work.

15. Decision on AGM venue in 2021 (in a northern venue)

A list of 9 venues had been circulated with the meeting papers. Members and any apologies had been asked to select 3 venues. It was agreed to hold the meeting at Lincoln -votes recorded were **Lincoln 10**, Burslem 9, Grimsby 8, Wigan 8, Sheffield 6, Manchester 5, Newcastle-on-Tyne 5, Southwell 3, Loughborough 1.

Provided a suitable venue is available, it was agreed to hold the 2020 Bridport meeting on May 16th.

16. Any Other Business

The Secretary brought a brick discovered on Stanmore Country Park – identified as a hand-made brick by the Dorking Brick Company. Alan Hulme warned against duplicated initials.

Alan then alerted the meeting to the Penmorfa website, run by David Kitching, which has illustrations and history of brick. He referred to 3 Facebook sites related to brick, “Brick of the Day”, “Bricks and brickworks post”, “British clay tile and brick”, and to David Kitching’s work on Terracotta Architecture, and encouraged the Society to make use of these sites and to work with them. Alan agreed to put the Chairman and David Kennett into contact with David Kitching, to explore the possibility of a Facebook page for the Society.

Ann Los indicated that Bursledon Museum held an archive of the early copies of *Information* but questioned how Bursledon handle current copies and who receives them there. The Secretary agreed to contact Bursledon to clarify matters.

The Treasurer stated that the Society had £4,500 on deposit which could be used to benefit the Society. The Chairman pointed out that in the past the Society had funded heritage and conservation courses run by Gerard Lynch (the Red Mason) at the Weald & Downland Museum, and that he had been trying to reinstate this contact and to offer bursary funding – the aim being to enable a self-employed craftsman to develop his skills in this field. He was now in contact with Lucy Hockley at the Museum, who intended to include an article on the Society and its award in their brochure in August.

The Chairman stated that the Brick Development Association had continued its membership. They were looking to offer an award to the most skilled craftsman for the next Annual Brick Awards, with the suggestion that the £500 offered by BDA to the Society be used for this. The Chairman undertook to continue this dialogue with BDA and would put a proposal to the BBS Committee once further information was available. Mike Kingman suggested that *BBS Information* would benefit by being in colour (the original photographs used in *BBS Information* are often in colour). It was agreed that David Kennett should seek costings, and that the committee would discuss.

The meeting closed at 12.40 p.m. Richard Taylor and Mick Stanley joined the group, which reconvened at 2 p.m. for a tour of brick sites in Ripon.