

BRITISH BRICK SOCIETY
EXTENDED REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,
Saturday 19 June 2021 by ZOOM

Item 9 Report from the Editor of *British Brick Society Information*

Since the last AGM in Ripon in 2019, six issues of *BBS Information* have been published:

<i>BBS Information</i> , 142, August 2019,	52 pages
<i>BBS Information</i> , 143, November 2019,	48 pages
<i>BBS Information</i> , 144, January 2020,	56 pages
<i>BBS Information</i> , 145, May 2020,	52 pages
<i>BBS Information</i> , 146, October 2020,	56 pages
<i>BBS Information</i> , 147, March 2021,	52 pages

Notable articles in issues of *BBS Information* in the last six issues have included:

- in *BBS Information*, 142,
 - ‘A Further (and Dated) Example of a Joseph Hamblet Brick Stamp’, (T.P. Smith)
 - ‘Queen Victoria Jubilee Plaques from London and South-East England’, (David Thomas)
 - ‘The Special Bricks at Loughton Station, Essex’, (T.P. Smith)
 - ‘Review Article: Capital Assets?’ (T.P. Smith)
 - ‘Tate & Style: The Switch House Extension, Tate Modern, London SE1’, (T.P. Smith)
- in *BBS Information*, 143,
 - ‘Brick Staircases: the Rye House Group and Beyond’, (Michael Tutton)
 - ‘Joseph Hamblet, Piercy Works, West Bromwich’, (Alan Cox)
 - ‘Review Article: “Your Very Own Community Theatre — A Vibrant Century”: Buildings for Community Use in the United States, Wales and England’, (David Kennett)
- in *BBS Information*, 144,
 - ‘How to Research Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Brickmakers’, (David Cuffley)
 - ‘Review Article: Local Solutions to a National Problem — the *Deserving Poor*’ (D. Kennett)
 - ‘Brickmaking in the Black Country — Collaborative Studentship between the Black Country Living Museum and the University of Birmingham’, (Elizabeth Thomson)
- in *BBS Information*, 145,
 - ‘The Mutford, Suffolk, Brick Inscription’, (T.P. Smith)
 - ‘Clay Building Products in Ripon’, (Mike Chapman)
 - ‘The Chandler’s Ford Brick Industry 1860-1915’ (Jim Beckett)
 - ‘Baileys Hard “Beehive” Brick Kiln, Beaulieu Estate, new Forest’ (Frank J. Green)
 - ‘Hidden in Plain Sight: The Discovery of a Brick Kiln at Bridgwater, Somerset’ (Brian Murless)
- in *BBS Information*, 146,
 - ‘A Brickmaker’s Epitaph from Devon’, (Alun Martin)
 - ‘Book Review: An Introduction to the Study of Brick’, (Peter Hounsell)
 - ‘Book Review: Brick: A Social History — A Brickmaker’s View’, (Mike Chapman)
 - ‘Review Article: Brick and Social History’, (David Kennett)
 - ‘Spanish practices: Dustbin Rubbish and the London Stock Brick’, (Peter Hounsell)
 - ‘Book Review: Twentieth-Century Meeting Places for the Christian God’, (David Kennett)
- in *BBS Information*, 147,
 - ‘Bricks in the Wall at Settle, North Yorkshire: A Potential Source and its History’, (Derek Barker)
 - ‘How Many Bricks are there at Tattershall Castle?’, (David Kennett)

‘London Stock Bricks: From Great Fire to Great Exhibition’, (Ian Smalley)
‘Eighteenth-Century Accounts of Firing Bricks and Making Lime in the Same Kiln’,
(Brian Murless)

Reports on Meetings have appeared as follows:

‘Brick for a Day: H.G. Matthews Brickworks, Chesham, Buckinghamshire’ (M. Chapman),
BBS Information, **142**, August 2019, pages 39-46

‘Brick for a Day: York Handmade Brick Company, Alne, North Yorkshire’ (M. Chapman),
BBS Information, **144**, January 2020, pages 25-29

‘Brick for a Day: Forterra’s King’s Dyke Work, Whittlesea, Cambridgeshire’ (M. Chapman),
BBS Information, **144**, January 2020, pages 30-39

Brick Queries have been posed on subjects as diverse as Phorpres Hollow Bricks, paving bricks in the USA and Great Britain (both with response in same issue), the bricks on a wall at Settle, North Yorkshire (with response in a later issue), all initially in *BBS Information*, **144**; on case as a synonym for kiln, and the bricks at Tower Bridge, London, both in *BBS Information*, **147** (the latter with a response in the same issue).

Each issue has included an Editorial and many have included book reviews (in addition to those instanced), the ‘Brick in Print’ notice of periodical articles.

The Editor thanks all contributors for providing articles, papers, notes, book reviews, reports on meetings and especially those submitting electronically as this has considerably reduced the burden of typing which makes the Editor’s task much easier. Including the Editor, in the past two years, twenty-two persons have contributed articles, notes, brick queries and the responses, and book reviews to issues of *British Brick Society Information*. It has been a pleasure to edit and prepare their work for publication. The Editor thanks Derek Barker, Jim Beckett, John Bowner, Michael Chapman, Alan Cox, David Cuffley, Martyn Fretwell, Frank J. Green, Michael Hammett, Peter Hounsell, Michael Kingman, Alun Martin, Brian Murless, Michael Oliver, Sam Pervis, Ian Smalley, Terence Paul Smith, Iain Stanford, David Thomas, Elizabeth Thomson, Michael Tutton.

The great innovation in the last two years has been the adoption of colour reproduction for the illustrations, where sufficient of these have been submitted. Three issues have had colour illustrations:

BBS Information, **142**, 29 illustrations in colour; 20 in black-and-white

BBS Information, **144**, 48 illustrations in colour; 2 in black-and-white

BBS Information, **145**, 20 illustrations in colour; 16 in black-and-white

Using colour printing, where sufficient colour illustrations have been submitted, has generally been regarded as a great improvement in the appearance of *British Brick Society Information*.

Whilst not having colour illustrations accompanying the articles, both *BBS Information*, **146**, and *BBS Information*, **147**, have had a colour illustration on the cover, as was the case with the two preceding issues. The illustrations submitted for the articles in *BBS Information*, **147**, were all in black-and-white.

Providing a colour illustration on the cover and colour illustrations within the body of the text, obviously costs the society more money. Prices for printing the journal (as per the last issue in each format) are as follows:

With black-and-white cover and illustrations	£350-00
With colour cover and black-and-white illustrations	£450-00
With colour cover and colour illustrations	£700-00

As will be obvious from the figures, colour printing for both cover and text costs double what black-and-white does for both cover and text. These figures are without consideration of editorial expenses and postage costs in distributing the issue; the former being in the order of £55-00 to £65-00 (one bottle of black ink; one bottle of colour ink; one ream of paper; postage of proofs), while the latter is approximately £300-00 per issue (envelopes, postages). Envelopes are bought in bulk.

With black-and-white cover and illustrations	£700-00
With colour cover and black-and-white illustrations	£900-00
With colour cover and colour illustrations	£1,050-00

Due to adopting colour printing for two issues of *BBS Information* in 2020, with consequent cost implications, and the Covid restrictions meant that no Annual General Meeting could be held in 2020. Thus, the membership was not able to have a discussion of any proposed increase in the subscription. In December 2020, when reviewing the probable finances of the society in 2021 it rapidly became abundantly clear that the likely subscription income of the British Brick Society would not permit the issuing of three issues of *British Brick Society Information* in 2021.

The decision was therefore taken to conserve the society's depleted reserves and to have only two issues of *BBS Information* in 2021.

Work is progressing on *BBS Information*, **148**, September 2021, which from the variety of contributions already received has developed into an issue which is mainly about 'Brick and its Uses in London'. The potential contents include:

'Editorial: The Demise of the Department Store' or 'Editorial: Brick and the Imperial City'

'Obituary: Penny Berry and Roy Berry'

'The History of Building Control in London from 1135 to 2017', (Michael Oliver)

'The Brick Kilns at Great Linford, Buckinghamshire', (Michael Chapman)

'Choice or Chance? The Virtues of London Stock Bricks for the Construction of the Bazalgette Sewer Network in London (circa 1860-1880',
(Ian Smalley, Ayra Assadi-Langroudi, Greville Lill)

'The Former Granada Cinema, Walthamstow: an Update', (Terence Paul Smith)

'Underneath the Arches: St Peter the Apostle, Gorleston-on-Sea, Norfolk and Inept Analogies
(Terence Paul Smith)

'"Time Terminus": A Brick Sculpture at Leytonstone, London E11', (Terence Paul Smith)

'Brick Transport for the Bluebell Line', (Michael Oliver)

In addition, there the possibility of book reviews and the issue will include 'Brick in Print: London'

As matters currently stand, this will make an issue of 56 pages, but there is space for another short article. Of the seven articles, received or notified, six have colour photographs and the seventh is without illustrations.

It is hoped to return to three issues in 2022, with *BBS Information*, **149**, appearing in January or February 2022, and *BBS Information*, **150**, in May or June 2022.

In view of the impending Annual General Meeting in Lincoln on a Saturday in June 2022, the Editor of *British Brick Society Information* would like to include in one or both of the first two issues of *BBS Information* in 2022 articles about brick in Lincolnshire and adjacent midland counties, without at the present moment being specific as to which of the two issues to use for this purpose. The adjacent counties are those which formed the territory of the Five Boroughs

— Derby, Leicester, Lincoln, Nottingham, and Stamford — together with the northern parts of modern Cambridgeshire.

To date the Editor has been notified of eight potential contributions and has received one of them from someone other than himself. It is probable that his own completed article on ‘Castle, Court and Prison: Brick Buildings at Lincoln Castle’ could be included in one of these two issues: the brick buildings at Lincoln Castle having formed the *raison d’être* for suggesting that the British Brick Society hold an Annual General Meeting in the city. Potential articles include:

Tile Making on the Humber Bank (Geoff Bryant)

Early Brick Undercrofts in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire (Mark Gardiner)

Castle, Court, and Prison: Brick Buildings in Lincoln Castle (David H. Kennett)

The Brick Solar Tower: A Fifteenth-Century Building Type in Lincolnshire and Beyond (David H. Kennett)

Building the Great Tower: Tattershall Castle, *circa* 1427 to *circa* 1447 (D.H. Kennett)

Terracotta and Artificial Stone in Lincoln (Nick Moore)

A Semi-Continuous Multi-Chamber Kiln at East Halton, Lincolnshire (Ken Redmore)

The Operation of a Country Brickyard in the 1920s (Ken Redmore)

Barn ‘Breathers’: Brick Decoration in the Farmyard (Ken Redmore)

Brick in Print: Lincolnshire and Elsewhere

The articles on ‘Building the Great Tower: Tattershall Castle, *circa* 1427 to *circa* 1447’ and ‘The Brick Solar Tower: A Fifteenth-Century Building Type in Lincolnshire and Beyond’ are reserves, to be used only if insufficient material is available.

Further contributions on Lincoln, Lincolnshire and the adjacent counties are invited. If a member has even the shortest of pieces relating to brick or a brick building in Lincoln, Lincolnshire, and the adjacent counties, the Editor of *British Brick Society Information* would welcome notice of the contribution and indication of its length and number of illustrations, and whether the illustrations are in colour or black and white, by Saturday 25 December 2021 and the text with the illustrations by Friday 15 April 2022. Earlier submission is encouraged.

The third issue in 2022, has two substantial potential articles which could be used, both with black-and-white illustrations. It is anticipated that the third issue of *BBS Information* in 2022 would not have a specific focus.

For issues in the latter part of 2022 and beyond, the Editor holds three substantial and two shorter pieces by a long-standing member, which it is hoped to use in the next three years in addition to his own work in progress and completed or near completed papers.

From what he has seen from these two contributors, there is the possibility of subject issues of *BBS Information*, as follows:

- ‘Brick in London’, for which the Editor has two potential articles, both relatively substantial, by himself and one of equal magnitude by T.P. Smith.
This issue could include:
‘From Manhattan to Great Marlborough Street: Two Buildings in Bluck by Raymond Hood’ (D.H. Kennett)
‘London Churches in *100 Churches: 100 Years*’ (T.P. Smith)
- ‘Brick Churches’, for which the Editor has an article by T.P. Smith, ‘Practice Profile: Nugent Francis Cachelmille-Day: A Response to Clare Price’, and the possibility of at least one article by himself, either arising from visits by the society to Milton Keynes and Stourbridge or a paper on Churches in Oxford built between the two world wars.

In addition to those already mentioned, from the keyboard of the Editor are possible papers on:
'Ruin, Fraud, and Fire: Buildings in Westminster Associated with Jabez Balfour'
'From Palace to Prison: The London Bridewell'
'From Norfolk to New York: Brick Buildings for the Local Bridewell, 1670-1877'
'Butterfly Headdress and Yorkist Collar: Searching for Late-Fifteenth-Century Brick Houses'
'At Leisure and At Play: New Brick Buildings in Oxford, 1920-1941: Part One: Passive Interaction'
'At Leisure and At Play: New Brick Buildings in Oxford, 1920-1941: Part Two: Active Participation'
'Brick in a Poor Town in the Sixteenth Century: The Great Yarmouth Picture Map'

While there is no shortage of potential articles for issues in 2022 and beyond, it must be emphasised that *British Brick Society Information* is for all members to contribute and not just a few.

The Editor welcomes contributions on all aspects of brick and its uses and can be contacted at his email address davidkennett510@gmail.com or by post at 7 Watery Lane, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire CV36 4BE.

Item 10. Report from Visits Coordinator

Since the Annual General meeting in Ripon, the British Brick Society has held one meeting, a visit to Alvechurch, Worcestershire, in September 2019.

Covid-19 restrictions meant that visits to the Cradley Heath Brickworks, and to Slough had to be cancelled.

A meeting in Banbury is planned for Saturday 25 September 2021, subject there being no Covid restrictions in place.

It is hoped to resume a fuller programme of visits in 2022 with at least one visit to a brickworks, and visits to either or both of Industrial Worcester and Alcester, Warwickshire.

Item 11. Report on Congresses

Due to back problems in 2019, I was unable to travel to Leeds in July 2019; back problems also prevented my attendance to the Annual General meeting in Ripon in May 2019.

The 2020 Leeds International Medieval Congress due in July 2020 was moved online and while a paper had been accepted, I did not at that point feel sufficiently confident about speaking online to give the paper and the same has applied in 2021.

It is to be hoped that I will be able to attend the 2022 Leeds International Medieval Congress in July 2022 although which of the possible papers I am currently working on will be offered has yet to be decided. Final date for submission of individual papers is 31 August 2021, and for panels it is 30 September 2021.

If other members feel able to contribute, a British Brick Society panel under the title 'Brick and Other Building Materials' could be proposed.