

## Become a brickmaker's apprentice.

Brick makers are a key part of the construction industry. The house you live in may have been made by a brick maker, and it could even have been made by us. When anyone builds a house, builds a wall, creates a fireplace or creates a building from bricks – these have to be made. We make two types of bricks handmade, and machine made.



Apprentices might practice making the bricks, loading and unloading the kilns, blending bricks (mixing the colours up) understanding how all the machines work, learning to fire a kiln, learning the best codes of practice, learning and becoming qualified to drive a forklift, understanding and abiding by the requirements and using all our health & safety practices. This occupation may be physically demanding, with heavy lifting and bending on a repeated basis. You need to be strong, fit and healthy and be happy working outdoors in all weathers, indoors in high temperatures and yes, getting dirty!

We want people with common sense, an ability to show they are practical and good with tools and equipment. Happy to put in a good shift on a regular basis.

Key skills that you will need for this career include manual dexterity, strength, stamina, the ability to use construction tools, and the ability to use common sense. Health & Safety is our priority!

## Heritage of machine-made bricks.

Our brick making machine made by Berry and Son of Westcliff on Sea in the 1920's, is one of the last of its kind still operating and can produce up to 12,000 bricks per day. Due largely to the fact that the bricks are demoulded by hand means they have more character than mass-produced machine-made bricks. Machine made bricks have a smoother texture and have the same colour as handmade bricks but a lower cost.



Machine made brick production largely replaced handmade bricks after the second world war with only specials being made by hand until the revival of handmade stock bricks in the 1990's.

### Drying

Each brick contains a pint of water when it is made, which has to be removed through drying before the bricks can be fired. During drying the brick will shrink by around ten percent, therefore the process must be carefully controlled to avoid cracking.

The heat source for our dryers now comes from wood chip burned in biomass boilers. Once dried the bricks are handset into the kiln, leaving a finger width gap between each brick to allow optimum firing.



### Firing and blending

Our oil-fired kilns are fired for around 24 hours taking three days to cool. It then takes two people a week to empty the kiln.

In order to ensure consistent and even colour blends all our bricks are re-blended by hand after being removed from the kiln. This gives greater consistency of colour with our standard ranges and enables extremely accurate matching to existing brickwork.

### After you have become an experienced Machine-Made Brick maker

Then there is the chance to learn how to make handmade bricks! The ultimate in any brickmakers career.

### Heritage of Handmade Bricks

In our long history our handmade bricks have been used on many of the most important and prestigious buildings in the country.



While investing in some of the latest technology in order to remain efficient we have maintained the essence of what makes our product unique, keeping the hand making skills alive as well as firing in traditional updraft Scotch kilns.

Using traditional tools and techniques the process has changed very little over the last 100 years. Our hand makers can make around 1000 bricks per day.

If this role is of interest to you, please email [stephen@sjarrettltd.com](mailto:stephen@sjarrettltd.com) or call 01494 757013 for more details. We will be happy to interview you, show you around the brickworks and let you try a few things.