

Industry

Paper & Bag Mills Ltd

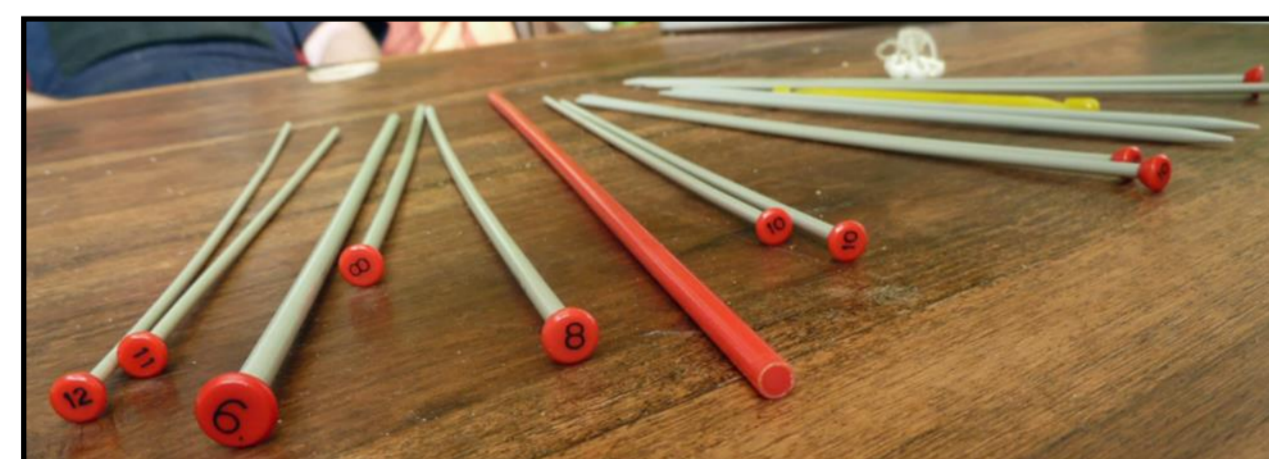


Employees at the Paper & Bag Mills c.1930

In 1922, this business was started in Lower Mills by John Stuart Corrigan whose father owned Burleigh Paper Converters in Bristol. They made paper bags and sacks for packaging - and were said to make over 600 million bags per year. In the 1930s, the company employed 75 people.

Young family

Tom Young set up a **dyeworks** in about 1910, supplying dyes to local companies over the next 30 years.



Young & Wolf knitting needles, each with its characteristic mushroom top

In about 1930, his son, Geoffrey, set up a plastics factory, **Young & Wolf Ltd**, at the rear of Lower Mills. It manufactured rods, knitting needles, crochet hooks, duffel coat toggles and button blanks.

WH Vowles & Son

Arthur Vowles set up this brush-making business in Upper Mills before 1911. He came from Bristol where his family was in the brush-making business. During the 1930s, the firm employed more than 160 workers.

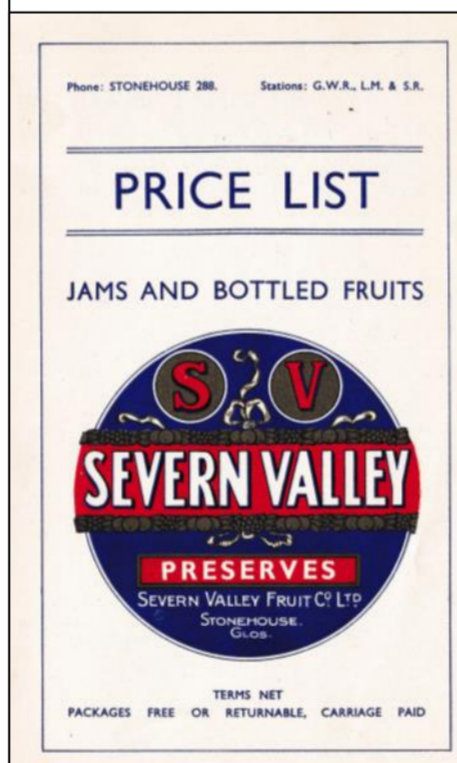


Brushworks football team 1925

Severn Valley Fruit Co

In 1908, a successful family bakery was developed by Charles Lister Smith into a jam & bottled fruit factory. He is believed to have been one of the first people to commercialise bottled fruit.

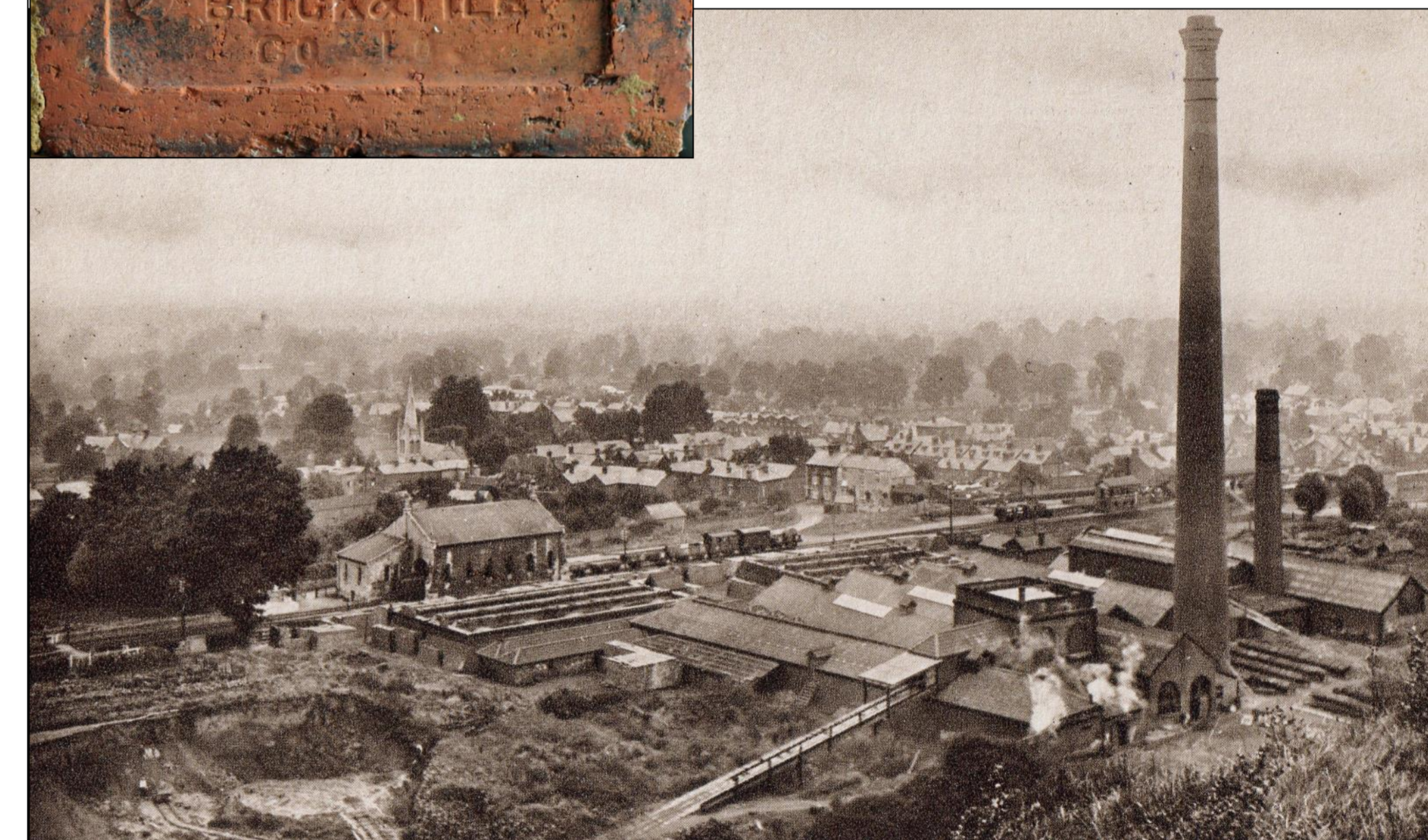
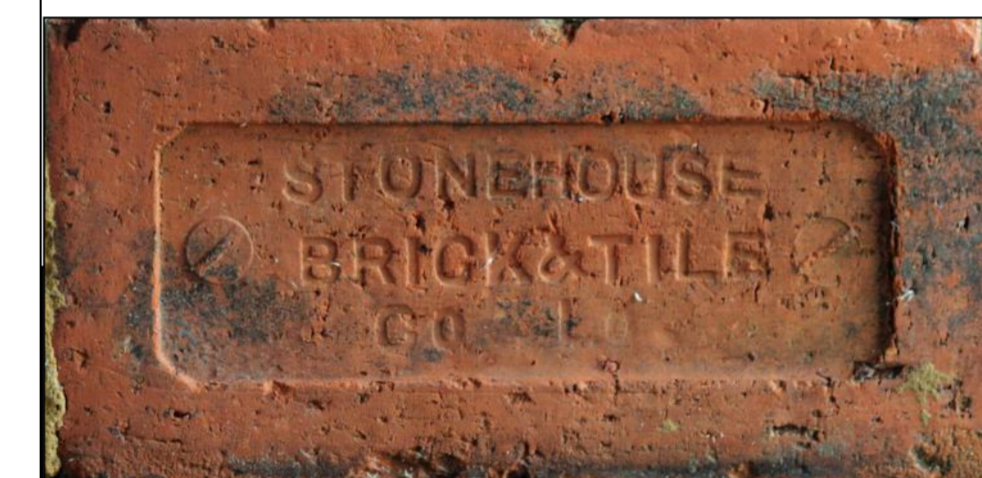
The business thrived between the Wars, employing local people both in the factory and in collecting the fruit.



Workers at Severn Valley Fruit Co (before 1914). Smith is second from right, in boater hat

Stonehouse Brick & Tile Co Ltd

This company was founded in 1890 by local businessman, Edward Jenner Davies. The brickworks was established on a site by Doverow Hill and the GWR railway station. It had its own private railway siding which allowed bricks to be loaded direct from the kilns to railway wagons.



Brickworks and Stonehouse viewed from Doverow Hill

At its peak, the works covered 20 acres and could produce more than 2 million bricks per year. The company employed 30 to 40 workers.

Profits shot up during the 1920s, apart from 1927 when coal was scarce due to the General Strike. 1928 was a bonanza year and trade remained steady throughout the 1930s.