

The MUNDLING STICK



the LION
Salt Works
TRUST

Newsletter of the Lion Salt Works Trust: **SPRING 2002**

VOLUME 8 No. 1



Model Workers make an exhibition of themselves

A growing display is evolving at the Salt Works. Individual figures made of modelling clay are demonstrating the many jobs involved in open pan salt making.

The exhibition is based on pencil illustrations by Tom Lightfoot published in our first Research Report.

APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Donald Insall Associates submitted a planning application to Vale Royal Borough Council, on behalf of the Trust at the beginning of March. The application presented the proposals made as part of the 'Action Plan' drawn up last year and follows a submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Development Grant.

Over the last few months the Trust has held discussions with the Borough Council's Conservation Officer and Marston Parish Council before organising an information evening for the residents of Marston and Wincham villages. At these meetings the overall proposals were discussed and a presentation made to explain the new technology which will be used to heat the salt pans. Biomass technology is not widely used and we were able to define the concept of using heat and power derived from burning wood chip which would provide a sustainable and renewable form of energy for the salt works.

Any Old Coins

The request for old, pre-decimal coins has resulted in a number of donations for which we are grateful

We would still like some more cash, so please check the back of your cupboards and drawers. In particular we need one pound notes and ten shilling notes as well as some florins

One gift included a farthing from 1944 and a silver threepenny piece dated 1920.



mundling stick n.~tool used to pack salt crystals into the wooden tubs when making lump salt. This newsletter will likewise try to cram in all the latest information about the conservation and restoration of the Lion Salt Works.



OPEN

27th March
2002

This impressive Victorian structure was built in 1875 to speed up cargoes of salt, coal and clay between the River Weaver and the Trent and

Mersey Canal, a height of 50 feet.

Thompson narrow boats, Duke, Earl, Ernest, Tempest and Typhoon from the Lion Salt Works would have carried their cargoes via the Lift to meet the waiting barges Constance, Gowanburn and Amelia for shipment to Liverpool docks.

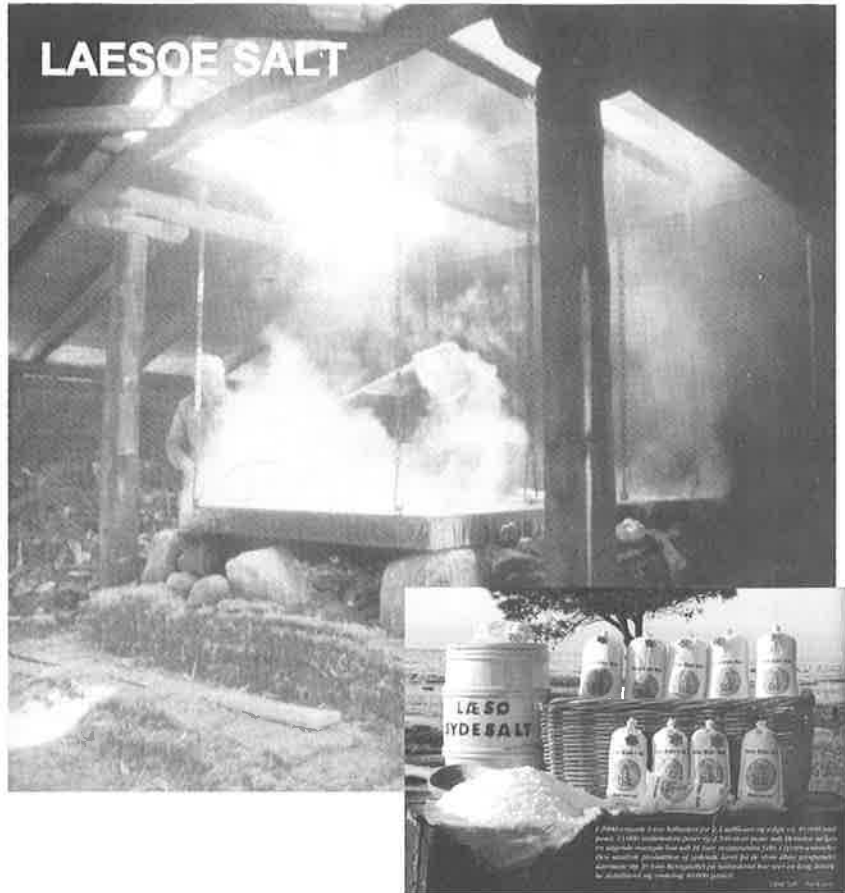
Closed since 1983 the Lift has recently benefited from a £3.3 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards its £7 million restoration.

Operated by hydraulic rams, the new rams were forged in Germany, machined in Holland and installed in May 2001 allowing the Lift to once again carry boats.

This unique feat of 19th Century engineering is set to become a major tourist attraction and is only two miles from the Lion Salt Works on the Trent and Mersey Canal.

Northwich on Water Festival
June 1-2 2002

www.andertonboatlift.co.uk
Anderton Boat Lift, Lift Lane,
Anderton CW9 6FW
Tel: 01606 872819



WHEN NEXT IN DENMARK ... VISIT LAESOE

The Lion Salt Works is making contact with salt museums around the world which interpret their local salt heritage. Some have very practical aspects to their work. In Denmark archaeological and historic investigations have been followed up by the reconstruction of a full size salt house on the island of Laesoe.

There are between 1,200 and 1,500 ruins of salt huts on the island dating from the early Middle Ages. Salt was made there until 1652 when production stopped because of a lack of firewood. A small museum with two reconstructed salt huts for salt production was begun in 1991 to try out theories with practical experiences - for scientists and to please the public.

The site specialises in reconstructing life in the salt community. 70% of the salt made at the site is sold to visitors with the remaining being sold in local speciality stores in Denmark.

The success of the project demonstrates the potential for the restoration of the Lion Salt Works. Two books on the project are available in Danish, but have lots of colour illustrations. Many thanks to Jens Velle of Arhus University and Poul Christensen of Laeso for their information and support for the Lion Salt Works.

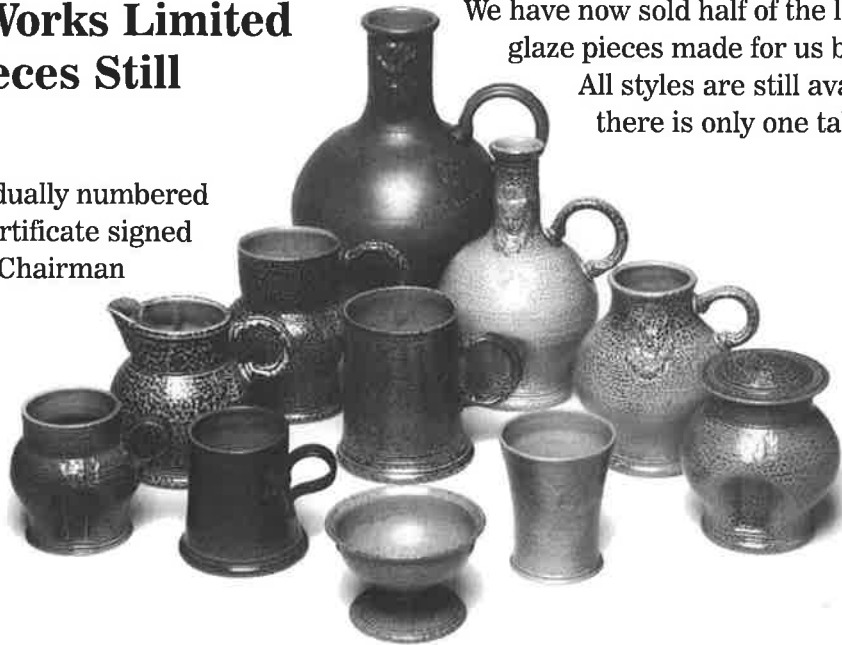
Velle, J. (1996) Saltproduktion pa Laeso. I Danmark og I Europa. Forlaget Hikuin. ISBN 87-87270-63-3
Laeso Salt. i Rog & Damp (2001) Laeso Produktionsskole og Saltsyderi. ISBN 87-988432-0-6

SALT GLAZED CERAMICS

Lion Salt Works Limited Edition Pieces Still Available

Each pot is individually numbered and sold with a certificate signed by the potter and Chairman of Trustees.

We have now sold half of the limited edition salt glaze pieces made for us by Steve Harrison. All styles are still available though there is only one table salt.



Beakers	26	£28.20	Table Salt	1	£32.90	Straight Mugs	7	£39.95
Small Poppy Mugs	19	£39.95	Large Poppy Mugs	4	£94.00	Tankards	5	£88.13
Jugs	7	£129.25	Lidded Jars	4	£205.64 -	Leomines	12	£205.63
Large Leomines	7	£705.00			£352.50			

Postage and packing including insurance at cost.

NEW BOOK

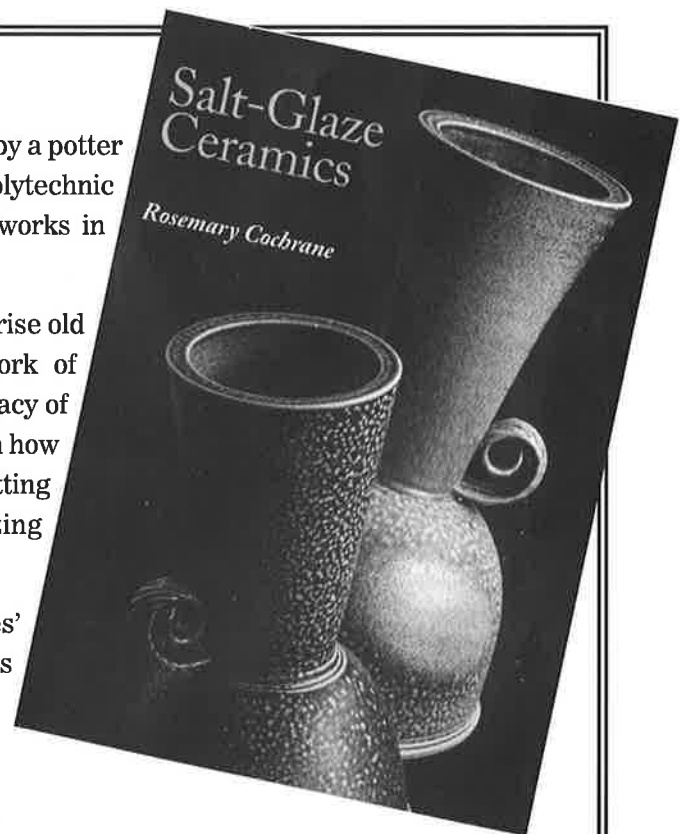
Salt-Glazed Ceramics is a lavishly illustrated book by a potter who studied ceramics at the then Manchester Polytechnic (now Manchester Metropolitan University) and now works in South Wales.

The book shows the textures and colours that characterise old and contemporary salt glaze, and celebrate the work of leading salt-glaze makers as part of the continuous legacy of the alchemy of salt, clay and fire. It includes sections on how to build kilns, lots of personal observations about potting techniques and descriptions of the best salt glazing potters.

An illustration of the Lion Salt Works Trust's 'leomines' produced as a limited edition firing by Steve Harrison is included in the book (find it on page 71).

Copies are available in our shop.

174 pages Crowood Press ISBN 1-86126-435-6 £25



CORRECTION: Monel metal is a nickel alloy not a steel as described in the last issue.

Dates for Your Diary

Saturday, 20th April 2002
Salt Making Demonstration
Lion Salt Works
1.30pm - 4.30pm

The Merseyside Young Archaeologists Club visit the Lion Salt Works to learn about salt making. Come and see their operation of a replica Roman salt pan and a sixteenth century pan described by Georgius Agricola.

Sunday, 7th July 2002
Salt Making Demonstration
Lion Salt Works
10.30am - 4.30pm

A whole day of salt making. Also visit our herb garden display and see how our coppice woodland trees look the third year after they were planted.

Saturday, 19th October 2002
CBA North West
Autumn Meeting in
Middlewich

To be organised by Tim Strickland this will be an investigation into what is known from the archaeological record about salt making locally at Middlewich, Nantwich and Northwich as well as from places further afield such as Droitwich and Lincolnshire. Details to be announced.

SALT FOR SALE

There is a wide variety of salt on the market. As a salt museum we don't want to just describe to our visitors how it was made – eventually we will be making our own by a traditional process. What about other salts, how are they made, what do they taste like?

You will soon be able to find out. We are increasing our stock of different salts as part of the 2002 North West Fine Food promotion and the Cheshire Fine Food Trail.

So, come and look at our growing range of salts. You will have a choice of local vacuum salts, a variety of sea salts from the UK and abroad and rock salt for de-icing your drive or crushing in a salt mill.



SELVA salt is made at the New Cheshire Salt Works at Wincham, the village next to Marston. Look for the sign on their chimney.

SAXA, SIFTA and CEREBOS are made at Middlewich by British Salt and packed by Centura Foods beside the Trent

and Mersey Canal. SUPREME Salt of Stoke-on-Trent pack UK pure dried vacuum salt, imported sea salts from France and rock salt from Germany.

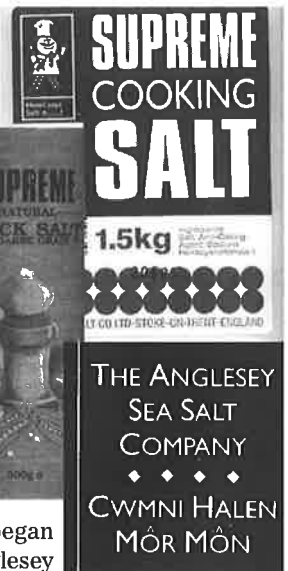
Specialist UK Sea Salt has been produced at MALDON in Essex by the Osborn family for generations. A new product entered the market



recently, David Lea-Wilson began ANGLESEY SEA SALT Co. at the Anglesey Sea Zoo where they draw their sea water from the Menai Straights to make Halen Mon.

Rock salt is mined 8 miles south of Marston by Salt Union at Winsford. They provide de-icing salt to help keep roads open in icy weather. A domestic version called TREAD SAFE is specially packed using a mixture of white salt and rock salt for use on garden paths.

Details of additions to the range in future newsletters.



OPENING TIMES

The Lion Salt Works is open each afternoon 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Donations welcomed : £1 per adult, 50p per child. Booked parties by arrangement. For further information call 01606-41823.

Web site address - <http://lionsaltworkstrust.co.uk>

THE MUNDLING STICK *by post*

If you would like to have a regular copy of The Mundling Stick sent to you by post please send your name and address to The Lion Salt Works Trust, Ollershaw Lane, Marston, Northwich CW9 6ES or telephone/fax 01606 -41823. Newsletters are currently sent free of charge.

Cheques for donations should be made out to THE LION SALT WORKS TRUST. If you would like to provide long term support for the Trust please ask for a Gift Aid form.

The Lion Salt Works Trust is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity No. 1020258. VAT registration No. 628998076. The Mundling Stick is written by the Lion Salt Works Project Director and is kindly designed and printed by Vale Royal Borough Council.