

The MUNDLING STICK



the LION
Salt Works
TRUST

Newsletter of the Lion Salt Works Trust: **AUTUMN 1997**

VOLUME 3 No. 3

FOUNDING SPONSOR SCHEME

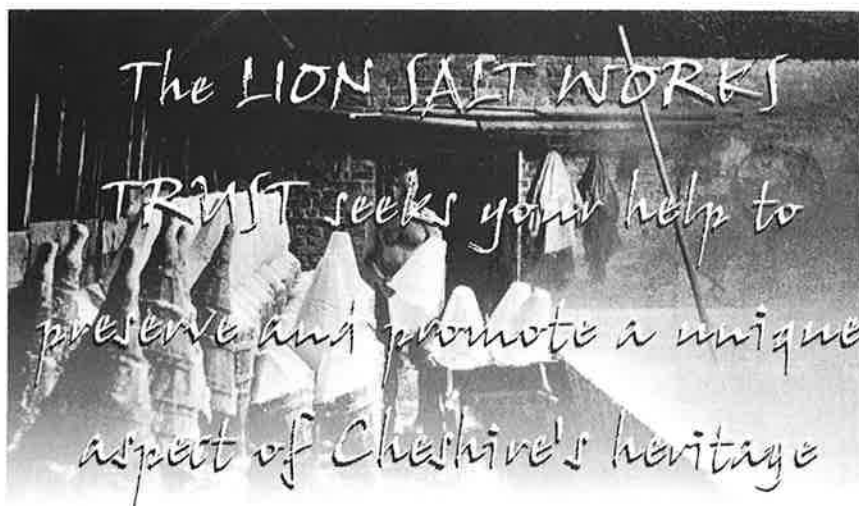
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Trust is now actively seeking financial support to preserve and restore the Lion Salt Works as a working industrial museum. Lion was the last salt works in the country to produce block salt by evaporating unrefined brine in open pans and the Trust seeks to preserve the ancient craft skill and demonstrate it to the public.

With the launch of the Trust's Founding Sponsors scheme there will be an opportunity for companies to become involved with the development of this unique project. The Trust needs to expand its current visitor facilities and encourage interest beyond the local area, increase its revenue income and establish public interest and support for the project by laying the foundations for a major application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Every pound raised by the Trust enables matching funding to be obtained thereby increasing the value of any contribution.

In order to prepare for these applications, further research and expert advice is needed to maximise the chances of success. To this end the Trust is currently preparing to fund a full feasibility study and cost the restoration requirements.

It is proposed that the number of Founding Sponsors will be limited and that they will be acknowledged



as having made a fundamental contribution to the initiation of the restoration project. We hope that founding sponsors will derive continuing benefit from their association with the project which will be publicised both locally and nationally and that they will retain an on-going commitment to the ultimate goal of establishing the museum at the Lion Salt Works and thereby support the historical, educational and tourist facilities available in the Northwich area.

OTHER INITIATIVES

The Trust is actively seeking a wide range of grant applications to support new demonstrations, exhibitions and conservation work in 1998. We are currently registering as an Environmental Body with EN-TRUST to qualify under the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme and have submitted an application to the North West Museum Service and Museum and Galleries Commission to become a Registered Museum.

MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL *Entrepreneur Scheme*

Four students studying for business management qualifications are carrying out a live project by focusing on the salt making side of the Trust's restoration plans.

The group has taken on a brief to complete a business plan which would enable the Trust to begin salt making once again within the restored pan house complex.

The work will produce a five year business plan analysing not only production and employment aspects but also the type of salt which could be produced. Market research will investigate consumers' knowledge of salt and advise on advertising and marketing of the specialist salt which could be produced at the Lion Salt Works museum.

It is hoped to report on the study in our spring '98 Mundling Stick.

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.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS '97 and TATHS: TOOL AND TRADE HISTORY SOCIETY

Summer Conference, Northwich, Cheshire

In September the Tools and Trade Society held their annual summer meeting in Northwich, staying in the centre of Northwich at the Floatel, the floating hotel at the confluence of the Rivers Dane and Weaver. Over fifty members gathered to discuss tools, their uses and to hear about the history of Northwich. A varied programme covered aspects of geology, building restoration, the Anderton Lift as well as salt extraction and the associated subsidences connected with wild brine extraction.

The meeting was perhaps unusual for the society in that it was not being held in a major city. In 1996 the summer meeting was held at Glasgow and next year the venue will be in Bristol. According to society administrator, Mrs Chris Hudson, the society was looking for a location in the centre of the country and though originally considering Chester the committee was drawn to Northwich by the facilities available at the Floatel and by its attractive location within the town centre. The Chairman, Dick Raine also spent a couple of days last year reconnoitering the area and recognised the unique concentration of industrial monuments around the Weaver Valley and the Trent and Mersey Canal.

It is heartening to hear that members of a national organisation have such high praise for the work which is being carried out in our area to preserve its heritage.

It was coincidental, and appropriate, that the same week end was Heritage Open Day and as well as a variety of Northwich buildings being open to the public the Lion Works was demonstrating the art of brine evaporation. The Society members were some of the 300 plus visitors who were able to see white salt crystals produced by the evaporation of unrefined brine. As usual brine was provided by British Salt, Middlewich and propane gas by Shellgas, Warrington.

The Tools and Trades Society was established "to advance the education of the general public in the history and development of hand tools and their use and of the people and trades that used them". If you would like further information about the society membership details can be obtained from The Administrator, TATHS, 60, Swanley Lane, Kent, BR8 7JG.



Some members of the Tools and Trades Society during their visit to the Lion Works gather for a group photograph beside the pitched roofed salt van.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE No.4 GUILLOTINE

Continuing the series of items on tools related to the manufacture of salt at the Lion Works.

Alongside the railway siding and the smithy sits a curious black machine looking like a piece of modern sculpture. It is in fact a guillotine used to cut steel plates for the manufacture of the salt pans.

The machine was driven by a horizontal steam engine with a line shaft and belting. These are still in place within the adjacent smithy. The machine would have been set in motion by slipping the drive belt from an idling wheel to a drive wheel activating one of three different cutting actions. A large fly wheel evened out the power of the machine and a large cogged wheel provided power to three types of cutting devices one for angle iron bar, one for sheet iron and a hole punch.

The angle iron cutter is situated between the drive cog and the fly wheel. Iron plates could be trimmed to size using a guillotine blade on the upper side of the machine whilst below on the lower side a punch made holes suitable for rivetting the plates of metal together to form a salt pan.

An earlier machine used on the site is said to have been turned by hand!



WORLD MONUMENTS WATCH

Earlier in the year the Lion Salt Works Trust made an application to the World Monument Fund to include the Lion Works in a list of 100 endangered sites across the world. The Trust wished to draw attention to the geological uncertainties within the area due to subsidences linked to wild brine pumping and abandoned rock salt mines.

The panel had received 320 nominations from around the world and compared to other sites the Lion Works was not considered by the judging panel to be sufficiently endangered they did however recognise the efforts being made by the Trust to restore the salt works. The following points were passed on to the Trustees :-

The Project demonstrates a well organised mechanism that is already in place, the Trust, to guarantee the future of the site. We want to encourage your vigorous and committed efforts to preserve the Lion Salt Works. Your response to the World Monument Watch program is a testament to your organisation's ability to identify emerging opportunities for site protection. We wish you the best success in sustaining the conservation momentum.

Kirstin Secher
World Monument Watch
Program Manager

Whilst the Trust is pleased that the panel recognised the efforts being made to restore the site and preserve it as a working industrial museum it hopes that recognition will turn into financial support from other grant giving bodies.

CIHS

The Lion Salt Works Trust has recently become a member of the International Commission for the History of Salt (Commission Internationale d'Histoire du Sel- CIHS).

The Commission was founded in March 1988 to promote an intensive exchange of research findings. The Commission publishes bibliographies of salt history, the "Journal of Salt History" as well as organising symposiums the next being held in Sardinia in 1998.

Articles are published in a variety of languages the commission currently having 150 members in 34 countries.

DATES for your Diary

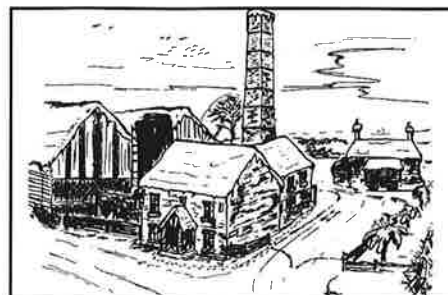
Winter '97—spring '98

1st December to 12th night.

Salt Crystal Decorations

Moulded salt used as Christmas decorations. What a strange idea! Lion Salt Works Christmas cards available. Sold in aid of the restraation work. Pack of 5 for £1.

Available by mail order. Free postage. Cheques made out to the Lion Salt Works Trust.



20th March, 1998

Science Week - Saltmaking and Salt Glazing

This first demonstration day in 1998 will be part of Science Week promoted by The British Association for the Advancement of Science. See salt being made, pots being thrown and within the day watch them being salt-glazed.

A very rare opportunity to see Steve Harrison one of this country's leading salt-glaze potters.

A fusion of arts and science further details to be announced.



OPENING TIMES

The Lion Salt Works exhibition is opened each afternoon between 1.30pm and 4.30pm by our site stewards. We ask for a donation of £1 per adult, 50p per child.

New stewards are required to help at the site, not just to receive visitors but also to help with maintenance of the building and grounds.

If you have a few hours a week please contact Andrew Fielding, Project Director. Call 01606-41823.

New update due soon on our web site at
http: www.lionsaltworkstrust.co.uk

TRUSTEES

Richard Hamlett, (Chairman); Lady Rochester; John Szostek, Terry Cresswell, Dr Sandy Todd, Dr Tom Farthing; Cllr Mrs V Frame; Cllr Tony Hooton; Cllr Ron Carey.

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 Nick Davies, Project Assistant, Lion Salt Works Trust, Ollershaw Lane, Marston, Northwich CW9 6ES or telephone 01606-41823. Newsletters will be 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 covenant form. The Lion Salt Works Trust a company Limited by guarantee and a registered charity No. 1020258.