

The MUNDLING STICK



the LION
Salt Works
TRUST

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

VOLUME 8 No.3

CIVIC GIFT TO RYCHNOV DISTRICT



SALT 2000

Civic Gift to Rychnov District Council, Czech Republic.

The Worshipful the Mayor of Vale Royal, Councillor Ms Kath Watson (left) and Vale Royal Borough Council Chief Executive, Mrs Anne Bingham-Holmes are pictured presenting a piece of salt glazed pottery to Petr Narwa, District Chairman of, Czech Republic.

The presentation took place during a twinning exchange visit this year (7 -12 June 2002).

Trust chairman Richard Hamlett was delighted that the Council chose a Salt 2000 pot to present to Rychnov District. This lidded jar is one of only four in the limited edition firing of only 145 pots.

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.

GOOD NEWS



WILLING HANDS

Thanks to student Russell Craig many maintenance jobs were completed over the summer. A fantastic job with the mower kept all the grassed areas under control whilst many unwanted birch and willow seedlings were uprooted from around the pan houses.

One of the dirtiest jobs was to clean out the oiling bath from below the steam engine drive cogs, removing the silt and replacing with clean oil.

At the end of September Russell began a Mountain Leadership degree course at the University of Central Lancashire, Penrith.

BAD NEWS



VANDALISM

In late spring vandals struck, damaging some of our buildings. Windows were broken and walls damaged when boarding was kicked from the frames.

The damage was assessed by English Heritage who also advised on how to brace the buildings. Some of the damage threatened the stability of the structures and temporary braces are to be inserted. Repairs are now underway but Vale Royal Borough Council have had to find £10,000 to prevent the buildings suffering further damage or injuring others.

THE SALT MUSEUM ONONDAGA LAKE PARK LIVERPOOL, NY A Postcard from the USA



Opened in 1933 this museum incorporates a full-scale reconstruction of the original salt manufacturing 'block' that stood on the site. A variety of exhibits illustrate the story of the industry that made Syracuse the 'SALT CITY'.

The original Native American discoverer's of the local brine springs remain unknown, but the earliest European sources indicate that the Onondaga Nation, a member of the Iroquois Confederacy, was aware of the springs.

Bruce Naramore in 'Liverpool, N.Y. 1830-1980, its First 150 Years' suggests the town was named after the English port of Liverpool because it was renowned as a salt exporter. 'Merchants throughout the world thought highly of any barrel of salt labelled 'LIVERPOOL'. This fact was not likely lost on the wily entrepreneurs who were struggling to establish a salt industry in Central New York.

The Trust and Onondaga Museum Curator, Valerie Bell, hope to make closer connections between our two museums in the future. We have both provided assistance recently to preservation planner, Jackie Powell in her assessment of the Colorado Salt Works in Park County, Colorado.

Dating from 1862 this may now be the only surviving heritage resource of this period in the United States.

MORE MEMORIES OF 'CONSTANCE'



Roy Walker who featured in our last newsletter as a former crewman on the Thompsons' flat 'Constance' has kindly donated this photograph. It shows the last master, Harold Williamson, standing at the wheel of the barge.

WHEN NEXT ON HOLIDAY....

Visiting a salt making area?

Find out if there is a salt museum and send us a postcard. It will build up our archive of other salt museums. We'll include some in future newsletters to encourage others to visit.

EUREKA - IMAGES OF SALT MAKING

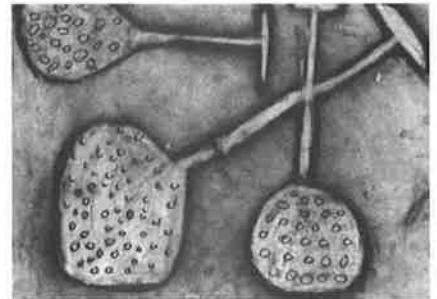
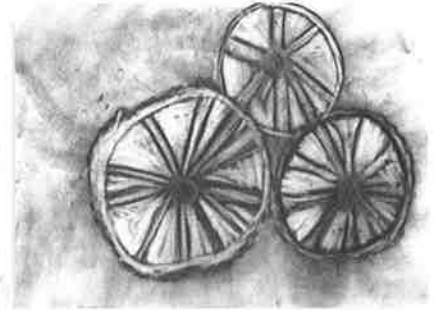
In 2001 pupils at Comberbach Primary School, Cheshire took part in the 'Eureka Project' at Anderton Nature Park.

One aspect of the project incorporated a study of salt works that used to stand on the site of the country park. A visit to the Lion Salt Works enabled the class to see what Victorian salt works used to look like.

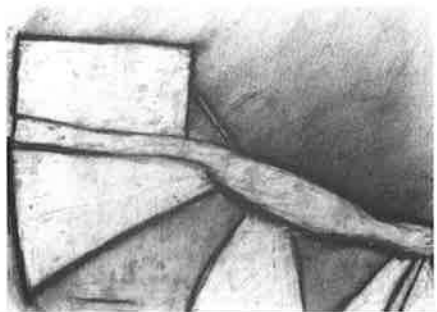
Artist Reece Ingram, helped the students to produce charcoal drawings to record aspects of their investigation. Seven students chose to record some of the salt heritage inspired by their visit to Lion.

Cheshire Ranger, David James, will be returning this autumn with a new group of students. We look forward to seeing the records they will make whilst investigating their local heritage.

Project supported by Ann Bates, River Weaver Initiative and ICI Chlor Chemicals.



Train, Kayleigh Crow; Chimney, Jodie Tomlinson; Salt Pan, Elinor Hill-Bruce; Skimmers, Samantha Hornbrey; Ladder and Brush, Molly Smith; Gear Wheels, Alexander Wimbush; Nodding Donkey Brine Pump, Rachael Moores; Delivering by Horse and Cart, Ben Wright. All aged 9.



Dates for Your Diary

**Saturday, 19th October,
2002**

**CBA North West
Autumn Meeting
Northwich.**

BRINE IN BRITAIN

This themed day school has proved very popular and is now fully booked.

MAKING SALT

Autumn, 2003

Date to be arranged

The Lion Salt Works Trust is inviting people with practical experience of historic salt making to meet in Northwich next year. Please call for further information.

**Saturday 19th October
SALT**

Specially written by John Ashby for a local amateur dramatic company called Blithe Productions. A light hearted look at the history of salt making at Shirleywich and the 'health spa' at the Baths Hotel which was in Hixon. It takes place in Hixon Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on 19th October.

Tickets are £5 (£4

concessions) available from Mr D Jones, Tel: 01889 271718. Hixon is just off the A51 about 5 miles east of Stafford.

Soda Glazed Pots



Our stock of salt related ceramics continues to grow. These small, simple and elegant pots are thrown by Rebecca Harvey. We currently have jugs, cups, pourers, vases and bowls. These pots are soda glazed which gives the same sodium silicate glaze as salt glazing, but because the glazing process uses sodium bicarbonate instead of sodium chloride there is not the same HCl vapour bi-product. The attractive orange peel effect is characteristic as is the blush variation caused by moving flame paths within the kiln.

The Market Restaurant



The Market Restaurant on the corner of Edge Street and High Street, Manchester used to buy blocks of Lion salt for the restaurant. The owners visited during the summer whilst on a tour of good food outlets in Cheshire. The restaurant distributes its own newsletter 'The Marketeer' which is available by post or e-mail. Tel: 0161 834 3743 and www.market-restaurant.com

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.

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OPENING TIMES

The Lion Salt Works is open each afternoon 1.30pm to 4.30pm. May be closed Friday and Saturday. 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>

Help interpret your local heritage to others. The Trust still requires additional volunteers to assist with maintenance and to open the exhibition centre especially on Saturday afternoons.