

The MUNDLING STICK



the LION
Salt Works
TRUST

Newsletter of the Lion Salt Works Trust: **AUTUMN 2003**

VOLUME 9 No.3

SUCCESS OF SALT 2003

In September our Salt 2003 weekend was funded by a 'Your Heritage' grant from The Heritage Lottery Fund, staging a Demonstration Day and conference and supported by Vale Royal Borough Council.



The Deputy Mayor of Vale Royal, Cllr Mrs Ann Hooker, welcomed Chris Haines, the Centurion of the Ermine Street Guard. Together with two colleagues, a legionary and an auxiliary, he inspected our replica Roman salt pans.

The Ermine Street Guard were once again the star attraction at the Middlewich Roman Festival. Our funding provided a mini-bus shuttle to carry visitors between both displays. Whilst the Guard displayed at Middlewich we were delighted with the attendance at our first major salt making event at Marston, and the weather was fantastic.

There was plenty to entertain everybody who came – face painting, pottery demonstrations, mascots, Great Budworth Ice Cream and refreshments from The Salt Barge. Roy Forshaw brought display stands describing research into the Garston Salt Works and the Dungeon at Hale, investigated by the Merseyside Industrial Archaeology Society. The Mersey Forest Trust promoted locally made woodland craft products and there was energy saving advice, the Vale Royal display caravan and mascot links with Northwich Victoria Football Club. The conference, run in partnership with the NW Industrial Archaeology Forum, featured salt sites from Europe and the USA and attracted a wide audience from the NW, Anglesey, South Wales and Essex. The full proceedings of the conference will be published as Lion Salt Works Trust Research Monograph No.2. The report is currently being edited and should be available early in 2004. A full account and a pre-publication price will be offered in the Winter newsletter.




The 'Your Heritage' grant was able to contribute to some £11,000 of capital equipment which will be used at future events. A video camera and mini-disc will enable us to make records of our work, events and oral histories.

An outline series of education work sheets have been prepared and these will be tested locally over the coming year.



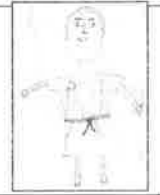
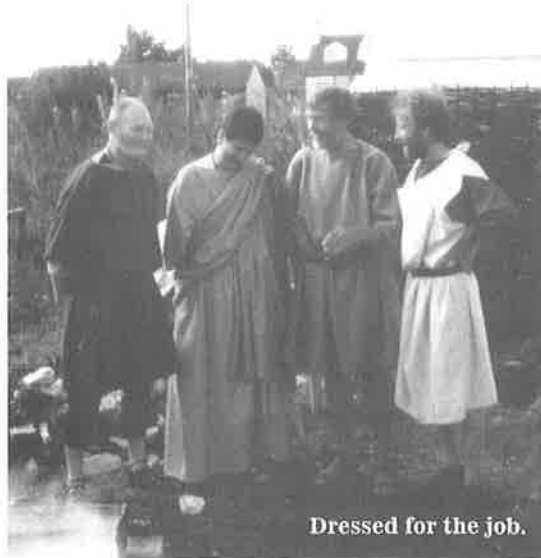
The vast majority of goods and services for the event were sourced locally and contributed some £25,000 to Cheshire businesses.

It was a tremendous first major event. The Trust thanks everybody involved but extends special thanks to Annelise, Malcolm, Russell and Tony who missed most of it as they were behind the scene attending to the preparations and supervision. If you would like to help with future events and in opening our exhibition on a daily basis please get in touch. It will be a rewarding experience.

 Supported by the
Heritage Lottery Fund

A poster display supported a Day School of lectures to an appreciative audience at Northwich Memorial Hall.

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.



Dressed for the job.

WINCHAM CP SCHOOL

Pupils at Wincham School prepared a poster display about life in a Roman salt works. After visiting Lion Salt Works and being shown all the replica tools and clothing being used in our Demonstration Day they had the opportunity to take some objects and Roman clothing back to school to try on. Their picture gallery was a great success.



Salt Delegates from Spain, Denmark, France, Germany and USA.

Left to right : Katia Hueso, Mikel Landa, Olav Larsen, Andrew Fielding, Poul Christensen, Gary Higgins (front), Jens Vellev, Juan Iglesias Lasagabaster, Susanne Jeulich, Ivan Grassias, John Luzader (and Jackie Powell who unfortunately missed the photo).



A WEEKEND OF TALKING, LISTENING & EATING

Overseas salt researchers and salt makers were in Northwich for five days and with so much in common it was a pleasure rather than business to discuss our common problems and the challenges we were all trying to overcome. Each project had similar difficulties; fragility, rarity value and financial constraints. It was reassuring that following the SALT 2003 weekend each may not be quite so isolated. Our discussions highlighted common threats to the historic salt making heritage world wide and closer liaison between our sites may help to publicise these factors to our individual funding bodies.

An evening dinner for visiting speakers was hosted by Chairman of Trustees, Richard Hamlett and was attended by the Mayor of Vale Royal Cllr Mrs Val Godfrey and the Mayor's Consort, Mr Roy Godfrey (photo above with Olav Larsen, Mayor of Lacsoe). A lunch time reception at Wyvern House, Vale Royal Borough Council offices, was hosted by Mayor, Cllr Mrs Godfrey and attended by the Chief Executive, the Deputy Mayor and leaders of the Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Labour groups.



ANIMATED FILM

The first draft of an animated film depicting a Roman salt making site was shown at SALT 2003. The final cut is now complete. It draws on an excavation by Manchester Archaeology Unit at Kingsley Field, Nantwich in 2002 in advance of a housing development by Bellway Homes. Two large timber brine tanks were excavated there, also small wicker lined pits and burnt sand suggesting the possible sites of hearths for salt pans. The pits and tanks were all lined with clay to keep brine in and fresh water out.

Live action of salt making using our replica lead saltpan was filmed using a blue screen technique, just like in the film 'Gladiator'. The action has been superimposed into a digital landscape providing a working hypothesis to interpret the Kingsley Field site with assistance from Mike Nevell, Director of the GMAU and Mark Leah, archaeologist at Cheshire County Council.

A DVD of the production can be seen at our exhibition and will be incorporated into the publication of the SALT 2003 weekend. It is hoped to extend the project with Take 27, to cover other salt making periods and to make a DVD available with a resource pack for schools.

LIONEL THE LION MASCOT

Thank you to every one who sent in names for our mascot. We were grateful to Ivan, who was our mascot wearer for SALT 2003. He felt he had grown into the character during the day and with his assistance we all agreed that Lionel would be a great name. Annaruth Davis of Manchester, pictured below with her parents and younger sister, suggested Lionel. Annaruth wins a £10 book token.



THE THREE MASCOTS

Lionel was accompanied by two friends at SALT 2003. Wilbur Wyvern came along from Vale Royal Borough Council and met up with Tricky The Cat from Northwich Victoria Football Club. Thanks to Andrew Higginson from NVFC and to Carol Adkins, Jackie and Holly Bowe from VRBC.

If you would like to help Lionel appear at Trust events please call and speak with Andrew Fielding. It is a dedicated calling being a mascot.

LIONS FOR A DAY



Lionel supervises Anni from the "The Paint Patro"1 as she transforms another visitor into a Lion.



A perfect day out is not complete without Lion make-up, freshly made salt and a new pot, made under the supervision of The Potters Barn, Hassel Green.



Above: Ivan Crassias, Salines les Bains, tries his hand at salt making. Top left: John Hudson gives tuition on using a kick wheel. Bottom left: The Living Museum of the West meets The Ermine Street Guard, John Luzader and Chris Haines.



Thanks to The Chocolate Box, Bunbury Water Mill, The Salt Barge and Richard Hamlett for donating raffle prizes.

RAFFLE RESULTS

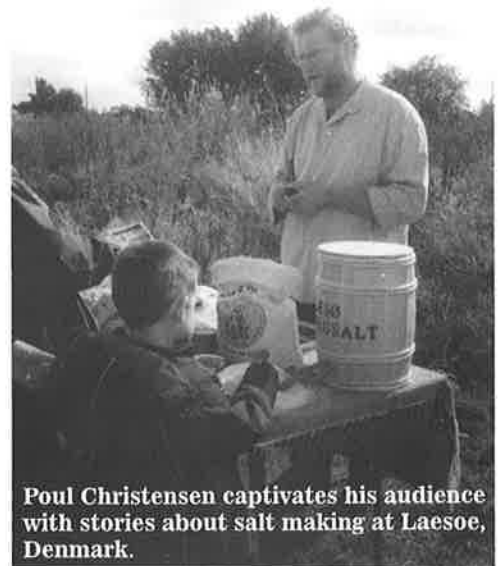
A special thank you to John Hudson for making the salt kit and drawing the winning ticket. Also to Poul Christensen from the Laesoe Salt Works, Denmark for donating a salt prize and for selecting all our other prizewinners.

The winners were; **Salt Kit** - M Wood, Alsager; **Chocolate** - J Tackley, Barnton; **Whiskey** - K Gowers, Chester; **Flour** - Robert Clarke, Northwich; **Salt Barge meal** - Gowing, Congelton; **Laesoe Salt** - John Speak, Wincham.



Above: Mrs Wood receives the Kitson Salt Kit.

Below: John and Bernice Tackley collect their hamper of chocolates.



Poul Christensen captivates his audience with stories about salt making at Laesoe, Denmark.