

# The MUNDLING STICK



the LION  
Salt Works  
TRUST

Newsletter of the Lion Salt Works Trust **AUTUMN 2006**

**VOLUME 12 No.3**

## Borough Council Pledges £750,000



Chairman of Trustees, Richard Hamlett met with the Leader of Vale Royal Borough Council, Cllr Musgrave (left) on the canal bridge outside the Lion Salt Works to thank him for the Council's offer to provide match funding of £750,000 capital grant to the Trust in support of the recent HLF grant offer. The grant will provide £250,000 a year for three years during the building phases of the restoration and an additional £50,000 a year for five years to help pump prime the project until it can become financial viable in its own right. Cllr Musgrave said 'I am delighted we can provide such substantial support to this important project. However there is still a funding gap that needs to be filled but I am delighted we are able to contribute to the funding of this wonderful salt works site.'

### Salt Court

Trustees are seeking to attract leading members of the community and business to support our fund-raising targets through the establishment of a Salt Court. The role of the Court would be to support and direct our match funding target of £2m. Anne Boyd, business advisor to Frodshamforward, will help in recruiting support from local grant giving bodies, people and businesses. Anne has supported the project from a distance having heard about its importance from her son who visited us with his school whilst studying the history of salt making. Anne said 'I am excited and privileged to work with the Trust and we will all do our best to meet the investment gap'.



### How Can You Help SPONSOR A SALT BLOCK

Salt blocks can be sponsored to help us towards our target of £2m match funding. Every donation, no matter how small will help us build towards reaching our total. To receive a certificate, please make a donation of at least £15. You can request a donation form by telephone, post or download one from our new web site. Our web site will keep you informed about how our fundraising is going - log in regularly to check progress. Will use a salt arch as a barometer of our fund raising efforts.

The original arch was constructed across Witton Street, Northwich in 1894 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

Contact us today about how you can help



HLF	-	£4.96m	
VRBC	-	£750,000	
Your Donation		?	

**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.

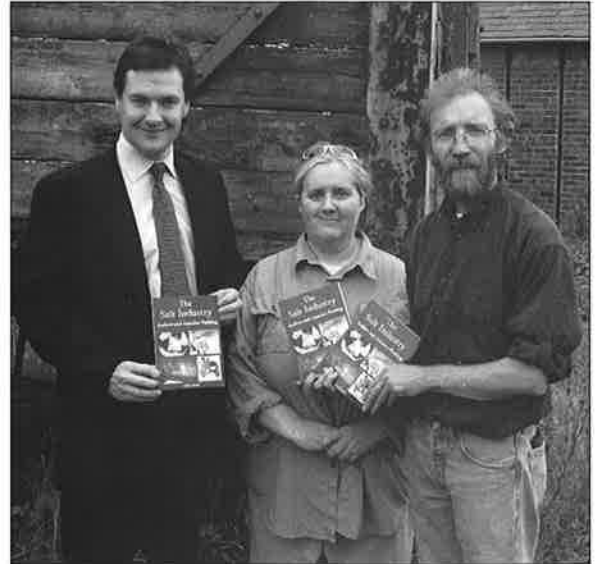
### Book Launch

George Osborne, our local MP for Tatton, was able to attend the launch of the latest Shire Book which describes the history of the salt industry.

Written by Trust Project Director, Andrew Fielding and his wife Annelise the book is an introduction to the development of salt making from the earliest days and includes sites from across the UK.

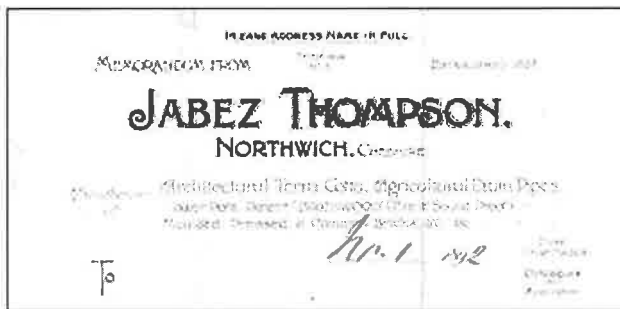
Mr Osborne was delighted in the role we have taken in leading and promoting the heritage of salt making across the country.

Andrew and Annelise were overwhelmed with support for the book from other local centres of historic salt production. There are many excellent photo-graphs of salt making from across the country – from Orkney to Suffolk, the Gower to Lymington, Fife and Cumbria. They wholeheartedly thank everyone who has helped to make the book so varied and all embracing. Many thanks to them all.



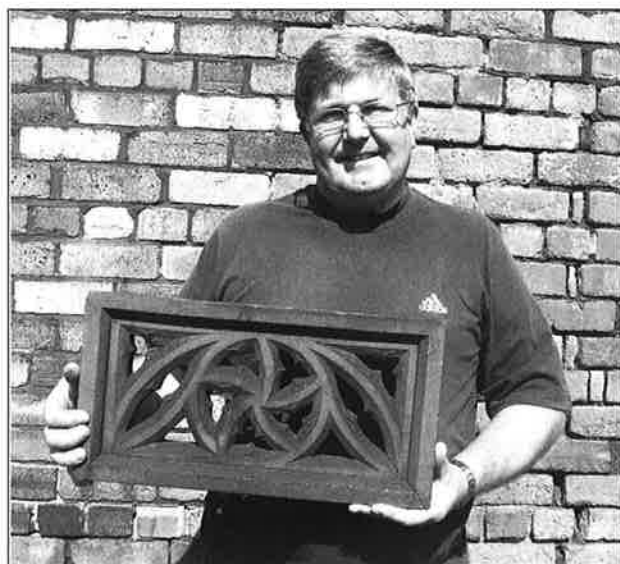
### Jabez Thompson

Pieces relating to Jabez Thompson are sent to the Trust finders discover the connection with the Lion Salt Works. Jabez was the son of the founder John Thompson and worked as proprietor of the family's Alliance Salt Works in the 1850's before taking over the family brick works.

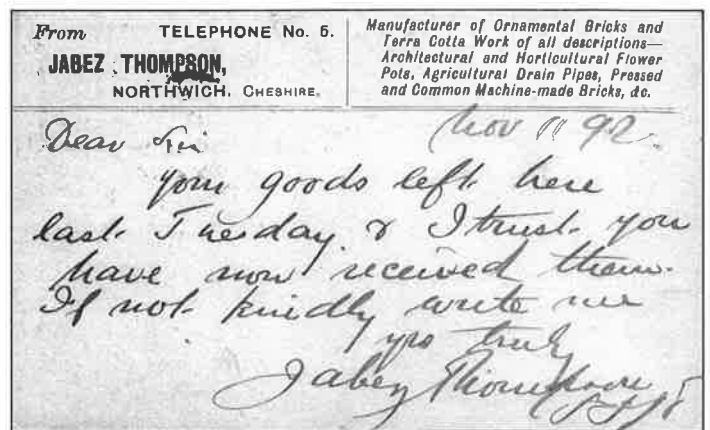


Alan Hulme forwarded on a photograph of a letter (top left) in which Jabez writes regarding the employment of Roland Henry Whyman, nephew of the more well known George Smith of Coalville.

Chimney pots have been found at a guest house in Cumbria, stamped by Jabez Thompson terracotta works, whilst recently Mr Powell (bottom left) donated a decorative terracotta air brick salvaged from an old Brunner Mond building demolished at their Lostock Works some years ago.



George Martin passed on copy of a post card relating to a consignment sent by Jabez Thompson to Birmingham enquiring about their safe arrival.

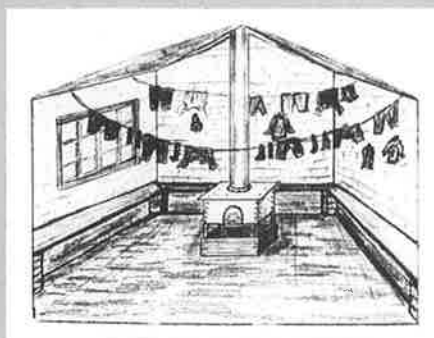


Watch out for the appearance of a ceramic salt pan in the next BBC series 'COAST' when they visit Essex.

### Christmas Cards

It is not too early to buy your Christmas cards from the Lion Salt Works. Help our fundraising and raise the profile of the project.

Five cards for £2.



### WEB SITE RE-DESIGN

Our new web site is going live at the end of September.

You can now register to receive this newsletter as a pdf file by clicking a button on the new web site. You will receive our information quickly and help us save postage.

The simple navigation buttons will provide background information about the Lion Salt Works and our vision for the future. There is an on-line shop where visitors have the opportunity to buy our own Research Reports, A Guide to the Lion Salt Works, the Shire Book on The Salt Industry as well as other local history books by Tony Bostock and Colin Edmondson. A growing range of other items will appear there and can be purchased by credit card through Paypal.

The site is well illustrated and an animated model of the salt works can be sourced. It was made for us by Take 27 from information supplied by a laser scan survey funded by the Northwest Development Agency and English Heritage.

The site is also able to take credit card donations through Paypal. Check out the fundraising page and encourage others to support our Salt Arch match funding appeal.

Individuals can make a difference by becoming a Friend of the Lion Salt Works by returning a standing order form. A Gift Aid form will add value to your donation if you are a UK taxpayer. Larger sums, or support from businesses may be pledged towards our work, which will be spread over the next four years.



### TAKE A BREAK – AND RAISE MONEY FOR THE SALT WORKS

Alan Budd is offering the Lion Salt Works Trust £20 for every booking he receives from Friends of the Lion Salt Works if they stay at his listed, Georgian accommodation in Louth, Lincolnshire.

The accommodation is in award winning restored, historic properties. Holders of the 2005, Silver Award in self catering holiday of the year in the East Midlands; 2006 Pride of Place Award by the Louth Civic Trust for the restoration work contribution to Louth regeneration. They are also nominated for an award from the Georgian Society for this year.

Prices are from £250 for 3 (weekend) or 4 (midweek) night short break and from £295 for the week for a stunning, 1 bedroom apartment with superb Victorian and Georgian features.

Keyed entry parking within the grounds, WiFi access, linen, towels and heating - including a welcome pack with fresh local produce and Lincolnshire Ale!

Find out more on the web: [www.allseasonsuk.com](http://www.allseasonsuk.com)

## Dates for Your Diary

### Big Draw

**Saturday 7 October, 2006**

A packed day of activities 10am to 5pm.

Another opportunity to have a go at drawing and painting, with expert tuition on hand.

Artists on site will each hold an activity session. Anna Roach will help you draw plants, Julia Midgley will give advice on drawing people and Frances Seba-Smith will show ways of drawing buildings and Ann-Marie Rickus will lead other creative drawing classes.

Discuss the sgraffitto techniques used on some of our salt pigs and other pots. Blanks will be available for you to have a go at making your own designs directly onto a pot under the guidance of our Project Director, Andrew Fielding. Each blank will cost £6, which includes glazing and firing.

Take part in a Competition. Help us design a T-shirt for the next community play. Underwych is being prepared by Robert Meadows with input from the Vale Royal Creative Writers Group and will interpret the history of rock salt mining and brine pumping and indicate the effects the industry has had on local people and the landscape.

We want two designs, one for an adult-sized shirt the other for a child-sized shirt. The Underwych steering committee will judge the submitted designs and a winning design for each age group will be chosen for use on printed shirts, which will be sold during the performances.

Jennifer Shaw, Arts Officer at Vale Royal Borough Council is organising a 'Rolf Harris' style collaborative picture. The oil painting by Roger Homan Miller, hanging in Salford Art Gallery has been chosen as the source painting because it is so evocative of a Victorian Salt Works. Each participating schools are being invited to work on a section of the picture and they will deliver their canvas to the salt works at 1pm so that each can be joined together to complete the whole painting. Come along and see how the individual paintings join together.

**Sunday 8 October 2006**

10am-4.30pm

### Salt Making Day

Friends of the Lion Salt Works Trust will be evaporating brine to make white salt crystals in a rebuilt hearth.



*Workmen and Workwomen.*  
Philip Homan Miller, 1874. Salford City Art Gallery.

### 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 No. 2794579 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.

### OPENING TIMES

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