

The MUNDLING STICK



the LION
Salt Works
TRUST

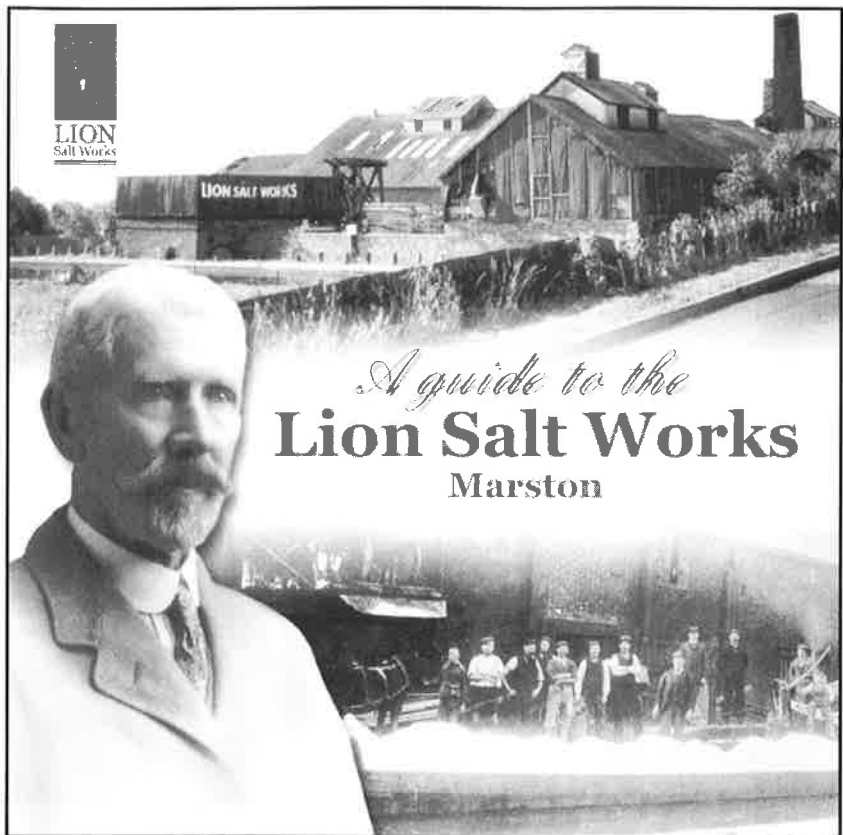
Newsletter of the Lion Salt Works Trust: **SPRING 2000**

VOLUME 6 No. 1

HENRY INGRAM THOMPSON LOOKS OVER NEW GUIDE TO LION SALTWORKS

From the cover of our new guidebook the face of Henry Ingram Thompson looks out over old and new images of the works. The portrait has been provided by the last owner, Henry Lloyd Thompson, grandson of Henry Ingram. The new guide will complement the redesign of our displays and will be available in late May.

Over 44 pages it provides a brief history of the site, its development as a salt works and the unique retention of open pan evaporation up to 1986.



Naturally an illustration of a mundling stick appears in the tools section alongside salt tubs, skimmers and a happer. Here it is shown with two salt tubs and a happer which was used to smooth the sides of salt lumps.

The salt lump itself was made during one of our demonstration days.

Our hanging sign has been repainted for the new year by Bev Blain, reminding us that the building was once the Red Lion Inn.



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.

LANDSCAPING SCHEME NEARS COMPLETION

Landscaping work carried out through grants from Manchester Airport, NW Water Landcare Scheme and a VRBC environmental grant, is nearly complete.

As with all planting schemes elements will take time to mature but the site is already looking tidier. Earth moving is completed though the sowing of new grass seed and replanting the herb garden will wait until after the last threat of frost. A short growing, hard wearing, grass mix will be used in the car parking areas but mowing regimes in other areas will encourage the spread of wild flowers and orchids which have developed in the poor soil. We have three distinct areas of grass and flower species and a survey will map these out and list the species present.



Jude Sefton inspects our new access ramp.



Site Steward, Malcolm Sargeant, inspects the range of nest boxes.

A selection of nest boxes have been erected around the site. Various sized bird boxes approved by the British Trust for Ornithology were erected in February during National Nest Box Week. Other forms of boxes have also been introduced to provide homes for bumble bees, lacewings, insects and earwigs.



Coppice Trees Planting

To the south of the site a screen planting of coppice trees species will provide a growing link with our plans to introduce biomass heating to the restored salt pans. Five species have been planted with advice, and a grant, from Ian Dale at Cheshire County Council's Environmental Planning Dept. The trees have benefited from two lorry loads of soil improver from the County Council's community composting scheme. 225 trees have been planted in total and a cutting regime for 3, 10 and 15 year cycles will be carried out.

50 sweet chestnut: *castanea sativa*

Planted at 1.5m intervals
cut $\frac{1}{3}$ in year 2; cut $\frac{1}{3}$ in year 4;
cut $\frac{1}{3}$ in year 5, then $\frac{1}{3}$ every 5 years

100 hazel: *corylus avellana*

Planted at 1.5m intervals
cut $\frac{1}{2}$ in year 2; cut $\frac{1}{2}$ in year 5;
then $\frac{1}{2}$ every 5 years

30 ash: *fraxinus excelsior*

Planted at 2m intervals
cut $\frac{1}{2}$ in year 2 then cut $\frac{1}{2}$ in 5 years

45 willow & 45 poplar: 3 species each of willow & poplar, *salix* & *poplar*.

5 of each planted in three blocks at 2m intervals at block A in year 1; block B in year 2; block C in year 3; continue cutting each block every three years



NORTH WEST WATER LANDCARE
A project making use of Landfill Tax Rebate



SALT 2000

AQUILA ENERGY



Ted Edgar, Aquila Energy, receives a large 'leomine' from Terry Cresswell (right).

145 pots made by artist potter Steve Harrison have been glazed with salt made at the Lion Salt Works. The firing was successfully completed at the beginning of March.

All pots, except one came through the process intact. No. 120 was accidentally left on the bench during loading the kiln and was not fired. Each pot has a Lion stamp alongside Steve's potters mark and a date stamp as well as an individual number imprinted on the base.

A leaflet describing the pots is currently being designed by Don Allen of *Glint*, a local design company whose office is just around the corner from the Lion Works. A certificate will accompany each pot describing the special circumstances of the production. The firing has been under-written by *Aquila Energy* and one of the pots will be displayed in their Sandbach office.

The sponsorship was arranged by Lion Salt Works Trustee, Terry Cresswell, who manages the Aquila gas storage facility being created at the British Salt brine field. It is very appropriate that the glaze on the pots has such a close link to the Cheshire salt industry.

Sales of the limited edition salt glazed pots will be used to further the aims of the Trust and help restore this important industrial site.

We already have received letters from people interest in purchasing one of these limited edition pieces. If you would like to indicate your interest in buying a special Lion Salt Works salt glazed pot please request a brochure. A list of pieces available and prices will be sent to you when the collection is catalogued. Prices will range from £25 to around £750 reflecting the size of each piece and the limited numbers available.

There are eight shapes in six basic colours, blue, green, brown, oatmeal, plain and ebony.

- 33 beakers
- 10 straight mugs
- 32 small poppy headed mugs
- 6 large poppy headed mugs
- 4 lidded jars
- 28 lion masked jars
- 10 tankards
- 9 jugs
- 12 salts



Preparation for firing.



First view of glazed pots.

OBITUARY

Lady Mary Carlise Rochester OBE — 1921-2000



Lady Rochester who died in January was one of the Trust's founder Trustees. She had been a lecturer in economic history and with her husband at ICI Mond Division became attracted to the history of salt making. She had been a key instigator in the re-establishment of Sir John Brunner's original salt museum collection within a new museum run by Cheshire County Council at London Road, Northwich. In her retirement she took an active interest in the Lion Works long before it closed in 1986 and provided encouragement for the formation of the Trust and her support will be greatly missed.

DATES for your Diary Spring 2000

Monday, 24th April SALT MAKING DEMONSTRATION

Our first demonstration of the year has been commissioned by the *History Live Project*, to be held at Home Farm, Hollinsclough, Peak District National Park, Derbyshire. Week beginning 22nd May 2000. For their *Living off the Land* event the salt made at the Lion Works will be used to salt ham and bacon using traditional methods.

Spring Bank Holiday SALT MAKING DEMONSTRATION

The second boiling of the year.

JUNE

New displays and guide book. Come and see our improved exhibition and the replanted herb garden.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

The Trust still requires volunteers to join its team of Site Stewards and play a part in the interpretation of the salt heritage of Cheshire. A regular commitment of 4 hours is needed during opening times.

Contact Project Director, Andrew Fielding.

Replica Historic Table Salts, Salt Kits and Salt Glazed Pottery

We are building up our stock of salt related ceramics within our shop. In our last newsletter we featured a sixteenth century replica table salt figurine by John Hudson. John specialises in the production of historic pieces of stoneware, earthenware and salt glaze and has a number of pieces related to salt.

We now stock examples of his salt glazed bellarmine bottles, two with the coat of arms of Elizabeth 1st and two table salt forms. The replica Delft ware salts have blue decorations whilst the Wakefield pillar salts are a rich chocolate brown.

The largest pieces are the slipware salt kits, with a rich red-brown glaze trailed with yellow slip decorations.

Additional ceramics from two more potteries will be stocked in late spring. Mark Smith produces salt glazed pottery and our range of salt kits will be increased from Anvil Pottery, Denbigh where they are called salt dollies.



OPENING TIMES

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

Web site address - <http://lion.saltworkstrust.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 covenant form.

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