

The MUNDLING STICK

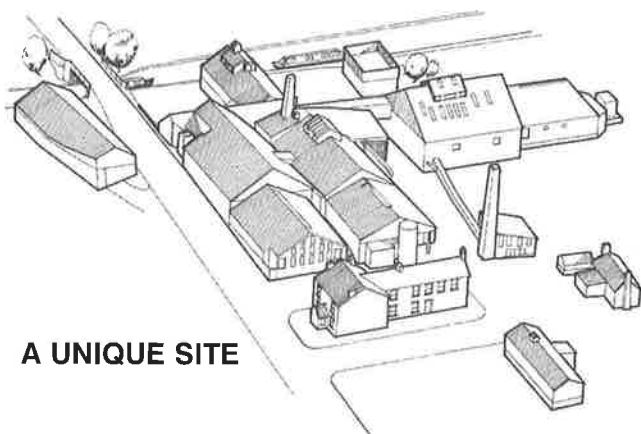


the LION
Salt Works
TRUST

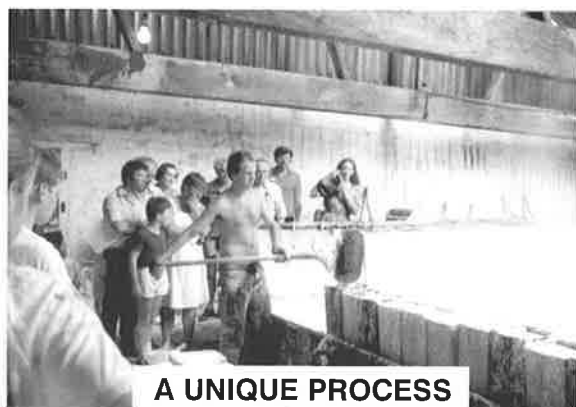
Newsletter of the Lion Salt Works Trust: **SPRING 2004**

VOLUME 10 No.1

LION SALT WORKS – A ‘VIEWER VOTE’ BUILDING IN BBC 2’s ‘RESTORATION’ SERIES



A UNIQUE SITE



A UNIQUE PROCESS



A UNIQUE PRODUCT

‘Restoration’ is a BBC 2 series to be broadcast in July that seeks viewer votes for a building project to receive a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant.

WHY VOTE FOR THE LION SALT WORKS ?

- It is the **last** open pan salt works in the country.
- It is designated a **Scheduled Monument**.
- It is **fragile and rare**. There is only one equivalent site in the whole of the USA and only one in France.
- It **represents ordinary people** and their working conditions rather than the grand houses of the rich and powerful.
- We plan to **restore the buildings** and **restore the process** of block salt making.
- The restored site will **do what it was designed to do** – make salt.
- We will **promote renewable energy** through the use of biomass fuel to heat the salt pans.
- Salt is a **vital natural product** for food preservation, cooking and the basic feedstock of our modern day chemical industries.
- The project will create jobs and make a **fascinating tourist attraction**.

HOW TO VOTE

Call the vote line at the designated time and record your vote for the Lion Salt Works on 09011 332222.

WHEN TO VOTE

You need to vote during a set time period. Check your TV listings for further details or visit the web sites for ‘Restoration’ or the Lion Salt Works Trust. The Northern region will be broadcast in the week beginning Sunday 25th July.

If our site wins the regional vote you need to vote again as each regional winner competes for the main prize.

BBC

RESTORATION

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.

HOW THE BUILDINGS WERE CHOSEN

Last year many of our visitors were engrossed with the BBC 2 series 'Restoration'. We were asked many times why the Lion Salt Works was not included in the programme. Well, this year we are.

To be included in the programme prospective buildings have to appear on the Buildings at Risk Register maintained by English Heritage (www.englishheritage.co.uk/buildings). The register describes Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments that are at risk of being lost.

From the 'List' English Heritage nominated a number of buildings to the programme makers Endemol UK, the BBC and the Heritage Lottery Fund, for consideration as 'viewer vote' buildings for the second series of Restoration. In December 2003 the Trust was contacted and asked to provide further information to the research team about our site. We were asked how we hoped to restore the Lion Salt Works, and what we would use the site for if it could be restored.

The Restoration research team prepared a short list of a dozen sites, which were visited and reviewed. Eventually the deliberations left three buildings to become the viewer vote buildings for each of seven regions around the country, twenty-one buildings in total.

FILMING SCHEDULE

Two filming days have already taken place at the Lion Salt Works. On the first day Ptolemy Dean and Marianne Suhr investigate the site, discovering its special characteristics. On the second day, two former workers were interviewed with the last owner, Henry Thompson. Ruth McKew, curator at the Salt Museum, Northwich spoke about the importance of the site and the process of open pan salt making.

An historic reconstruction of an event associated with open pan salt making was filmed at Pinewood Studios. This has created a very different cameo which is a MUST SEE!

BBC

RESTORATION

TRUST DELIGHTED AT NOMINATION

Our Trustees have been delighted that our site has been selected to take part in the series. After all, in the UK there are over 20,000 buildings included in the 'Buildings at Risk Register' maintained by English Heritage. We aim to restore three things – a unique building, a unique process and a unique product.

THE ONLY BUILDING IN THE NORTH WEST

The Lion Salt Works is the only building in the North West, the other two buildings competing to be finalists from the Northern Region come from Sheffield and North Yorkshire. We shall certainly be encouraging people in Northwich, Vale Royal Borough, the County of Cheshire and the whole North West Region to support us by watching the programme and voting the Lion Salt Works the winning building in the Northern Region.

HELP FROM ST. NICHOLAS'S

Pupils at St. Nicholas R.C. High School, Hartford are preparing a support campaign to distribute information about the Lion Salt Works Restoration. They will be preparing an information newsletter to encourage all schools, students and parents in Cheshire to make lots of telephone votes in July.

VISIT BY CONSTITUENCY MP

George Osborne, MP for Tatton, visited the Lion Salt Works on 14th May. The visit coincided with Museums Week but was particularly welcomed this month as he was able to endorse our nomination as a 'viewer vote' building in the BBC 2 Restoration series.

Mr Osborne was shown around the site by Trustees Richard Hamlett and Cllr Mrs Anne Hooker.



Aerial view of Lion Salt Works.



Ptolemy and Marianne with producer for the Northern region, Jonathan Barker.

OTHER TV PROGRAMMES

Cheshire's salt heritage has suddenly become very popular. The childrens' programme, 'Blue Peter' has filmed in the nearby Salt Union, rock salt mine at Winsford and the antiques programme 'Flog It!' has filmed at the County Council Salt Museum.

SALT 2003

Publication of Salt 2003 has had to be delayed because of the additional work that has been required in preparation for the BBC 2 'Restoration' programme. Annelise Fielding has drawn together the text based on the lectures given during the conference and Julian Baum at Take 27 has spent the additional time improving the layout of the accompanying DVD so, the publication should be even better. The DVD can be seen on site from Monday, 31st May.

LION SALT WORKS TRUST ADVISES 'TIME TEAM'

Our expertise in historic salt making is becoming widely known. In early May Andrew and Annelise Fielding spent two days at St Osyth, Essex, building a lead salt pan for the popular Channel 4 archaeology programme, Time Team.

We are grateful to British Lead Mills, British Salt, Ellis Welding, Anvil Pottery and Les Bainbridge who provided materials at short notice for making a new lead salt pan to evaporate brine in. Paul Gilman of Essex County Council described the local salt making heritage where the traditional processes are continued in a modern form by the Maldon Sea Salt Company. The programme will be shown during the next series at the end of the year.

Lion Salt Works Project Officer discusses salt crystals with Time Team's Tony Robinson



Photograph by Garth Tomkins, Clacton.

Dates for Your Diary

Monday, 31st May – 10.30am to 5pm

Salt Making Demonstration

Come to see brine evaporated over a wood fire using a replica Roman salt pan. A process almost unchanged at the Lion Salt Works until 1986. Hear how the Lion Salt works can be restored. Launch of DVD made as part of our Salt 2003 event.

Tuesday, 22nd June – 9.30am to noon

Horse Drawn Boat Demonstration

The Friends of Ellesmere Port Boat Museum are demonstrating the art of pulling narrow boats by horse on a trip between Middlewich and Runcorn. 'Bonny' will show how she is harnessed to pull boats along the cut. She will be at the Lion Salt Works giving demonstrations in the morning of the 22nd from 9.30am.

Saturday, 3rd July

Salt Making Demonstration Day

Another opportunity to see brine evaporated to make white salt crystals.

Saturday, 10th July

Wincham C.P. School Summer Fair

Our mascot 'Lionel' will be opening our local primary school Summer Fair.

Saturday 17th & Sunday, 18th July

Northwich Roman Weekend

Verdin Park, Northwich. The Lion Salt Works Trust will be acting as Roman Salt Merchants at this exciting re-enactment weekend. Roman encampment, drama, etc. etc.

Week beginning 25th July

RESTORATION BBC 2

Look in your TV Guide for information about when the Lion Salt Works is being featured.

Vote for our site in the Northern region, and again if we are a regional winner.

Saturday, September, 25th

Roman Salt Making and Crafts

Craftsmen specialising in making replica Roman goods will be at the Lion Salt Works making and selling their goods.

Part of the Northwich Roman Festival.

SALT TELLERS

A public meeting was held at the Northwich Memorial Hall on the 20th April to encourage former salt workers and associated industries to contribute oral history recorders which would be used to produce a Community Play in July, 2005. The performance will be in the open air and involve a 'promenade' using the Lion Salt Works and Anderton as the backdrop to the play.

WEB INFORMATION

www.lionsaltworkstrust.co.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/restoration/lion

Jo Houghton has rebuilt our web site to provide more images on the site and we have started a digital archive of our newsletters as pdf files.

There is a supporting BBC web site to the Restoration series which includes some 360 degree panoramic photographs of our pan houses and warehouses.

Check regularly for details of further events. We are planning to visit sites in the North West to encourage you to vote for the Lion Salt Works.

CAN YOU HELP ENCOURAGE VOTES FOR THE LION SALT WORKS?

We need help in spreading the word about the Lion Salt Works.

Can you put up a poster ?

Have you room for some leaflets ?

Can you help us with travelling displays ?

Do you contribute to your society's newsletter ?

If you can, please contact Andrew Fielding on 01606-41823 or

afielding@lionsalt.demon.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 Gift Aid form.

The Lion Salt Works Trust is a company limited by guarantee 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 : £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.