

The MUNDLING STICK



the LION
Salt Works
TRUST

Newsletter of the Lion Salt Works Trust

SPRING 2008

VOLUME 14 No.1

HLF AWARD APPROVED



Photographed after the welcomed announcement that the HLF had approved the Trust's Stage 2 application. Left to right: Andrew Fielding, Project Director; David Roberts, Chairman of Trustees; Richard Hallows, Director of Social and Community Services; Cllr John Grimshaw, Lead Councillor for Recreation and Culture, VRBC.

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) announced on Tuesday 18 March that the Stage 2 bid for the restoration of the Lion Salt Works had been successful. The £4.96 million HLF award will go towards the total cost of the £7 million project. A great start to 2008.

The Lion Salt Works in Marston, Northwich, is a group of buildings owned by Vale Royal Borough Council and designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport as advised by English Heritage. The land and buildings are leased to the Lion Salt Works Trust, which is working to operate the site as a museum of the salt industry.

Cllr John Grimshaw, Lead Councillor for Recreation, Rural and Culture at VRBC, said: "I am delighted this bid has been successful. Many people have committed time, effort and money to this project and it is vital to ensure this important piece of our heritage is saved for future generations."

The plight of the Lion Salt Works first came to national attention in series 2 of the BBC's Restoration programme in 2004. The annual programme highlights a range of properties they describe as 'truly extraordinary', raising awareness of fascinating but endangered buildings. Although the Lion Salt Works didn't win, its importance to both regional and national heritage was underlined.



Heritage
Lottery Fund

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.



David Roberts, Chairman of The Lion Salt Works Trust, commented: "Since the site closed in 1986 many of the buildings have begun to decay. The restoration and development of the site is critical for heritage tourism in Cheshire. This large award means we can finally move ahead with the proposed plans to restore this site to its former glory and provide a fascinating visitor attraction."

"We can now move forward with forging closer links with the neighbouring attraction of the Anderton Boat Lift, which is integrally linked to our story in allowing salt to be transhipped from narrowboats to barges for shipment to Liverpool and overseas."

Programme of Work

2008 Stage 1

Design Team

A Lion Salt Works Project Board will manage the bill of quantities and contractor procurement, utilising the skills of Manchester firm Turner & Townsend and Chester architects, Donald Inshall Associates.

Vale Royal Borough Council will be the accountable and lead body.

The Lion Salt Works Trust will continue to develop and improve facilities within the current exhibition space at the former Red Lion Inn, including an exhibition about the development works and links to the wider area.

The Chairman of Trustees and Project Director will continue to recruit additional volunteers to help open the exhibition and present the developing story.

2009

Restoration Works

First building contractors on site. Changing exhibitions describing the restoration work with video links to the actual buildings being restored, following progress on:-

- Dismantling of Stove House 5
- Archaeology assessment and recording of any remains below Stove House 5
- Rebuild and repair of Stove House 5.

2010 Stage 2

Opening of Stove House 5 Restoration Works to Main Complex

The opening of facilities within Stove House 5 with café, shop and display material.

Video links to the restoration works continuing in Pan Houses and Stove Houses 2,3 and 4.

2011 Stage 3

Full complex open



BBC Northwest was on site to broadcast the announcement of our HLF award live for their lunchtime news slot at 12.30 on Wednesday 19 March. Their outside broadcast van (let) dwarfed the Manager's Office. BBC reporter Eleanor Moritz (below left) interviewed Chairman, David Roberts live for the lunch time broadcast, and recorded a piece with Andrew Fielding, Alwyn Farrow and Malcolm Sargeant, also on site was Val Houghton. Though Andrew is not visible in the photograph below, Alwyn and Malcolm were consigned to the cutting room floor when the piece was broadcast at 6.30pm on NWTonight.



So far, willing volunteers have played a key role in opening the site for public access. But we still need more support. We would welcome any local person who has an interest in the project to join our enthusiastic team as we move forward.

WHAT WILL BE NEW IN 2008

It will take over 9 months before any practical building works will take place to the salt works but we will :

Make Links to the Anderton Boat Lift through a temporary exhibition being put together by Colin Edmondson. There will be an accompanying leaflet, which will encourage people to walk along the Trent and Mersey Canal between Lion Salt Works and the Anderton Lift.

A **Vending Machine** will allow visitors to relax catch their breath and have a coffee or canned drink whilst visiting the exhibition and garden.

An **Icd Screen** will be added to the reception area to enable us to use moving digital images to describe development works and other initiatives in the area such the proposed gas storage field in rock salt deposits at neighbouring Lostock.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help open our exhibition centre

Be part of our volunteer rota to enable the centre to open every afternoon in 2008.

Help with our salt making demonstrations

Learn the practical skills of open pan evaporation using replica salt pans. Use these skills during demonstration days and for book parties.

Help to take our displays to other events

Attend shows and exhibitions on behalf of the Trust and encourage people to visit and support the restoration of the Lion Salt Works.

Help with our garden

Join our Garden Group in partnership with Butterfly Conservation to look after our herb garden and develop the Buddleia Garden.

Help by supporting our fundraising committee

The Trust still needs additional funding to enhance our displays and educational programme. Support sponsorship, Gift Aid, donations etc.

Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 3 April 2008
7.45pm

GO Northwest
Granada Region TV

The Lion Salt Works was filmed for ITV Granada in August. The piece will be used in the regional programme GO NORTHWEST showing viewers the variety of attractions they can visit in the area.

The piece will show how we demonstrate the heritage of salt making in historic replica salt pans based on Iron Age ceramic salt pans and Roman lead salt pans.

Sunday 4 May

Salt Making Demonstration

Come along to see brine being evaporated in replica roman salt pans made of lead and pottery. Hear about the programme of work being devised to restore the historic open pan salt works.

Come and meet the volunteers who make everything happen and see if you could join the team.

We would be delighted to see you.

17 - 18 May

Clay Art Wales, 2008

The Old Coachhouse,
Llanrhaeadr Hall, Denbigh, North Wales

The Lion Salt Works will once again be demonstrating a salt glaze kiln with Allan Hughes and Krithia Roberts from Anvil Pottery. There will be other potters attending who specialise in salt glaze and soda glaze ceramics. Representative pieces will be sold from the Lion Salt Works shop after the event.

GARDEN DEVELOPMENTS



Work has been carried out on our grounds this spring by the gardening group of the Cheshire and Peak Butterfly Conservation. Their work has been co-ordinated by George Martin and we have to extend particularly thanks to Colin and Graham Price who have re-coppiced the trees planted along our southern boundary. We can now restart the 3 year cutting cycle originally intended for the area which comprises willow, poplar, ash, hazel and sweet chestnut.

We hope to replant our herb garden this spring and to begin design work for a buddleia garden in partnership with Butterfly Conservation - making practical links with preservation of the natural and built environment.

If you would like to provide practical help or sponsorship for this initiative please contact the Project Director, Andrew Fielding

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. 2794519 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.