

The MUNDLING STICK

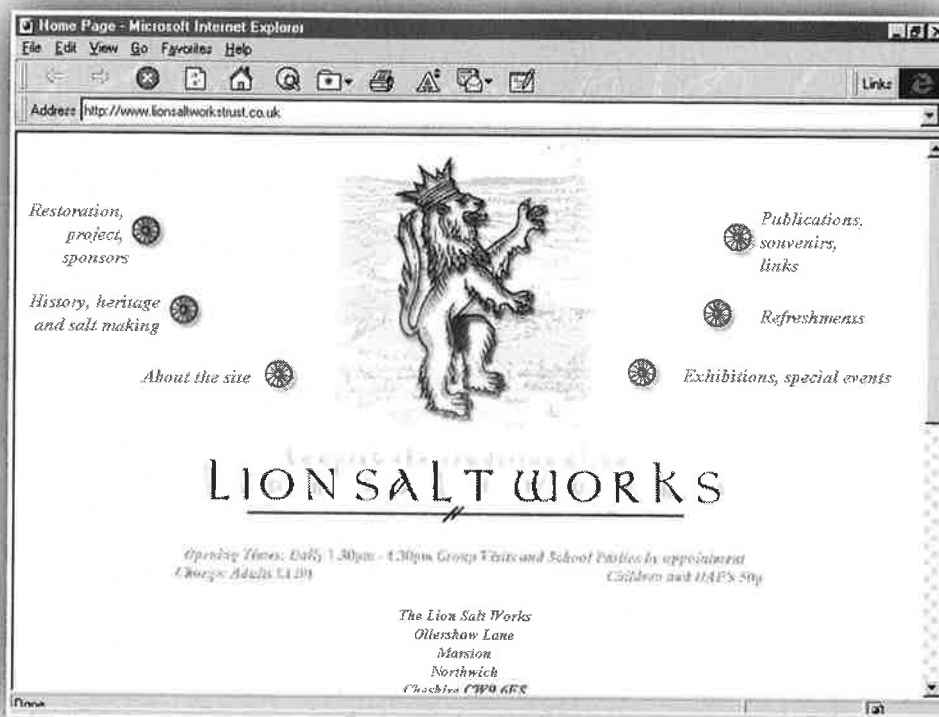


the LION
Salt Works
TRUST

Newsletter of the Lion Salt Works Trust: **SUMMER 1997**

VOLUME 3 No. 2

WEB SITE FOR LION SALT WORKS <http://www.lionsaltworkstrust.co.uk>



 Interactive Developments



INFORMATION pages about the Lion Salt Works went live during Museums Week, allowing anyone with a PC and internet connections to read about the project. The web site has been partly funded by a grant from the Cheshire Seedcorn Fund. Though the fund has grant aided newsletters and leaflets in the past this is the first time an electronic publication has been supported.

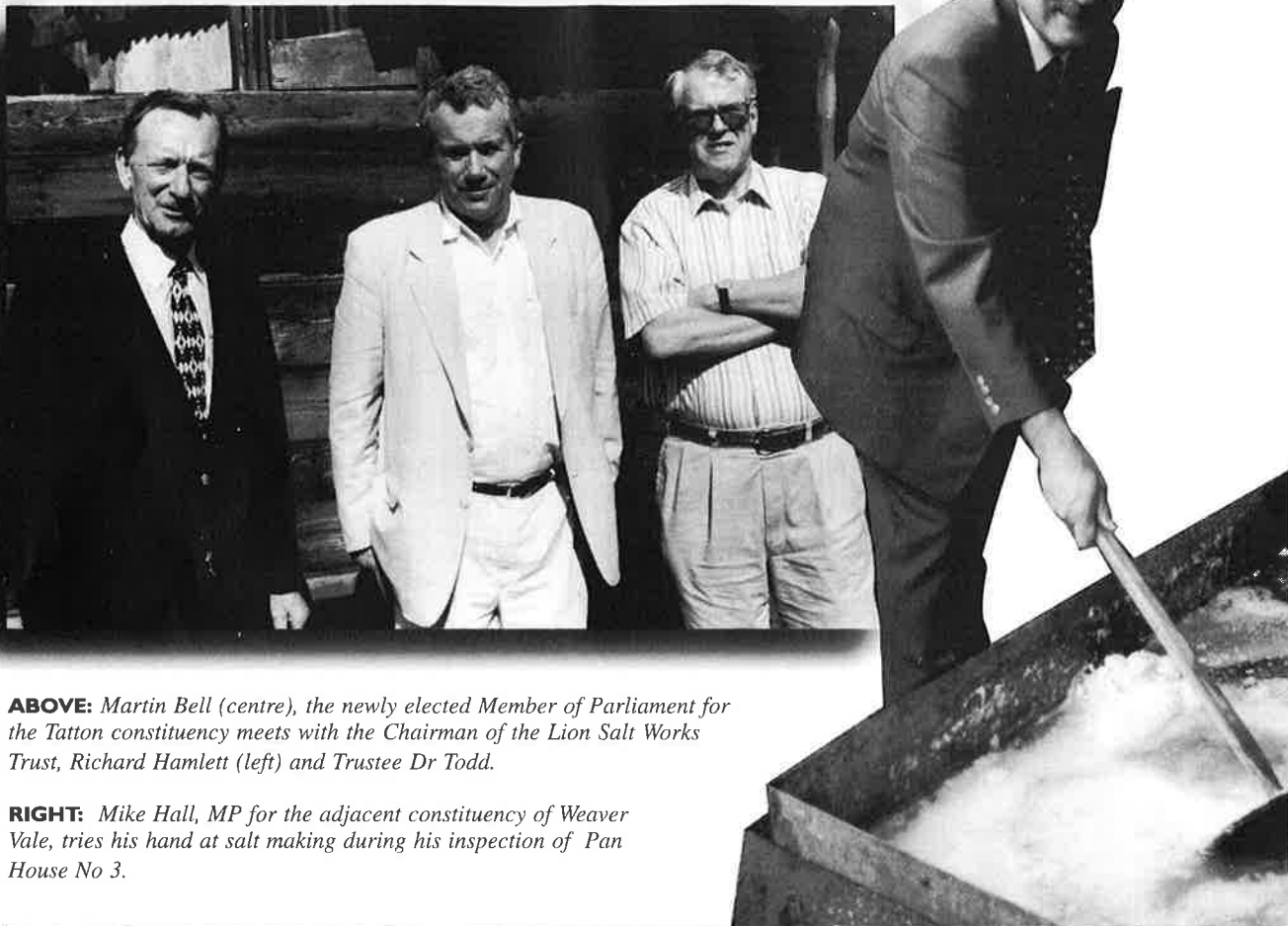
The pages have been developed by a local Northwich company **Interactive Developments**, part of **BIT**. Interactive Developments have just moved from the central BIT office, by Northwich Town Bridge, to the Brickfield Centre, Manchester Road. This new office development has a connection with our project as the office block is built over Jabez Thompson's brick and terra-cotta works which featured in an earlier salt works exhibition. Jabez

Thompson briefly operated the Alliance Salt Works behind the Red Lion Hotel before becoming more involved with brickmaking and leaving his brother to develop the Lion Works at Marston.

Interactive Developments have created a web site with eight inter-linked pages which begin by providing our opening times and directions on how to find the museum. The text, supported by colour and tinted line drawings gives basic information about the history the works, a tour of the buildings, descriptions of salt making as well as details of special events, publications and souvenirs. The Trust thanks Roger Collins and all at **Interactive Developments** for their help creating these web pages which will be enlarged and up-dated on a regular basis as the project develops.

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.

Two MP's visit during Museums Week '97



ABOVE: Martin Bell (centre), the newly elected Member of Parliament for the Tatton constituency meets with the Chairman of the Lion Salt Works Trust, Richard Hamlett (left) and Trustee Dr Todd.

RIGHT: Mike Hall, MP for the adjacent constituency of Weaver Vale, tries his hand at salt making during his inspection of Pan House No 3.

MUSEUMSWEEK

Museums Week '97 is seen as an opportunity to spread the word about the work of museums, create new displays, open doors to new visitors and generally publicise the wide role museums play. Museums Week is championed and promoted by Lloyd Grossman who as Chairman of the Campaign for Museums supports all museums large and small.

The promotion this year came at a time when the Lion Salt Works Trust has just taken into its care the archive of artifacts which survived at the site when it was purchased by Vale Royal Borough Council in June, 1986. To mark this milestone a new exhibition has been put together which features a variety of objects and letters from the collection.

In the spirit of making its work known to a new audience the Trust invited newly elected Members of Parliament to see the displays and have a tour of the works.

The Lion Works is located in the Tatton constituency and the Trust was pleased to welcome Martin Bell to the site. Whilst he was unfamiliar with the process of salt making in Cheshire he is perhaps our only visitor to date who has actually stayed at a hotel in Fernando Po, Nigeria, a destination for Lion salt referred to in a letter which features in the new exhibition.

Mike Hall, MP for the newly created constituency of Weaver Vale, and his wife Lesley also called in to see our work. Weaver Vale includes part of Northwich and follows the River Weaver down to Frodsham where there had once been salt works.

TWO NEW STUDENT PROJECTS

THE Lion Salt Work Trust is continuing its links with students in Vale Royal by providing two further practical projects during 1997. Both have links with our collections and with the effects of wild brine pumping in the area. The legacy of wild brining in Northwich has seen the replacement of many brick buildings with unique timber framed structures from the 1860s to counteract the effects of subsidence particularly on commercial premises in the town centre. The Trust was donated two specific items related to subsidence by the Cheshire Brine Board when it moved offices from Northwich to Chester, both have proved to be ideal for very different projects.

For the first project five apprentices at Brunner Mond have refurbished a set of hydraulic jacks formerly used by the Brine Board to lift framed buildings in order to straighten them, or realign them, as street levels were altered. For the second project James Owen, an HND student at Mid-Cheshire College, Hartford has utilised photographs taken of Northwich in 1891. These were taken to record the condition of buildings at the setting up of the Brine Board under the new Brine Subsidence Compensation Act and provide a unique view of the town at a particular point in time. The photographs have been widely used in local history accounts in the past, but this project attempts to use them in a new and individual perspective as computer graphics.

The Trust is keen to relate the social effects of open pan salt production and none can have had as great an effect as the subsidence caused by the pumping of wild brine and mining of rock salt.

NORTHWICH LIFTABLE BUILDINGS



This is the third project completed by Brunner Mond apprentices for the Trust as part of their training with North Trafford College. The work has included the cleaning and reconditioning of four hydraulic jacks and the fabrication of a replica building in order to demonstrate the lifting process of a framed building. The use of the jacks was demonstrated by the apprentices in June at the Cheshire Show where the marquee of the Vale Royal of England Tourist Association won a gold medal.

COMPUTER GRAPHICS PROJECT



This computer graphics project follows on from a technical illustration assignment given to four students last year to create new views of Crum Hill, Northwich by combining the images of six photographs taken in 1891. James Owen's project moves the presentation towards our objective to create one of the largest virtual reality worlds in the country and provide unique work experience placements for HND students at Hartford Campus. The Trust has discussed the needs of this project with VR Solutions one of the UK's leading virtual reality companies and needs £30,000 to begin the first phase.

RETIREMENT OF TRUST'S COMPANY SECRETARY

The Trust has recently had to find a new Company Secretary to replace David Rawlinson who has served the Trust since it was formed in 1993. Mr. Rawlinson initially acted as Chairman of a Joint Working Party comprising Vale Royal Borough Council, Cheshire County Council and the Macclesfield and Vale Royal Groundwork Trust which promoted the employment of a Project Officer and the creation of an independent charitable trust. David took early retirement from VRBC at the end of March where he was Director of Central Services. The Trust passed on its best wishes for his retirement at its recent meeting in May and welcomed Mrs Caroline Ellwood to her first meeting as new Company Secretary to the Lion Salt Works Trust. Mrs Ellwood is Head of Legal and Administrative Services in Vale Royal Borough Council's newly created Directorate of Corporate Services. She has worked in Vale Royal for 10 yrs and is well acquainted with the site, its problems and potential and is looking forward to seeing major initiatives in the next twelve months.

DATES for your Diary

Summer—Autumn '97

25 - 27th JULY 1st Marston Boat Rally

A weekend of events in Marston involving a boat rally, crafts and a celebration of Marston's association with salt mining, brine pumping and the Trent and Mersey Canal. Supported by the Salt Barge pub. Customers of the pub have been collecting photographs of Marston to decorate the bar and restaurant.

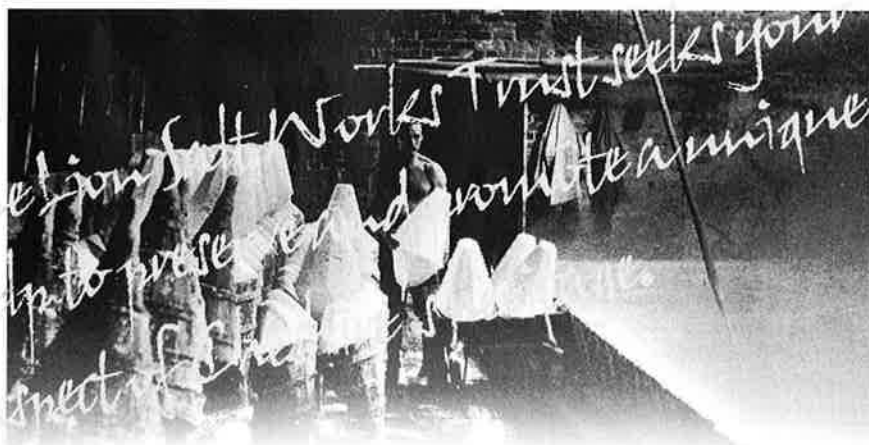
Visit the Lion Salt Works for more local history and demonstrations. Display of some local indentures. Demonstration of hydraulic jacks used to lift Northwich framed buildings. Salt boiling. Childrens activities.

25 AUGUST Bank Holiday Monday

Another opportunity to see brine evaporation. Given good weather three demonstration salt pans should be in use. The horizontal steam engine and brine pump will also be in operation.

13 -14 SEPTEMBER Heritage Open Day

Part of a national event supported by the Civic Trust to promote the opening of historic buildings and sites around the country. A special leaflet giving details of all the buildings open in Vale Royal will be produced by Vale Royal Borough Council. Salt boiling, childrens activities.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Trust is seeking financial support for its role in preserving and restoring the Lion Salt Works, the last open pan salt works in the country. With the launch of the Trust's "Founding Sponsor's" scheme during the summer there will be an opportunity for local companies to become involved with the development of this unique project. Look out for details in the local press as they are announced.

OPENING TIMES

The Lion Salt Works exhibition is opened each afternoon between 1.30pm and 4.30pm by our site stewards. We ask for a donation of £1 per adult, 50p per child.

New stewards are required to help at the site, not just to receive visitors but also to help with maintenance of the building and grounds.

If you have a few hours a week please contact Andrew Fielding, Project Director. Call 01606-41823.

TRUSTEES

Richard Hamlett, (*Chairman*); Lady Rochester; John Szostek, Terry Cresswell, Dr Sandy Todd, Dr Tom Farthing; Cllr Mrs V Frame; Cllr Tony Hooton; Cllr Ron Carey.

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 Nick Davies, Project Assistant, Lion Salt Works Trust, Ollershaw Lane, Marston, Northwich CW9 6ES or telephone 01606-41823. Newsletters will be 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.