

The MUNDLING STICK



the LION
Salt Works
TRUST

Newsletter of the Lion Salt Works Trust: **SUMMER 2002**

VOLUME 8 No. 2

SALT ARCH CELEBRATIONS



As the Lion Salt Works prepares to take part in celebrations to mark Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee year, this post card shows a salt arch built in 1897 for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. It was built in Witton Street, Northwich.

The column bases are cut from mined blocks of rock salt supporting the arches of white salt blocks made in open pan salt works.

Arches were popular at the time. In other parts of the country arches were built of barrels and chairs.

We shall be attempting to construct a table top sized salt arch to be exhibited in Macclesfield on 24th July when the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visit Cheshire as part of the Golden Jubilee tour of the country

It will be displayed at the salt works during the rest of the summer.

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.

SITE NOW A SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT

Vale Royal Borough Council and the Lion Salt Works Trust were notified on the 13th May that the Lion Salt Works and remains of part of the Alliance Salt Works had been included in the Schedule of Monuments under Section 1 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, as amended.

This recognises the site as being of national importance. Its National Monument Number is 34985.

Under Section 2 of the Act it is an offence to carry out, or cause or permit anyone else to carry out any works resulting in a) the demolition or destruction of, or any damage to, a scheduled monument; b) any works for the purpose of removing, or making any alteration or addition to a scheduled monument or any part of it; c) any flooding or tipping operations on land in, or under which there is a scheduled monument; except in accordance with the consent of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Section 42 of the Act prohibits the use of a metal detector on the site of a scheduled monument and the removal from such a site of any object of archaeological or historical interest, which has been discovered by the use of a metal detector, without the written consent of English Heritage.

This designation places the Lion Salt Works in the top category of archaeological sites in the country.

There are 40 scheduled monuments in Vale Royal and a total of 237 in Cheshire.

PLANNING PERMISSION APPROVED

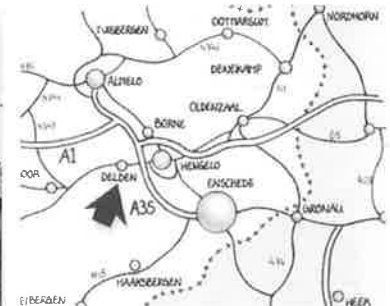
At a meeting of the Planning Committee of Vale Royal Borough Council held on xxth May 2002, it was resolved that a planning application submitted by the Trust be approved - to allow *'extension to museum for demonstration salt making and associated visitors/retail and restaurant facilities'*.

Consent from the Secretary of State is now required giving Scheduled Monument Consent for the work proposed. A higher level of detail within the restoration design is required for ancient monuments but as this is already fully incorporated within our conservation statement the scheduling process provides added support for the aims and objectives of the Trust.

WHEN NEXT IN HOLLAND.... VISIT DELDEN

The Delden Salt Museum is situated in the heart of Twente, close to where salt was first found in the Dutch sub-soil in 1886. The museum was founded in 1985 and gives a versatile picture of salt through permanent and regularly changing displays. Videos about salt are shown continuously and there is a collection of over 2,000 salt cellars. There is also a sea-water aquarium and a small shop. The museum recently acquired some Lion Salt Works limited edition salt glazed pottery for their collection through a grant from Akzo Nobel.

Many thanks to Wim ter Schegget for the post card showing the outside of the museum and information about collections.



WHEN NEXT ON HOLIDAY

On holiday this summer? Visiting a salt making area? Find out if there is a salt museum and send us a post card. It will build up our archive of other salt museums. We'll include some in future newsletters to encourage others to visit.



MEMORIES OF 'CONSTANCE'

Roy Walker visited the Lion Salt Works earlier this year. In his youth he worked on the Thompsons' flat 'Constance' carrying salt from Anderton to Liverpool. We were able to show him a surviving anchor light, which forms part of the Lion Salt Works archive.



MERSEYSIDE YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS CLUB LEARN HOW TO MAKE SALT

Lynn Smith, leader of Merseyside YAC brought her group over from Norton Priory to Lion in April to learn about salt making. They are preparing a report about their day on site which we will use to help organise future practical days for other groups.

We had great weather and for the first time experimented with clay, salt mould containers similar to the traditional briquetage pots. These were a great success and allowed every one to take home some of the salt they had helped to make. More pots will be available at future salt making demonstrations.

If your kids are interested in archaeology find out about a subscription to YAC, or to see if there is a group near you, contact YAC at Council for British Archaeology, Bowes Morrell House, 111 Walmgate, York YO1 9WA, Tel: 01904 671417 email: yac@britarch.ac.uk

Council for British Archaeology

Autumn Conference 19th October 2002

SALT-PRODUCTION IN THE ROMAN PERIOD

The draft programme for the CBA North West autumn conference has been put together by Tim Strickland and will be held in Northwich. It will concentrate on salt making during the Roman period and will include reports from recent excavations in Middlewich and Nantwich. The Cheshire sites will be put into a national context by reports from the inland brine sites excavated at Droitwich and the extensive investigations of sea salt production in the Fenlands. Our shop has copies of the new book edited by Tom Lane and Elaine Morris: *A Millennium of Saltmaking: Prehistoric and Romano-British salt production in the Fenland*. Lincolnshire Archaeology Heritage Reports Series No.4. (2001) pp509. ISBN-948639-32-6, price £22.50.

The day is chaired by Adrian Tindall, Chairman of CBA-North West, and County Archaeologist for Cheshire.

Title	Speaker
Middlewich: discoveries before 2002	Dan Garner, Gifford & Partners
Recent work at Middlewich	Leigh Dodd, Earthworks Archaeological Services
Roman Salt-production at Droitwich	Simon Woodiwiss, Worcestershire Archaeology Service
Iron-Age & Roman Sea-Salt production in the Fens	Tom Lane, Heritage Lincolnshire
Salt proprietors: realities and possibilities	David Shotter, Formerly of Lancashire University
Salt-production at Nantwich in the Roman Period	Mark Leah, Cheshire County Council
Practical Saltmaking and site-recognition	Andrew Fielding, Lion Salt Works Trust



Details of the CBA-NW Group's autumn conference can be obtained from Carolyne Kershaw, Hon. Sec. CBA-NW, 39 Stalbridge Avenue, Allerton, Liverpool, L18 1HA. Tel: 0151 7067814; Fax: 0151 7096206; email: carolynek@career.u-net.com

Dates for Your Diary

Saturday, 7th July 2002
Salt Making
Demonstration
Lion Salt Works
10.30-4.30pm

A whole day of salt making. Also visit our herb garden and see how our coppice woodland trees look the third year after they were planted.

24th July 2002
Jubilee Tour

Kings School, Macclesfield Business Marquee. Private visit by Queen Elizabeth II and Duke of Edinburgh, 2.30-3.00pm. Open to the public 3.00-5.30pm

Saturday, 19th October 2002

CBA North West
Autumn Meeting in
Middlewich

A programme organised by Tim Strickland. This day school will investigate the archaeological record of salt making mainly in the Roman period. See inside for booking details.



A special group of pots have been themed around the sites steam boiler and the shaft linings rescued from the Adelaide Rock Salt Mine. In shades of blue and grey, with raised rivet and pipe decorations the vases, mugs and platters have an engineering quality. Mugs £20, vases £60-80, 31cm diameter platters £80.

More traditional ceramics are provided by Krithia Roberts a potter from North Wales. These salts have a smooth, soft texture and are in muted grey and light brown colours.

Tromp-l'oeil ceramics

Local ceramic artist Janet Halligan has produced some interesting pieces for the Trust to retail. Continuing her theme of containers, Janet has produced a ceramic salt sack based on a cotton sack used to bag crushed lump salt which was known as Lagos Salt. 'Bag' 30cm tall, £80.



OPENING TIMES

The Lion Salt Works tries to open each afternoon 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Donations welcomed : £1 per adult, 50p per child. Booked parties by arrangement. For further information call 01606-41823. To help open the exhibition please contact Andrew Fielding, Project Director
Web site address - <http://lionsaltworkstrust.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.

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