

The MUNDLING STICK



the LION
Salt Works
TRUST

Newsletter of the Lion Salt Works Trust SUMMER 2005

VOLUME II No.2



Salt workers demonstrate how salt blocks were lofted.

Success of Salt Tellers

The play, *Salt Tellers*, by Robert Meadows was a huge success with the audiences. Staged at the Lion Salt Works and the Anderton Lift over six performances a combined audience of over 1,000 followed the dramatisation of stories telling the heritage of salt making and the lives of those who lived and worked on the Trent and Mersey Canal and the River Weaver.

The project was conceived by Robert Meadows and brought to life through a Salt Tellers Committee comprising Andrew Fielding, Lion Salt Works Trust, Ann Bates, Action Weaver Valley; Nick Hughes, DAN; Katherine West, Vale Royal Borough Council and Robert Meadows. Jim Mole provided support with the management and delivery of the project as well as appearing in both plays. The play was split into two halves – The Works and The River and contained the personal stories of ‘tellers’, people whose memories were collected and then skilfully interwoven into the story by Robert Meadows. Turn to the back cover to find out how to order the book of the play.



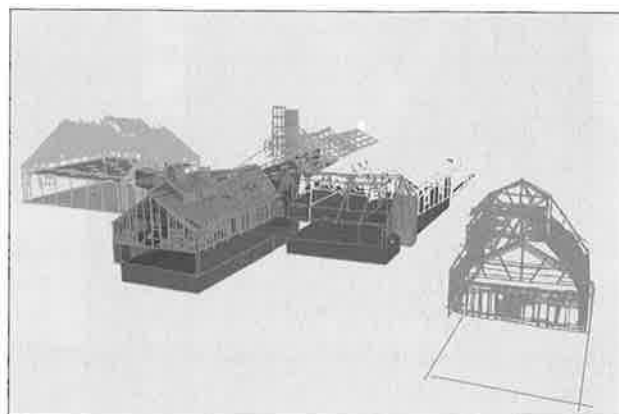
Supported by the
Heritage Lottery Fund

Submission of Bid Documents to HLF

At the beginning of July the Lion Salt Works Trust delivered its bid documents to the HLF offices in Manchester. The combined documents comprised six A4 ring binders, some three inches thick. The three copies of each set of files weighed in at 40kg.

The Trust must now wait scrutiny by the HLF staff and their consultants, which might take up to six months to complete. The Trust would like to thank all its consultants, sponsors, donors, volunteers and supporters for all the hard work they have put into the project so far. In particular we need say special thanks to Vale Royal Borough Council and the Northwest Development Agency and to the architects Tony Barton and Simon Mallam at Donald Insall Associates, Chester.

We received many visitors each year who believe that the Lion Salt Works could be a major heritage attraction. Watch this space for further information.



Wire-frame model of the Lion Salt Works produced from a laser scan survey funded by English Heritage.



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.

THE WORKS

This section covered memories from former workers and from local newspaper accounts. The main 'Teller' is the ghost of Sam Pemberton, a lumpman who hung himself following the death of his girl friend, Alice Buckley, who had fallen to her death through ice on the river. He meets a young vandal, Leroy, who becomes trapped in time after setting fire to the last surviving salt works. Leroy is given information about the history of the salt works. At the end of the play he challenges you to save the works or let him burn it down. Is history worth saving? Can it be saved? Do you want to save it?



Sam and David from Barclays Bank, Gadbrook Park Community Group provided assistance. David also became Lionel, our mascot, to welcome the audience both at the Salt Works and at Anderton.



The audiences follows the cast around the Lion Salt Works and the Anderton Lift as each scene made use of a different area to tell a different story.



Potter, Allan Hughes made us an enormous, commemorative salt dolly or pig for the Salt Tellers.



Replicating a scene from on open pan salt.



Colin Nicholson has become exceeding well acquainted with the play. He has videoed each performance and started to edit scenes together. We hope that a DVD might be produced at a later date.



Curtain call at 'The Works'

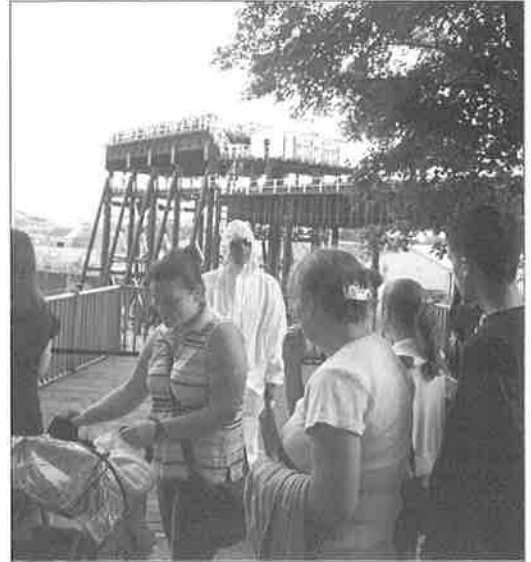
The Thursday evening performance took place on the day of the London bombings. A one minute silence was held by cast and audience before the opening scene.

THE RIVER

The audience is escorted around the site of the Anderton Lift. In the company of Jennifer Barker-Smythe they meet Alice Buckley, the River Teller who allows ghosts of those who died on the river to tell their stories. Eventually we hear her story, of how she died whilst walking on the frozen river with Sam Pemberton. We learn about changes to the life of the river and realise that the life which was once there is no longer able to return. The role of the river as an industry is truly part of history and must now be confined to recreation and leisure.



The Lock Keeper's Story.



The 'Watercrats' introduce the audience to the site at the Anderton Boat Lift..



The "Works" and "River" are re-united at the end of the play and depart into the night by barge.

Never turn your back on what once was.
Make it be again. Make me be again
Pure and simple
Nothing complicated
Pretty as a picture
Is our history.

The Anderton Basin was decorated by flags of the world collected by Carl Leicki a former lock keeper. His memories are soon to be published. Copies can be bought through the Lion Salt Works.

BROKEN CROSS BOAT CLUB SUPPORT SALT WORKS

At the interval of the Salt Tellers play the Commodore of the Broken Cross Boat Club presented Andrew Fielding, Project Director with a cheque for £250. The money is to be used to assist in the publication of a book about the lives of narrow boats on the Trent and Mersey Canal. Also at the presentation is Jim Mole a member of the boat club who was also appearing in the play, and John Tackley who is preparing the text for the book.



Dates for Your Diary

8-11 September 2005

Jurade du Sel

The Trust has been invited to participate in the 25th Annual Festival of Salt held at Salies-de-Bearn, France. Each year the Town Council together with the Jurade du Sel, a fraternal group dedicated to the celebration of salt, If you want to visit Salies-de-Bearn to experience the Fete du Sel, contact the Office de Tourisme, Rue des Bains, 64270 SALIES-DE-BEARN, Pyrenees-Atlantiques, FRANCE. Or email: salies-de-bearn.tourisme@wanado.fr

Saturday, 15th October 2005

The Big Draw

10am to 4pm

Part of a national campaign to encourage people to take up drawing. Three different artists leading three exciting art workshops! Have a go at watercolour painting, create your own cartoon, or make a three-dimensional sculpture. Drop-in at any time throughout the day and take part in as many workshops as you like!

Richard Carman, noted for his appearances on 'Watercolour Challenge' and 'A Brush With the Mersey' will use the Lion Salt Works as inspiration to lead sessions focussing on watercolour painting.

Jaswindre Elwick will be using wire to create three-dimensional images, exploring shape and form. A variety of media will be used to add colour and texture to the final pieces.

Cartoonist **George Brooks** will be encouraging people to explore cartoons as an exciting and fun way of communication.

Anne-Marie Rickus will help you contribute to a large participatory art piece that all individuals will be able to contribute to during the day.

All materials are provided and individuals will be able to take home any work created.

If you would like more information please contact Anne-Marie Rickus on 01606 867976 or e-mail arickus@valeroyal.gov.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.

Salt Tellers Book & Song

Salt Tell

The folk singer Peter Coe has written a song based on his father's experiences of working at The Lion Salt Works. Peter has allowed the Trust to reproduce the lyrics and sketches on a cotton tea towel. This is available from our shop or by mail order for £3.25.



SALT TELLERS: Bringing Back Memories

Buy the book of the play. Edited by Andrew Fielding the book has the support of and contributions by the playwright Robert Meadows and the Salt Tellers Committee.

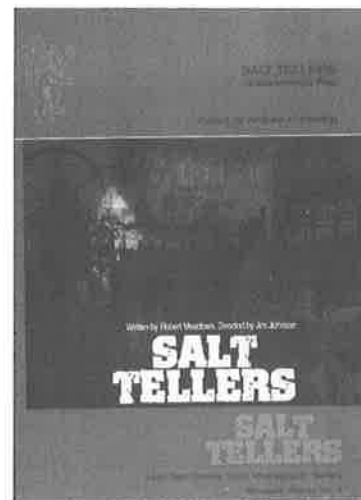
It explains how the play was organised and produced and contains the songs performed in the play, some by local folk duo John and Ailsa Booth as well as the song Salt Tell by Peter Coe. There are many photographs of the rehearsals and the performances.

ISBN 0-9538502-3-4

51 pages,

100 photographs

£6.00



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.