

# The MUNDLING STICK



the LION  
Salt Works  
TRUST

Newsletter of the Lion Salt Works Trust **SUMMER 2006**

**VOLUME 12 No.2**

## MATCH FUNDING CHALLENGE THROUGH THE SALT ARCH



### Preserving the Past – For the Future

Salt is normally considered a preservative, though in our case it is a suitable case for treatment, rather than the cure! Rather than helping preserve something, it needs our help. How can you help us? The Trust needs to find some £60,000 this year to complete the final design stage to RIBA Stage E and to complete the final cost plan, prior to establishing a procurement strategy and implementing a tendering programme.

That's the project planning jargon completed – what we also need are pledges towards our match funding requirements to ensure we have a cash flow over three years, from April 2007 to add to the £4.96m awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund which will enable all the work to be completed

Our new web site will keep you informed about how our fundraising is going – log in regularly to check progress. A diagram will use the salt arch as a barometer of our fund raising efforts. The original arch was constructed across Witton Street, Northwich in 1897 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The supporting blocks were made from rock salt and can be equated to the HLF award of £5m – each of the white salt blocks can be sponsored by grants, business sponsorship or you. Every donation, no matter how small, will help us with our daily costs and build towards reaching our total. Contact us today about how you can help. Watch for events to promote our work.

### How Can You Help

A 'Friends of the Lion Salt Works' is being promoted by long standing volunteer Tony Leonard.

His aim is to recruit more helpers from our local area who can give practical help on site in interpreting the site to visitors and at events, or who would like to contribute to the fundraising activities.

Tony has made appeals through the local newspapers with the help of local PR consultant Peter Harris.

If you can help open our exhibition, or help with manning a travelling exhibition board, give talks or help at demonstration days please get in touch with Tony or Project Director, Andrew Fielding on 01606-41823.



Individuals can make a difference. Become a Friend of the Lion Salt Works by returning a standing order form. A Gift Aid form will add value to your donation if you are a UK tax payer. Larger sums, or support from businesses may be pledged towards our work spread over the next four years.

*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.*

## Prehistoric and Roman Coastal Salt Making in Britain

At the beginning of June, Andrew and Annelise Fielding, Allan and June Hughes, John Hughes and Krithia Roberts from Anvil Pottery, spent time with Tom Lane of the Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire recreating salt making on a salt marsh at Wrangle, Lincolnshire with the permission of farmer George Danby. Also assisting was Tom Trew who was shadowing Tom Lane as part of his school work experience.

The practical work ended with a day of lectures in Boston on 10th June where other speakers included Elaine Morris, University of Southampton; Tom Lane, HTL/APS; Stephen Rippon, University of Exeter; Sarah-Jane Hathaway, Bournemouth University; Steve Willis, University of Kent; and James Fawn, Colchester Archaeological Group.

Three salt hearths were constructed. The first was a tried and tested experimental hearth using fire-bricks to make a superstructure to support replica salt pans based on those found at Ingoldmells, as we have done before at Marston (1 right). The second hearth was made using clay dug from the marsh (1 left). Tom Lane and Tom Trew also dug two brine cisterns and lined them with clay in the manner of structures which have been excavated, completing the appearance of a Lincolnshire salt making site (2). The hearths were explained to visitors (3) who experienced the process of heating the brine and the methods which may have been used to concentrate the strength of the brine as well as crystallise and harvest the salt (4). As the hearths were dismantled at the end of the day the technical design and construction could be seen, showing the specific shape of the pans and how they were set up with their tops levelled by using a ball of wet clay between the supporting pedestals and the underside of the salt pans (5).

The third hearth we built (below 6) was smaller and based on a site excavated at Langtoft, Lincs where interpretation of the evidence suggested that the salt pans were subjected to direct heat from the fire, rather than indirect heat suggested by the other reconstructions. We used compressed peat briquettes to heat the pan with great success. Keep an eye out for this salt pan as it may feature in the next series of the BBC programme 'Coast' demonstrating the art of sea salt making using ceramic containers.



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



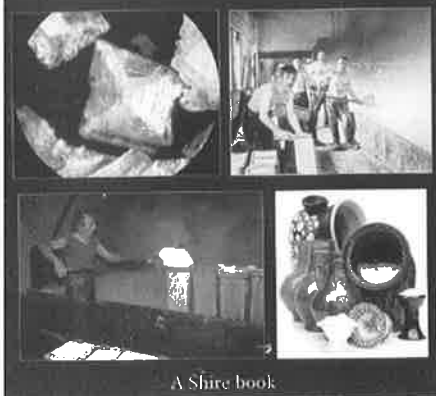
(5)



(6)

## The Salt Industry

Andrew and Annelise Fielding



### SHIRE PUBLICATIONS *THE SALT INDUSTRY*

The finishing touches are being made to Shire Publications next book, Album No. 454, on The Salt Industry. We hope that the book will be published in August, when we will hold a launch party at the Lion Salt Works. During the event we will demonstrate the replica Langtoft ceramic salt pan used at Wrangle, and by the BBC (see opposite).

If you would like to be one of the first to buy a copy leave us your contact details and we will let you know the date and time of the launch.

### European Route of Industrial Heritage

The European Route of Industrial Heritage is coming together. A web site now links up the sites participating and plaques identifying the anchor points are being unveiled across the UK over the coming months. More details in our Autumn newsletter

Member of  
**European Route of Industrial Heritage**



www.erih.net

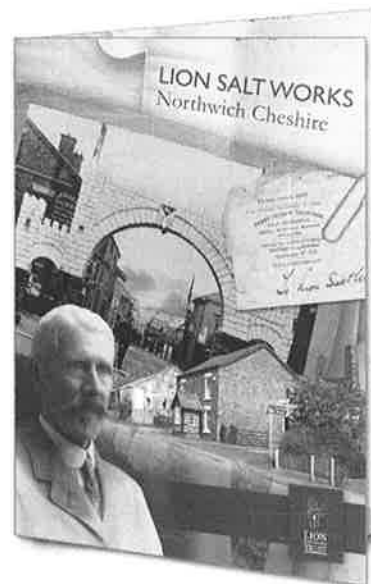
### New Trustees and A Proposed Salt Court

The Trust has seen changes on its Trustee Board. Cllr Lloyd has been replaced by Cllr Charton from Vale Royal Borough Council and Cllr Mrs Dolphin has replaced Cllr Mainwaring from Cheshire County Council.

Trustees are seeking to attract leading members of the community and business to support our fundraising targets through the establishment of a Salt Court. The role of the Court would be to support and direct our match-funding target of £2m.

### New Leaflet Distributed

A new leaflet advertising the Lion Salt Works has been designed and is currently being printed. It features the iconic salt arch, which we are using as the focus of our sponsorship programme.



### WEB SITE RE-DESIGN

Tom Smith, Managing Director of Northwich web design company, Designed4hits heard about the urgent need for the Lion Salt Works Trust to raise funds. He proposed that his company help by supporting our web site and re-launching it with the ability to take on-line orders and to recognise company sponsors through links to the sponsoring company's web site.

One of the first companies to support the idea was The Salt Union. Managing Director, David Goadby had two good reasons for helping. Firstly, Salt Union have always supported the plans to restore the Lion Salt Works, but secondly his nephew, David Goadby is a web designer at Designed4hits who will be compiling the new site. The other initial sponsors of the site are British Salt and Brunner Mond.

More detail about the new web site in our Autumn newsletter.

### The Saxons Came Saturday 1st July, 2006

Tony Leonard, Alwen Farrow and Jo Baker made salt at The Salt Museum, London Rd, Northwich as part of their Saxon re-enactment week-end.

## Dates for Your Diary

### Web Launch

Our new website should be operational in August. Check it out.

### Book Launch

Shire Book on *The Salt Industry* - August

### Cheshire Open Studios

Saturday 16th - Sunday 17th September

The Trust will be hosting local artists Mike Troy and Richard Carman. Come to hear about how they work and view their pictures. An ideal opportunity to discuss the sgraffito techniques which are used on some of our salt pigs and other pots. See this page.

### INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

#### INLAND SALT WORKS AND SALT HISTORY: ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY

6th - 10th September, 2006

Sigüenza, Guadalajara, Spain

Martin Boyett, Trustee, Lion Salt Works Trust, will speak about our plans to restore the Lion Salt Works at this international conference.

### Big Draw

October

Another opportunity to have a go at drawing and painting with expert tuition on hand. Details on web site and Autumn newsletter.

### 'Underwych'

July, 2007

Following on from our successful play 'Salt Tellers' the HLF, Your Heritage Fund, has approved an application by DAN, Action Weaver Valley and the Lion Salt Works Trust for a grant of £47,500 to stage a second play in 2007. The theme this time will tell the story of brine pumping, rock salt mining and its effects on local people and the landscape.



### 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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### Morris Dancing Day

The Earl of Stamford Morris dancers entertained us on Saturday, 13th May accompanied by Eryri Morris, North Wales; Mossley Rose & Clog, Stockport; Powderkegs, Derbyshire and Mucky Mountains, St Helens and a presentation of the Mumming Play George and the Dragon was given by the Comberbach Mummies.



### Salt Pig Ordering Service

A range of sgraffito decorated pots made at Anvil Pottery are now available in our shop on tiggs, jugs, vases and salt pigs. This type of decoration is ideal for you to submit your own designs for personalised gifts. Call, or email the Project Director to discuss your requirements or send in the words and sketches to be incorporated in the decoration. We will quote you a price, call in to collect when completed, or we can also quote for delivery.

### 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.