

# The MUNDLING STICK

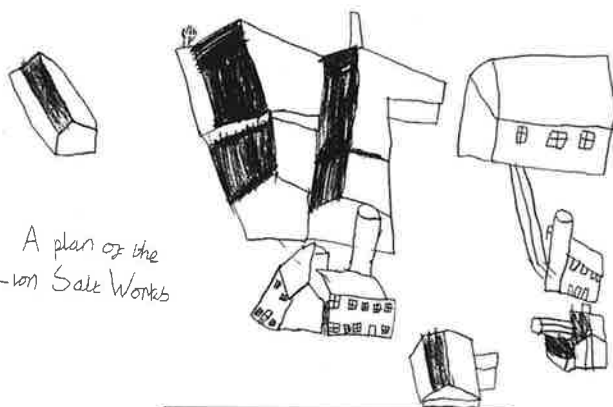


the LION  
Salt Works  
TRUST

Newsletter of the Lion Salt Works Trust

SUMMER 2007

VOLUME 13 No.2



A plan of the  
Lion Salt Works

## School Visit By Wincham School CP

Report by Amber and Charlotte, Year 5  
Drawing by Jack, Year 5

The Lion Salt Works in Marston has made salt for many years. It stopped making salt in 1986. It was owned by the Thompson family for five generations.

Today the site has 5 of its pans, 4 of which are in pan houses. The 5th has collapsed in an outdoor structure. The mining underneath Northwich and Wincham meant that tunnels the miners used often flooded with water.

The salt works made salt by evaporating wild brine over an open fire in large pans. It was used for lots of different things, like in the cosmetic industries. Workers would often spend most of their week working, eating and sleeping at the salt works and were often joined by their families.

Men worked all day using different tools, like a rake. This was used to pull in crystals from the pan. Then they would use a skimmer to pick up the crystals and put them in a wooden box.

We learnt lots of interesting things when we visited the Lion Salt Works and it was exciting too!

## FUNDING STILL NEEDED BUT ALMOST THERE

We are striving to meet conditions of the HLF award in order to begin work on restoring the Lion Salt Works. Our Stage Two application will be submitted in September. It has been difficult to secure pledged funding for the whole project as the end of the restoration would be over three years away. However VRBC and CCC have pledged over £900,000, Brunner Mond and EDF Gas Storage have pledged £21,000. Grant aid from the Northwest Development Agency may provide £500,000 and a bid for Interreg grant support with the Mersey Basin Campaign and European partners should contribute over £300,000. Individual contributions through pledges and standing orders are currently over £6,000.

Inflation adds to our cost proposals as we delay the starting date, so the Trust is also appointing a professional fundraising advisor to continue fund raising throughout the life of the project.

Each of your individual contributions is helping us on a daily basis but we still require major support from businesses and sponsors over the coming years. If you can help please get in touch with Project Director, Andrew Fielding.

This summer it was a pleasure to show Wincham School the salt works when they visited in June (see left). Of special interest was meeting Jack Taylor, great-grandson of Albert Taylor, a lumpman who worked at Lion Salt Works for 51 years. Jack is to inherit a watch given to him for long service at the Lion Salt Works by proprietor, Henry Thompson.

# UNDERWYCH

 a Community Play, funded by the Heritage Lottery to present the heritage of wild brine pumping and rock salt mining in a new way at the Lion Salt Works.

1. Emma's grandfather tells stories! Emma is told tales about a mythical land, Underwych, created by wild brine pumping and rock salt mining.



2. Emma's is taken into Underwych, where she meets herself as an adult (right) and experiences strange events.

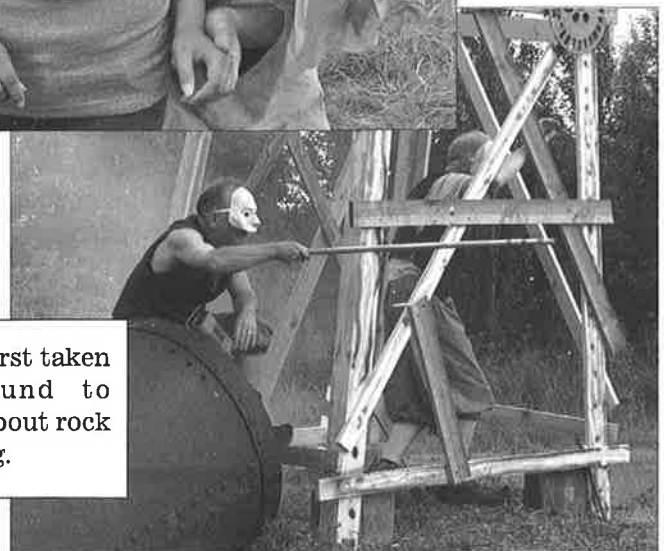
3. Emma meets Danelings and Weaverlings (below) who tell her about the damage being done to buildings and land by THE GREAT TREMBLE. Emma demands to see the mining and brine pumping operations.



4. The Great Burger believes Emma to be the cause of THE GREAT TREMBLE and demands she be executed.



5. Emma is first taken underground to discover about rock salt mining.





6. The Tale of the Downland Donkey It's so, so sad !



8. The Preacher tells of the damage to the environment - Underwych has too many holes !



7. The Brine Shrimps are the last of the 'wild briners', but they have to STOP.

A book of Underwych is being prepared and will be a companion publication to our *Salt Tellers* plays, performed in 2005. All performances have been recorded on video and following consultation with review copies it is hoped that all three plays will be available as DVD's with accompanying images, archive material and study notes.

For an extract go to  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_F931vAVARo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_F931vAVARo)



9. 'Brinee Compensators' give instruction on how wild brine pumping and rock salt mining has damaged buildings.



10. Emma creates a Compensation Scheme and restoration programmes for the landscape and buildings are recommended with the help of Jim-Jacks, before Emma is called back to the real world.

Thanks to Heritage Lottery Fund, Barclays Community Fund, Action Weaver Valley, VRBC, Oakwood Mobility, Winsford, DAN, Paul Evans, Colin Nicholson, Robert Meadows, Kirsten Ditchfield, Laura Smyth, Steve Allen-Gurr, Margaret Smyth, Sharon Caffery, Judy Carter, Mathilde Favre, Bob Barker, Muriel Baron, Joan Dowling, Martin Evans, Caroline Hawkrige, Tom Ireland, Liz Leech, Diane McCune, Gill McEvoy, Lisa Squirrel, Arthur Williams, Gordon Hamlin, Ben Willets, Matt Smith, John Booth, DAN, Mersey Basin Campaign, Rudheath High School, Northwich Library, Marshall's Arms Local Management Group, The Salt Barge, The Salt Museum, Zoe Ellis, David Hayes, David James, John Blease, Peter Craven, Age Concern, Wincham CP, Victoria Rd CP, Circus Bravo.

## Dates for Your Diary

### Cheshire Open Studios & Big Draw

Sat & Sun 6-7 October

This year we are combining our participation in Cheshire Open Studios and Big Draw. Meet the artist and have ago yourself. Free use of materials and workshops.

Featuring local artists Mike Troy, Richard Carman and Richard Edmund.



Prize winning picture of the Lion Salt Works by Richard Edmund

Many works will be available for sale direct from the artist. Collect an Open Studios brochure and visit all the artists taking part in Cheshire over the preceding four week-ends in September, 2007.

### Spring 2008

#### 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.

### 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. 2794579 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.

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## 50 Prizes for 50 Years

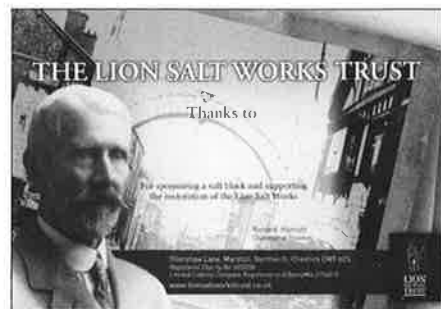
A prize draw for all those who visitor UK, ERIH Anchor Points.

Europe shares a common heritage in the rise industry in the 18th and 19th centuries – It brought mass production, and changed forever the way we live. This year is the 5th year of the founding of the European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH) and to mark our shared past a promotional exhibition is travelling round the UK.

Lion Salt Works has a promotional DVD to introduce you to all the UK anchor points and attractions are offering 50 prizes in a FREE DRAW. Call in to any anchor point for a free entry form. Check out the sites at [www.erih.net](http://www.erih.net)

## SPONSOR A SALT BLOCK

If you have not already done so get yourself a salt block certificate. Individual donations can be made under our 'Sponsor a Salt Block' campaign. Please request a sponsorship form, or down load one from our web site. Please also consider a 'Gift Aid' form if you are a taxpayer.



## 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.