

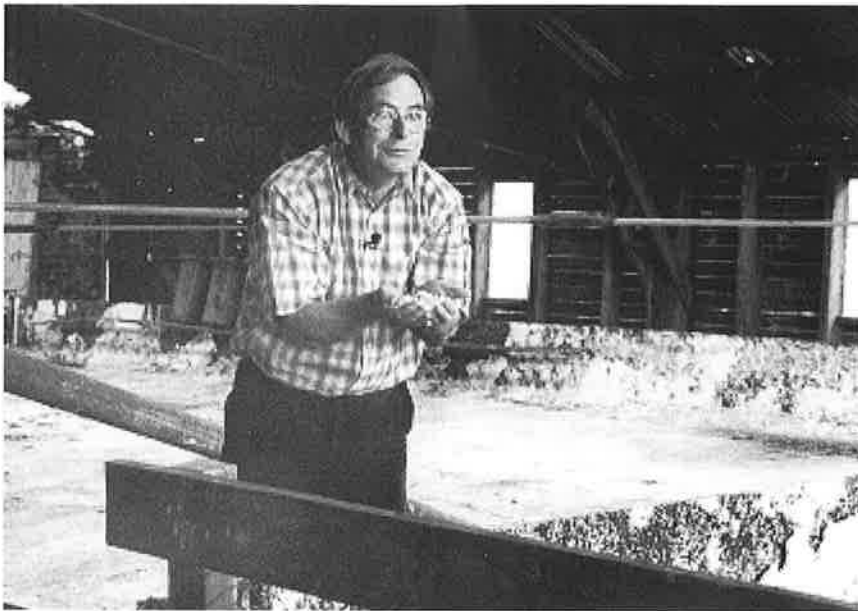
The MUNDLING STICK



the LION
Salt Works
TRUST

Newsletter of the Lion Salt Works Trust: **WINTER 1996**

VOLUME 2 No. 4



Granada TV weatherman Fred Talbot at the Lion Saltworks

Fred Talbot Weatherman

VISITORS to the Salt Works on the 18th September were surprised to meet Fred Talbot the weatherman completing a live broadcast for Granada Television.

By coincidence one couple, Mr and Mrs Booth, had met Fred professionally during a programme on Town Criers—Alan Booth being a champion town crier from Scarborough.

For those who are interested, the weather for the following day was dry with sunny spells, with odd showers over the Pennines, quite windy with temperatures reaching 16°C, 61°F.

Repairs to smithy underway

Work to complete repairs to the smithy, one of the small buildings around the exhibition centre in the former Lion Inn are moving forward. The first task was to replace a complete corner post which had rotted off two feet above ground level. Had it not been for the internal support of the line-shaft the smithy may have collapsed completely.

Indications of previous fastenings showed the original boards to the main part of the three bay timber framed building were attached vertically. A fourth bay used as a joiners shop was still clad with horizontal boarding.

The smithy will be painted black externally and lime-washed internally. It should be open for viewing at Easter. More details in the Spring newsletter.

WORLD WIDE WEB -
<http://www.iway.fr/sc>

Science Tribune is a new science magazine published on the internet. It is intended to feature salt related topics from around the world and encourage dialogue between organisations with similar interests and enquiries. The Lion Salt Works was included in the first group of articles in June. Other topics were covered by Bernard Moinier, Secretary of the European Salt Producers' Association based in Paris.

The next group of articles will include details of salt making in Russia contributed by Dr Eugene V. Logunov of the Institute of History of Material Culture at Ekaterinburg.

The editor Tiiu Ojasoo has further articles covering the making of salt in South-East Asia (to be published in French). If you have access to the internet you can find the **Science Tribune** at <http://www.iway.fr/sc>.

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.

History of Yarwood's Shipyard, Northwich

The Northwich and District Heritage Society have published an account of Yarwood's Shipyard at Castle, Northwich to coincide with the centenary of the shipbuilding firm. The origins of the dock however date from 1840 when John Thompson took out a lease on the site.

John Thompson had many interests which also involved timber and brick making as well as brine pumping and rocksalt mining.

In tracing all the ancestors of the Thompson family there are still many things to uncover particularly regarding the work of John Thompson and his father also called John.

It would be interesting to uncover more about the inter-relationship between the boat building industry, timber importing and the Cheshire salt industry as this was also the specific background of salt proprietor Herman Faulk.

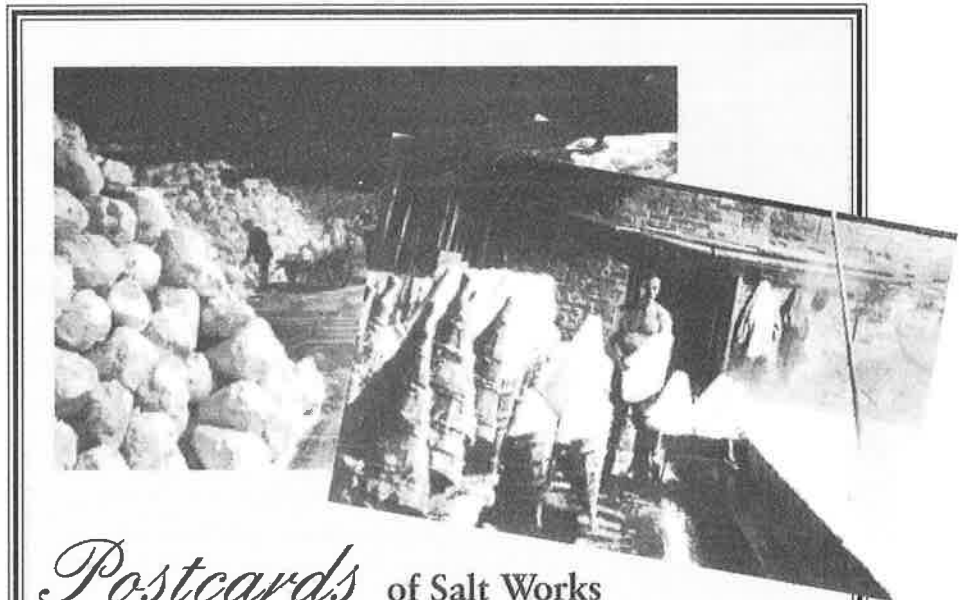
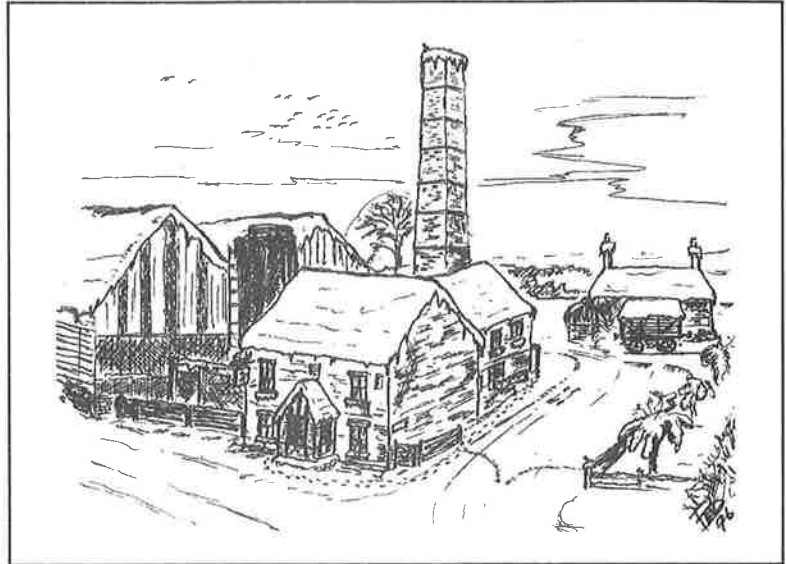
John Thompson jnr was the father of Henry Ingram Thompson who was later to develop the Lion Salt Works. It was at John Thompson's Liverpool office that Thomas Ward was to learn so much about the salt industry after marrying John's younger sister Mary Elizabeth.

John Thompson was forced to part with the Castle Dockyard during a period of financial difficulty in 1884. Unfortunately the Nantwich Court records have not survived so at present there is a gap in our research. John Thompson died in Macclesfield on 21st March, 1899. In his obituary published in the Northwich Guardian on 23rd March the entry credits him with building the largest barge then built on the river and that "Notwithstanding his legal obligations when he received payment from his property from the Salt Union he paid his creditors in full to their extensive gratitude..

The booklet "WJ Yarwood & Sons Ltd - Shipbuilders of Northwich" was compiled by Clive Guthrie. Priced at £4.95 it can be purchased from Vale Royal Information Centre.

Christmas Cards

This years Lion Salt Works Christmas card has been drawn by local artist Bev Blain. The pen and ink sketch shows the entrance to the site and the Lion Inn from Ollershaw Lane. Cards are available from the shop or by post.



Postcards of Salt Works

Two new black and white postcards have been reproduced for sale in our shop. Both feature salt making at Thompson Works. One shows the use of peg top tubs to make conical salt moulds, the second depicts the interior of a salt store with hundreds of tons of conical salt blocks.

The pictures have also been reproduced at A4 size and are sold in packs of five enabling a Victorian Decoupage picture to be created. By careful cutting and mounting individual sections of the pictures a three-dimensional effect can bringing these pictures to life.

Mersey Basin Environment Weekend

12th-13th October

Autumn tidy up - Report:

The weather during the Mersey Basin Event was hot and dry, ideal for cutting back overgrown vegetation which had encroached around the works. Work targeted a patio area between canal, pan houses and Ollershaw Lane at the north-west corner of the works. This was the site of John Thompson's first Pan House constructed in the coal yard of the original Red Lion Hotel. The Pan was demolished in the 1980's and the area was laid down to a paved area. Occasional folk dancing displays were held here in the years before the works closed.

Special thanks to Linda, Rebecca and Brian for all their hard work, also to our regular volunteers Malcolm, Nick and Jim for helping during the week-end.

Thanks must also go to the Mersey Basin Trust for their grant of £100 which enabled us to hire a skip and remove accumulated rubbish from within the works.

Careful removal of the brambles and weeds was required. Frogs and toads sheltering beneath the vegetation were gently moved to the rear of the emerging flower beds. The area had been designed as a small picnic area. The central area was paved with cobbled edgings and rough seats made from railway sleeper beams. Only one seat now remains. Though some of the silver birch may have to be removed to allow restoration work to proceed the rowan trees, planted in the 1980's should be retained.

Further landscaping work is required before the spring. If you would like to help maintain the environment around the works please contact the Project Officer



DATES for your Diary '97

Further details in our quarterly newsletter throughout the year.



MARCH

SET '97 - Sunday 16 March

Our first salt boiling day of 1997 will be during the 1997 Science Week. This event is part of a national programme organised by the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

MAY

Museums Week 17-26 May

A national campaign to high-light work done by museums around the country.

JULY

1st Marston Canal Rally

Summer Weekend at the Salt Barge 25-27 July

The Salt Barge pub is just across the road from the salt works. In July it will be the centre for a week-end of events in Marston involving a boat rally, crafts and a celebration of Marston's association with salt mining and brine pumping. Local patrons 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.

SEPTEMBER

Heritage Open Days & National Archaeology Day

Salt making demonstrations and displays associated with national events organised by the Civic Trust and the Young Archaeologist Club.

OCTOBER

Mersey Basin Weekend

Specific event involving autumn clear up of the site from an environmental point of view. A chance to get dirty or just watch others.

OPENING TIMES

The Lion Salt Works exhibition is opened each afternoon between 1.30pm and 4.30pm by our site stewards.

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.

Items by Post

Christmas Cards Five for £1

B&W Post Cards 15p each

B&W Decoupage prints 5 for £1.75 or 50p each

Tea Towels "Salt Tell" £2.95

50p postage and packing

Salt Boiling Demonstrations

There will be demonstrations of brine evaporations during Bank Holiday weekends. For further information see 1997 newsletters or telephone prior to events.

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 provide long term support for the trust please ask for a covenant form.