

# The MUNDLING STICK



the LION  
Salt Works  
TRUST

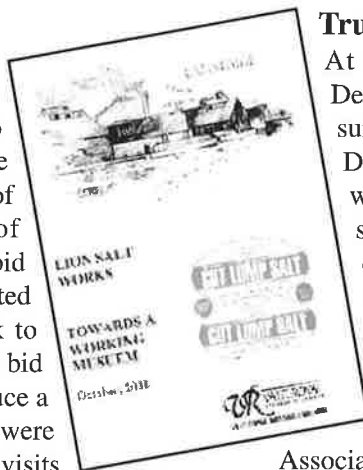
Newsletter of the Lion Salt Works Trust: **WINTER 2000**

**VOLUME 6 No. 4**

## TRUST APPOINTS CONSERVATION ARCHITECTS

### The Brief

In the late summer tenders were invited for conservation architects to become part of a team to assemble a Stage 1 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Because of the potentially large cost of conserving the Lion Salt Works a bid to the HLF will have to be completed in two stages. Stage 1 will seek to present a Conservation Plan and to bid for Development Funding to produce a full business plan. Six practices were invited to tender. Following site visits and written submissions, which outlined their approach to the problems, four were invited to make a verbal presentation to a selection panel which was hosted by Brunner Mond in the Board Room of Mond House, Winnington on Thursday, 30th November.



### Trustees Meeting

At a Trustees' meeting held on Monday, 4th December 2000 it was decided that the practice best suited to work with the Lion Salt Works would be Donald Insall Associates. The Insall presentation was made by senior partner, Tony Barton and supported by colleagues from the range of consultants who would best be able to prepare a well rounded and detailed proposal to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

### Donald Insall Associates

The Insall Team comprises Bob Costello Associates, The Morton Partnership, Davis Langdon & Everest, and Past Forward.

Each are involved in major national projects. Recent work includes the Albert Memorial, London; Gorton Monastery, Manchester; Chatterley Whitfield Colliery, Staffordshire; Staircase House, Stockport; and Plas Mawr, Conwy; amongst many others.

### Selection Panel

The selection panel was made up of Trustees, Officers from Vale Royal Borough Council and outside advisor Ken Catford, formerly County Architect of Cheshire County Council, now at John Moores University. Mr Catford was involved in the original design brief proposed in 1986, when the site was first purchased, and is a Trustee at the Ellesmere Port Boat Museum.

The short listed candidates were Lathams of Derby; Buttress, Fuller, Alsop, Williams of Manchester; the Brooke Millar Partnership of Glasgow; and Donald Insall Associates of Chester.

Each was enthusiastic about the project, recognised the difficulties of the site, the challenges they presented and were realistic about the competition for funding which currently exists for projects of this type.

### PAST FORWARD LIMITED

Creative Consultants and Multimedia



THE MORTON  
PARTNERSHIP  
LIMITED

Work on the Stage 1 HLF application will begin in January and is expected to take three to four months.

### TOURISM AWARD 2000

**Inside** - Details of a marketing award presented by the Vale Royal of England Tourist Association.

**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.



## SALT 2000 VRETA Award

### Best Marketing Practice

At the AGM and Awards Evening of the Vale Royal of England Tourist Association, the Lion Salt Works Trust won an award for Best Marketing Practice for the year 2000.

The trophy was presented to Trustee, Terry Cresswell, whose company Aquila Energy had underwritten the making and firing of the pots by Steve Harrison in March.

Chairman of VRETA, Mike Cooksley, praised the high quality of the pieces, the presentation and design of the brochure and the certificate which accompanies the sale of each piece.

When viewing the Victorian salt works, he said, "one doesn't automatically think of beautiful pieces of ceramics", and he felt it was a highly original concept which reflected well for future marketing of the site.

The Trust has sold 30% of the pots, some of which have been bought locally but others are now scattered across the country in cities from Nottingham and Newbury to Brighton.

The collection is advertised on a specialist ceramics website at [www.studiopottery.co.uk](http://www.studiopottery.co.uk) and brochures have been distributed by Steve Harrison himself at the Chelsea Craft Fair and by Andy McKinnis, organiser of major craft fairs held at Hatfield House and Farnham.

There are still individual pieces of each of the ten styles, though a choice of colours is now restricted. Proceeds from the sale of these pieces will help fund the preparations of our bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.



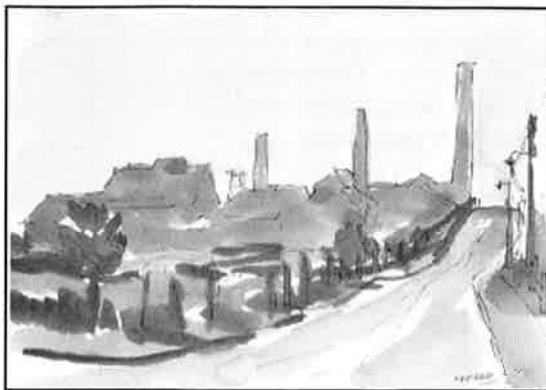
*Trophy on display with pieces from the collection.*



#### **General Prices —**

*beakers £28.20; salts £32.90; straight mugs & small poppy mugs £39.95; tankards £88.13; large poppy mugs £94.00; jugs £129.95; lidded jars £381.88p; leomines £223.25 to £728.50.*

*Small tankard — Dark green, No. 116, £39.95.*



*View of Lion Salt Works from Ollershaw Lane.*

The Trust has been lent 26 pen and ink drawings and watercolours of the Lion Salt Works and the Thompson's Wincham works. All were produced by Mr Worrell of Northwich in the 1960s.

## ERI H

The Lion Salt Works has been invited to become an anchor point in the ERIH — the European Route of Industrial Heritage.

The ERIH is a European campaign focusing on the topic 'Europe: a shared heritage' and was established to celebrate the transition to the year 2000 and to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Council of Europe and the 25th anniversary of the European Year of the Protection of Historic Buildings.



### The Concept

The project began in 1999 as the 'Route of Industrial Heritage in the Ruhr' ([www.route.industriekultur.de](http://www.route.industriekultur.de)). To promote the unification of Europe and public awareness of cultural heritage it was proposed to develop the North Rhine-Westphalia route to produce a network of key industrial monuments across Europe.

The outline literature proposes that industrial buildings are both the witness of economic and historic development and the expression of regional identity.

In many traditional centres of industry structural changes have caused industrial buildings to fall into disuse over the years. The preservation of major industrial buildings and their availability to the population may help to keep a piece of European history alive and create a basis for new economic and regional development. The empty shells of a stormy past encompassing 200 years of industrial history, which are now supposedly of no use to anyone, are not just places full of memories but offer new applications and an economic future. The preservation of a regional identity for traditional centres of industry plays an important part in social terms whilst the new types of tourism highlights an environmental perspective: the very principle of 'recycling' the architectural fabric of



former industrial buildings for new applications is important in terms of environmental sustainability. In addition, industrial tourism also offers ecological benefits through the alternative usage of existing municipal sites previously used by industry, thus acting as a substitute for the further 'consumption' of Nature by the tourism industry. 'New nature from second-hand sources' on industrial wasteland should not be underestimated.



### Objectives

The ERIH will seek to promote the product of 'industrial tourism'. Just like the classic city break tourist knows about the prime international locations a separate product identity of 'industrial tourism' will be branded through a network across Europe promoting destinations both locally and beyond their national boundaries and so supply them with customers on a reciprocal basis.



### European Partners

The project is currently under development as an INTERREG II-C funded project. The UK coordinators are based in Manchester, Essex, Sheffield and Cwmbran linking with the German Society for Industrial Archaeology and colleagues in Holland and Belgium.

A series of meetings between all the European partners has been taking place over the last 12 months. The next meeting has been organised by Robina McNeil of Manchester University for February, when the European partners will visit the proposed World Heritage Site in Manchester. Vale Royal Borough Council are to host a morning meeting of the group after which they will visit the Lion Salt Works.

## Changes in our Trustee Board

### *Thank You and Best Wishes to Dr Farthing and John Page*

This summer the Trust accepted the resignation of Dr Farthing as a Trustee as he prepared to move to live on the south coast. Dr Farthing had been a founder Trustee elected in 1994 and had helped in the creation of the Trust's *Memoranda and Articles of Association*. John Page acted as Trust Treasurer and retired in November as he also left his post as acting Chief Executive of Vale Royal Borough Council. John had also been in post with the Trust from 1994. We wish him all the best for the future.

### *Welcome to Robin Wolley and Noel O'Neill*

To replace Dr Farthing a new member of the Trust was elected in the autumn. Robin Wolley was introduced to the Trust through *Business in the Arts - North West*.

Robin has recently retired as an architect at Edmond Kirby and though he continues to work in a part time capacity and at his practice in Ruthin, Robin was also looking to pass on his skills and advice within the wider community.

His conservation and building expertise are expected to be of great assistance to the Trust as it prepares its application to funding bodies. Robin feels that the greatest challenge will be to retain the simple atmosphere and appearance of what were ephemeral buildings.

Noel O'Neill, Director of Corporate Services at Vale Royal Borough Council, replaces John Page as Treasurer.



Our Website needs updating to include more photographic images. The Trust has asked a local design company *Glint* to refocus it for us. The site was developed with the assistance of Interactive Developments and a Cheshire County Council Seedcorn Grant and has brought our project to the attention of many students, researchers, tourists and members of the public around the world.

We also intend to integrate our printed newsletter on a regular basis and advertise our growing publication list and specialist ceramics collections.

There will be regular updates in a special section of the site in which we hope visitors will provide us with feedback on the project. More details in the Spring Edition of 2001.

*Dear Supporter,*

*For the cost of a stamp you could help the Lion Salt Works Trust raise funds from the Tax Man. Many on our mailing list, or have visited the site, have kindly sent us cheques to help the project along. If you are a tax payer all of your donations from the 6th April 2000 are eligible for us to benefit from by reclaiming tax. All you have to do is complete and sign our Gift Aid Declaration Form and return it to us.*

*This would make a big difference as we devise and cost the restoration scheme with Insalls.*

*Donations from our supporters count as match funding in our applications and so a 28% increase in your donations via this Government initiative is very important. You may wish to give a regular amount and a Direct Debit form can be provided.*

*If you require any further information please speak to the Project Director, Andrew Fielding.*

*We look forward to hearing from you.*

*Yours faithfully*

*Richard Hamlett  
Chairman, Lion Salt Works Trust*

## WINTER WARMTH

Hot drinks are now available at our exhibition. An encouraging thought for those walking the Trent and Mersey Canal this autumn during the wet and windy weather. Flavia filterpacks provide filter coffee and tea for 70p or chocolate for 80p.



## Open Pan Salt Making in Cheshire — An illustrated description by Tom Lightfoot.

Our first research report has been selling well and to our knowledge copies have been mailed overseas to Canada, Denmark and Holland. It is also proving popular with school children for project work.



Available at the exhibition £9.50 + UK postage of £1.30.

### OPENING TIMES

Exhibition is open each afternoon 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Donations : £1 per adult, 50p per child. For further information call 01606-41823.

Web site address - <http://lionsaltworkstrust.co.uk>

The Trust needs more volunteers to join the team who enable its exhibition opens on a regular basis for up to four hours during opening times. Contact the Project Director, Andrew Fielding.

As we move forward into 2001 the Trust would like to thank all its volunteers for the tremendous efforts they have made this year, and over past years, to open the exhibition and present the site to our visitors.

*Wishing you all a Happy New Year.*

### 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.