

# The MUNDLING STICK



the LION  
Salt Works  
TRUST

Newsletter of the Lion Salt Works Trust

WINTER 07/08

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## BBC programme Countryfile films at Lion Salt Works



The BBC country affairs magazine programme Countryfile filmed at the Lion Salt Works in January as part of a focus on Northwich.

The main anchorman/presenter, John Craven, visited the rock salt mine which is operated by Salt Union Ltd at Winsford and the programme also covered the recreational aspects of cycling down the tow path of the River Weaver, covering the history of the navigation.

The land reclamation work to provide footpaths around an area of collapsed rock salt mines at Ashtons and Neumanns Flash was also covered. Currently this area has been very popular with a large flock of lapwings, which have been wheeling over the salt works in the afternoons.

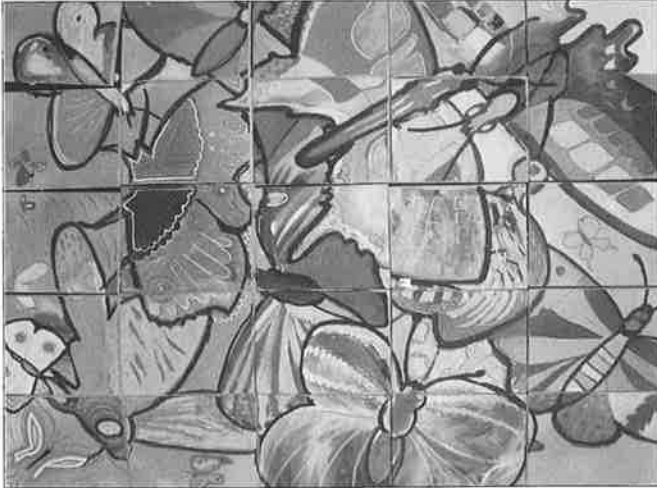
Presenter Adam Henson (left) called in to see us in order to describe the long history of salt making that is recorded in Cheshire.

We were able to set up our demonstration Roman hearth and heat up brine to show salt crystals being made and Adam had a go at raking crystals from the salt pans. From the working pans we then showed the nineteenth century salt pans we will restore as part of our conservation work.

The programme was shown on Sunday 20th January on BBC 1.



**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.*



## **BUTTERFLY PICTURES**

Northwich artist Mike Troy designed this butterfly panel for our 2007 Big Draw event in October. He prepared the overall design and divided the picture into 25 individual canvases. Each canvas was painted by an individual person, or by a family group to produce contrasting sections. Two panels were created producing two very different images which will be used to promote our work with the Butterfly Conservation group as our gardening project gets underway in 2008.

## **DONATION OF PAINTING TO TRUST**

Richard Edmonds who also exhibited at our Big Draw event and Cheshire Open Studios has an exhibition of his paintings at Castle Park Art Centre, Frodsham, Cheshire.

Richard has kindly offered to donate to us this picture of the Lion Salt Works that he started at the Big Draw event. Richard is currently concentrating on industrial and derelict sites in the Northwich area and has produced a series of dramatic pictures of the Lion Salt Works. Photographs of the presentation will be featured in our next newsletter.

The exhibition runs until 3 February. See Dates for your Diary on the back page.



## **ON SITE ORIENTATION BOARDS ERECTED**

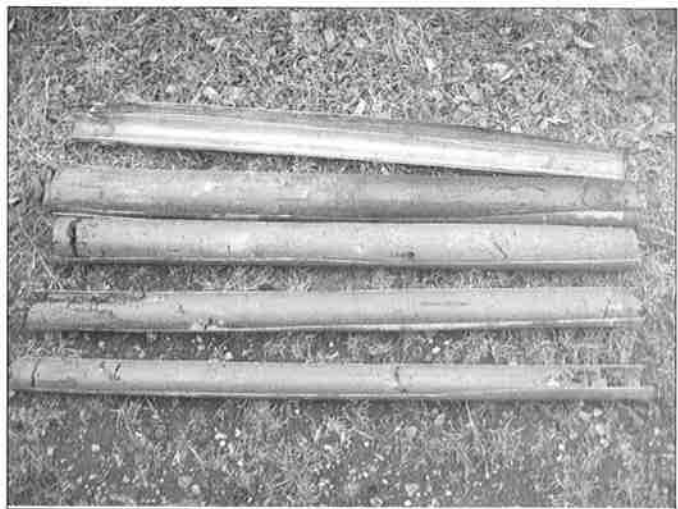
David Heyes, Conservation and Design Manager at Vale Royal Borough Council has supplied the Lion Salt Works with orientation panels to help guide people around the site. The panels are situated at the approaches to the site from Ollershaw Lane and from the towpath of the Trent and Mersey Canal, with another in the centre of the site.

The panels are etched onto a metallic base and mounted on metal plinths

## ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING CHECKS FOR CONTAMINATION

Local environmental survey company Entec UK Ltd have been conducting a contaminated land survey for the Lion Salt Works Trust to provide supporting information for our latest planning application. The survey revisits the historic land use maps of the area and the site usage of the land area now occupied by the Lion Salt Works. A series of sample soil samples have been taken across the site and ground water samples have been taken in the vicinity of the former oil storage tanks, which were used to heat the salt pans. The soil samples were recorded and placed in chill boxes before being collected for same-day-delivery to a laboratory for analysis. Information derived from the survey will enable us to make informed decisions about land management uses for the different areas of the site.

This aspect of the planning application process will be incorporated into our display panels describing the history of the site and how the project has been managed.



## Dates for Your Diary

Sunday 20 January 2008

### BBC 1 - Countryfile

Country affairs programme featuring salt stories in and around Winsford and Northwich.

### A Portrait of the Artist

#### Paintings and sketch by Richard Edmunds

Castle Park Art Centre, Frodsham, Cheshire.

Exhibition of paintings and sketch books concentrating on industrial and derelict sites in the Northwich area and a series of dramatic pictures of the Lion Salt Works.

The exhibition runs until 3 February.

For more details visit

<http://www.castleparkarts.co.uk/exhibitions.html>  
or telephone 01928 735832.

### National Science and Engineering Week

7-16 March, 2008

The Lion Salt Works will be participating in Science Week with the help of teacher training students from Manchester Metropolitan University.

Details will be posted on our web site.

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.

## ERIH PRIZE DRAW

The draw was made for prizes donated by sites participating in the European Route of Industrial Heritage. Visitors to sites which form the Route were asked to send a post card to a free post address at Ironbridge. Congratulations to Ann Williams from Oxfordshire, whose name was drawn out of the hat to win this 14cm high, salt glazed jug donated by the Lion Salt Works Trust. The jug was made by Allan Hughes of Anvil Pottery, Llanrhaeadr and was glazed with the assistance of our Director, Andrew Fielding using salt made at our demonstration days.

Member of



[www.erih.net](http://www.erih.net)



## JOIN OUR TEAM

If you can spare some time to help open our exhibition centre at the Lion Salt Works please get in touch with Project Director, Andrew Fielding.

We still have difficulty with opening regularly on Friday and Saturday afternoons. Help is also needed in staging salt making demonstrations, grounds maintenance and in attending local shows. We currently open between 1.30pm and 4.30pm but would like to extend opening times from 10am in 2008. Our current team (above) are photographed at our Christmas gathering for coffee and mince pies.

### 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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## 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.