



the LION Salt Works TRUST

The MUNDLING STICK

Newsletter of the Lion Salt Works Trust SPRING 2007

VOLUME 13 No.1

Dates for Your Diary

CLAY ART, WALES 2007

Llanrhaeadr Hall, Denbigh
Sat-Sun 19-20 May

A selling craft fair with demonstrations and talks.



The Lion Salt Works Trust will be making salt in a clay salt pan, as seen on the BBC series COAST and using the salt in a ceramic fibre, salt kiln in association with Anvil Pottery, Llanrhaeadr. Adults £4.50. Children free. www.clayart.org.uk

UNDERWYCH

12-13-14 July

Underwych, a community arts project investigating the impact of subsidence on Mid Cheshire's heritage.



Where has Emma gone? Taken to the underworld, created by mining and brine pumping. Find out where she went and what she found there.

Performances at 7.30 pm from Thursday - Saturday, July 12th to 14th. There will also be a matinee performance at 2.30 pm on Saturday 14th July.

For ticket sales and information, contact the DAN office at Northwich Library. Telephone: 01606 41597.

For further background information go to the blog site at: www.merseybasin.org.uk/blog/underwych/index.html

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 a go yourself. Free use of materials and workshops. Featuring local artists Mike Troy, Richard Carman and 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 weeks in September, 2007. www.artistsatwork.org.uk

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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UNDERWYCH

One of the theatrical treats of 2005 was the community performance of Salt Tellers staged at the Lion Salt Works and the Anderton Boat Lift. Now, two years on, another dramatic interpretation of the past is about to take its final shape.

Underwych is a lively and entertaining look at the history of brine extraction and its impact on the environment of Northwich. Local writers have been using their imaginations to make that history come alive in vivid and exciting ways. Six, primary and secondary, schools have been involved in developing ideas, dialogue, sound effects and properties for the play that will be staged, at the Lion Salt Works, from Thursday 12th July to Saturday 14th July.

The play has been inspired by many of those things that gave the area such a distinctive past: the history of subsidence, for instance, that would have given the area the look of a weird Wonderland. Indeed, the story of Underwych is that of a girl, Emma, who ends up in a place where nothing is as you would expect it; a peculiar place where you drop from one world into another. But although Underwych is a fanciful extravaganza, it will also give its audiences entertaining insights into the history and heritage of the area.

If you want to be involved in the Underwych team as a helper or a member of the company, then please contact underwych@hotmail.com.

Supported by Vale Royal Borough Council, Cheshire County Council, Development of the Arts in Northwich (DAN), the Lion Salt Works Trust, Action Weaver Valley, the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund, Barclays Bank Community Fund.

Tickets will be available from the DAN box office, telephone 01606 41597, Adults £6.00, Concessions £3.00.

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.

ERIH PLAQUE UNVEILED



Felicity Goodey CBE unveiled our ERIH plaque recognising the Lion Salt Works as an anchor point within the European Route of Industrial Heritage.

She said " I was particularly excited when I was invited to unveil the plaque here at the Lion Salt Works for a number of reasons Firstly, I used to be the BBC's industrial correspondent and spent a great deal of time in this area, sadly charting the decline of many aspects of the local industry, and was married to a former ICI man who sold salt worldwide. So we have always had a personal interest in the story of the Lion Salt Works and have watched the progress of the project from afar. I have no doubt that the Trust will secure match funding for its Heritage Lottery award, and will be able to fully restore this unique site."

Recognising the importance of the unveiling Felicity Goodey also said "Today marks a tremendous step forward. To be chosen as an Anchor Point is a great honour indeed. It is critical, from a tourism and educational perspective, that we don't lose sight of our industrial heritage and the importance that salt has played. It was once considered as valuable as gold - Now there is a thought ! It is really important that this project flourishes. The Lion Salt Works as a restored site will provide an extremely valuable tourist attraction. It is becoming recognised that sites such as this provide many children and adults alike with a great introduction to history and that many people have their first understanding of their roots, and where they have come from, though being tourists. Tourist sites allow people to understand the mistakes which have been made and the benefits which have been derived from our past and the Lion Salt Works will provide a part of that story.'

Member of



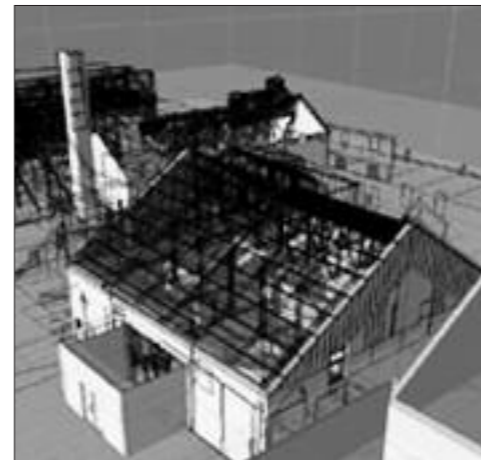
Robina McNeil, ERIH UK Partner, from Manchester University Archaeology Unit said that 'The unveiling of another plaque identifying an anchor point is an important step in making the Route a reality and recognising that sites like the Lion Salt Works have an important role to play in the presentation and understanding of our industrial heritage.'

Felicity Goodey is a former senior BBC journalist and presenter who discovered a passion for regeneration! She gave up broadcasting to become one of the first directors of the Northwest Development Agency and chairs the Tourism Forum for the region.

Grant Aid from Northwest Development Agency, Cheshire Rural Enterprise and The Manifold Trust

Grant support together with help in kind from Vale Royal Borough Council have moved forward the design studies requested by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The studies included our architects Donald Insall and Partners upgrading the architectural design studies from RIBA D to E, to update the cost plan, the access plan and provide a 10 year maintenance plan for the restored buildings.

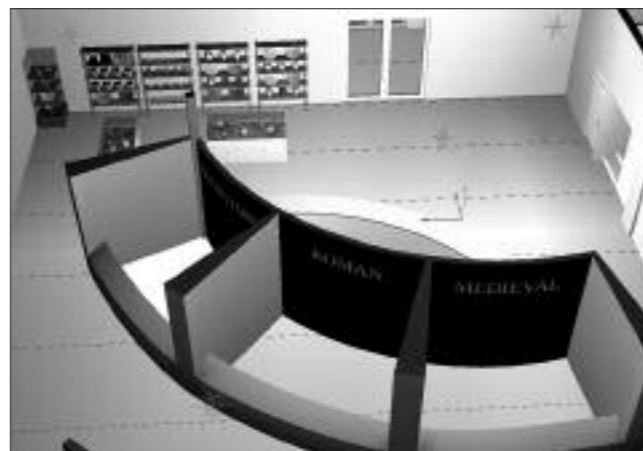
Julian Baum at Take 27 has also enhanced the graphics taken from the CAD drawings and produced rendered impressions of what the completed facilities within the restored salt works might look like. A movie version can be seen at www.take27.co.uk/lsw/main.html



Entrance via Pan House 5.



Reception desk with graphic panels behind.



Three tableaux showing the evolution of salt making hearths from prehistoric to Roman and medieval.



Exhibition spaces below the roofs of Warehouses 3 and 4.



The café facility within Warehouse 5.

Our Conservation Plan has been re-edited and designed by Don Allan of Graphic Sequence for publication on a DVD and will be available for purchase in the early summer.

Graham Barrow has worked closely with the trust to prepare a five-year business plan showing how the various elements of the site will work together to provide a sustainable project.

Crease Consulting and Regeneris have prepared an Audience Development Plan, which involved two focus groups and a mailed out questionnaire using mailing lists from ourselves, and Industrial Powerhouse. The response was excellent and will help in understanding our visitors and their needs.

Manchester Archaeological Unit have prepared an archaeological design brief for the site which has resulted in the project receiving Scheduled Monument Consent from the Dept of Culture, Media and Sport.

Anne Boyd of Frodsham Forward has also helped in the preparation of a Marketing Strategy, which will be integrated with the Business Plan. VRBC have also assisted in the preparation of a training Plan and a Procurement Plan.



Brunner Mond's £15,000 funding bonanza for Lion Salt Works

Peter Houghton from Brunner Mond helped with the Trust's sponsorship campaign by presenting a cheque for £5,000 to the Trust on behalf of Brunner Mond plc.

Peter Houghton said: "As a long-time supporter of this unique and important monument, which is a proud part of Cheshire's industrial history, our company is delighted to contribute to its restoration." The funding will be provided in instalments of £5,000 annually over the next three years.

The cheque was swapped for two salt blocks from Richard Hamlett, chairman of Trustees and Project Director, Andrew Fielding.



The Zochonis Charitable Trust



The Lion Salt Works would like to thank The Zochonis Trust for its donation of £5,000 towards our restoration fund. Paterson-Zochonis was established in 1879 where it set up a trading post in Sierra Leone and later in Nigeria in

1899. Originally trading in cotton the company switched to manufacturing soap. One of the cargoes carried was salt and our collection has stencils for marking sacks for shipment to Sierra Leone by the company. Their well-known cotton sacks featured an elephant and a palm tree.

£100,000 Pledged via Cheshire County Council Business Support Grant

Cheshire County Council have pledged £100,000 for the Lion Salt Works from the Council's Local Authority Business Growth Incentive fund. The offer was made by Executive Members Cllr Nora Dolphin, Community Service and Cllr Andrew Needham, Environment in support of the match funding target set by the Heritage Lottery Fund who also pledged further help and support in kind as the project develops.

SPONSOR A SALT BLOCK

Individual donations can be made under our 'Sponsor a Salt Block' campaign. Please request a sponsorship form, or download one from our web site.

Please also consider a 'Gift Aid' form if you are a taxpayer.



EUROBUS - Nomination

The Mersey Basin Campaign has nominated the Lion Salt Works to be a project under an Interreg IVb project called Eurobus : Generating business opportunities in metropolitan areas through landmark regeneration and transformational change and to raise economic potentials of waterway shorelines in Metropolitan Regions.

We are seeking to expand the potential for the Lion Salt Works using the Trent and Mersey Canal and River Weaver through becoming a prime interpretation centre within the Weaver Valley Regional Park. More in our next newsletter.