

22 June, 2016

PLEASE VOTE LION SALT WORKS MUSEUM 'BEST HERITAGE PROJECT' 2016



**THE
NATIONAL
LOTTERY
AWARDS
2016**

**VOTE FOR
LION SALT WORKS
TO WIN A NATIONAL LOTTERY AWARD!**

www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/awards or call 0844 836 9674

The graphic features a blue background with a large white star on the left containing the text 'THE NATIONAL LOTTERY AWARDS 2016'. On the right, a framed photograph shows a museum interior with a large table and people. Below the star, there are stylized icons of a tree, a church, and people walking. At the bottom, the text 'VOTE FOR LION SALT WORKS TO WIN A NATIONAL LOTTERY AWARD!' is written in large, bold letters, followed by the website and phone number.

The Lion Salt Works Museum in Northwich, Cheshire is appealing for votes as it strives to become one of the UK's favourite Lottery-funded projects. The Museum beat off stiff competition from over 600 organisations to get short-listed for the best Heritage project of the National Lottery Awards. It is the only contender for this award in the North-West. It must now win a public vote before it can get national recognition for the Museum by winning the top award at a televised presentation on BBC One. To vote for the Lion Salt Works, go to www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/awards or call 0844 836 9674. Voting runs from 9am on 22 June to midnight on 20 July.

The Lion Salt Works is competing against six other projects to be crowned winner of the prestigious Heritage Award. As well as generating national recognition for its meticulous four-year £10m restoration of the Museum, the award also recognises the contribution of its fun, interactive and educational displays and its innovation programme of events. The Museum was restored and is run by Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Councillor Louise Gittins, Cabinet Member for Communities and Wellbeing at Cheshire West and Chester Council, said: “Cheshire, and in particular its ‘salt towns’ are defined by salt and so this Museum is very close to our hearts. We are enormously proud that the Lion Salt Works Museum is representing Cheshire and the North-West in this hotly-contended national award. Some of our trustees have campaigned for over 30 years to save this site for posterity and I really hope that everyone will take the time to vote for us. It would be a wonderful reward to all those people – staff, volunteers, partners and trustees - who have worked so hard to create this wonderful Museum.”

Salt explains the landscape and industry

The Museum tells the story of salt and its importance regionally and globally. It explains why the deep layers of salt beneath the Cheshire plain make a difference to what people see around them. For instance, the transportation of salt explains the extensive canal network in the region and the thriving chemical hub of the North-West is because salt was historically a catalyst in many chemical processes. Salt explains the rise of Liverpool - it was a founding trade long before slavery - and even why one of the region’s iconic exports, Cheshire cheese, is so tasty. Salt is a key ingredient in almost all cheeses.



Help Us Win

The Lion Salt Works Museum asks everyone to vote for them by phone or online and to encourage family and friends to do so too. To vote for the Lion Salt Works, go to www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/awards or call 0844 836 9674. Voting runs from 9am on 22 June to midnight on 20 July.

The Lion Salt Works Museum appeals to a wide variety of peoples, including those interested in industrial heritage, history, archaeology, geology and arts (the museum holds regular events in its performance and conference centre). Located adjoining the Trent & Mersey Canal, the Museum has its own moorings and attracts a lot of interest from waterways visitors. The Museum has also worked closely with local partnership groups, such as the HLF-funded Saltscape project and Cheshire Butterfly Conservation. It has also attracted over 50 volunteers as well as enjoying the support of its dedicated Lion Salt Works Trustees. For a short aerial film of the Lion Salt Works, go to <https://vimeo.com/132320192>. This film is fully authorised for use on other websites.

About the Lion Salt Works Museum

One of the world's last open-pan salt-making sites, the Museum is an Ancient Scheduled Monument, with the same protection listing as Stonehenge. The Museum tells the story of salt through fun and interactive displays, including a light and sound show that imitates the large steaming salt pans. Opened in 5 June, 2015, in its first year, the Lion Salt Works won six awards, including national awards from the Civic Trust and Museum + Heritage.

The refurbished Museum was designed by Donald Insall Associates with restoration and fit-out being undertaken by Wates Construction and BECK Interiors respectively. RFA Design were the exhibition designers. Archaeological work on site was carried out by the Council's in-house archaeologist.



For further information, contact:

Fiona Young, Marketing Cheshire, 01244 851867

Rachel Ashley, Press Office, Cheshire West and Chester Council on 01244 973025

Note

*Cheshire's traditional salt towns are Northwich, Middlewich and Nantwich and are often known as the 'wich' towns. The suffix 'wich' denotes the presence of salt.

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Lion Salt Works Museum

The Lion Salt Works features not only the large museum but free access to a café, shop butterfly garden and imaginatively themed play area. Parking is also free. The Museum is adjacent to the Trent & Mersey Canal and has its own moorings.

Funding - Cheshire West and Chester Council is grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund for awarding a grant of £5.29 million under its Heritage Grants scheme, making the Lion Salt Works one of the largest heritage schemes being undertaken with their support in the North West. The grant includes funding for a Community Learning Officer. English Heritage has also contributed £300,000 to the award-winning restoration.

The European Union's Manage+ programme contributed £280,000 to create a centre for local businesses with conference facilities. In addition, support was provided by the Butterfly Conservation Trust (Cheshire & Peak District Branch) with grant assistance from Ineos. A £54,000 grant was given by WREN for the construction of an interesting, fun and imaginative play area.

Visitor Admission prices to Lion Salt Works Museum

Adult £6.25 Concession £5.50

Child £4.00
Family ticket (adult and two children) £16.40
Family annual pass: £50.00
Other family and concessionary prices available

Free access to Café, Gift Shop, Butterfly Garden, Play Area and Car Park
Website: westcheshiremuseums.co.uk
Twitter @cwacmuseums Facebook: Weaver Hall Museum and Lion Salt Works

About the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

From archaeology to historic parks and buildings and from collections to rare wildlife, HLF uses National Lottery players' money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about. www.hlf.org.uk.

