



It's been a very busy summer for SaltscapE as our three-year, heritage lottery funded project draws to a close. In this penultimate update we reflect on some of the recent successes of this Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Geology –SaltscapE wouldn't be half as special if it wasn't for the unique geology lying right beneath our feet. This summer Cheshire RIGS (Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites) have been delivering a range of talks, lectures and conferences for SaltscapE for both members of the public and professionals. Watch this space for new leaflets produced by this group all about the geology of some of our local churchyards.



Photos by Nick Jones showing how naturally occurring salt, the related industry and subsidence have shaped the Cheshire Landscape. Dr Ros Todhunter from Cheshire RIGS with Rachael and Hannah from the delivery team

Ros will be giving one of her highly popular SaltscapE talks at the Lion Salt Works museum on Saturday 19th August. [Click here to book](#)

**Funding raised by
The National Lottery**
and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



Out and about – The sun has (sometimes) been shining and we have been out and about exploring some of the Weaver valley's most beautiful spaces. Events like **bird watching**, **bird song ID** and **wildflower walks** have given local people the opportunity to better connect with their surroundings.



A **sensory tree day** around Marbury Country Park allowed children to get closer to nature through touch and smell and offered a unique perspective to woodland habitats and our popular **scything** and **natural dyes courses** helped to revive some long-lost heritage skills!



We also offered up the opportunity to gain new skills in **bee keeping**, **canalware painting** and leading **guided walks**

Saltscape's group of local history volunteers and community archaeologists visited the local archives office in Chester last month to learn more about how Cheshire Records services makes collections accessible to local people and to make sure archives survive so that future generations will be able to do the same. See back page for information on a forthcoming archiving course.

Our team attended **Frodsham Festival** too where we were able to talk about some of our work with Cheshire Wildlife Trust on our water vole project. And once again we offered visitors to Middlewich Folk and Boat festival the chance to make their mark on the Saltscape stone on Salinae Field with local stone carver Andrew Worthington. Many of the families who came along had joined us every festival for the last three years and can be proud to say they've helped carve the stone that forms an important monument to the town's history.



Typhoon and the Pedal Players – Brought to you by Animate! Saltscape's performance project. This fun, family-friendly production from Paperwork Theatre brought together history and art in their interactive steam punk performance which debuted at **Middlewich Folk and Boat Festival** on June 17th and **Northwich River Festival** on 13th August



Animate! has now delivered Play in a Day sessions with over XX schools across the Saltscape. Using music, dance and drama, the play's script takes a fun and light-hearted look at all things salt-related in Cheshire. Pupils take on the role of nature detectives looking at how the salt came to be here in the first place and how it has affected the landscape and brought industry and new communities here. There's a catwalk parade of plants, insects, birds and animals who demonstrate the rich variety of wildlife which relies on these important habitats.



The Heritage Lottery Fund requires landscape partnership schemes to create trainee posts as a way of supporting people into careers in heritage and conservation. Former trainees Sarah, Fiona and Ruby have all now gone on to jobs in their chosen sectors.

We're delighted that Groundwork now has two new trainees to assist with the final months of the project.

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Beth Harrison from Frodsham has been appointed to work as trainee on our local history projects.



Ellen Sherlock from Manchester is working as our Press and Communications trainee

Beth went straight into working directly with volunteers on our **Community Archaeology Project** with partners the University of Salford.

This final stage of our dig at the former site of the Ollershaw Lane saltworks in Marston showed up an incredible number of exciting finds and clues to how the former site had worked.

Finds were displayed at open day at Lion Salt Works museum as part of the Festival of Archaeology where local residents had the chance to visit the trenches themselves.



Above : Beth on site with community archaeologists. Right: commemorative vase possibly 1911 *Credit Peter Lennon*



Beth has also made a flying start on our **Milepost Restoration Project** led by Groundwork..

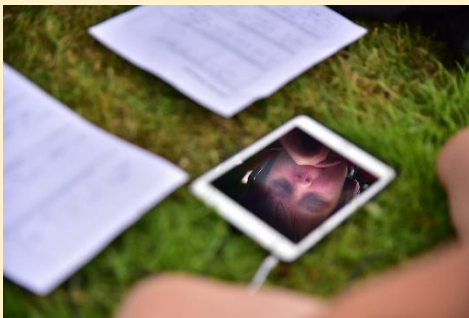
Volunteers Pete and Martin are part of Beth's team of enthusiastic volunteers who'll be working to restore 18 mileposts along the canal network of the weaver valley between Preston Brook and Shardlow. If you're interested in helping us on this project do get in touch on 01606 723 160 or email info@saltscap.co.uk

Our **Digital Media Project** run by Mako Media saw Primary School Children from Winsford produce 'radio' interviews about their favourite local places this summer.



The children interviewed each other to find out what their favourite local places were and why. Then they had to go on to describe the place to someone who had never been there in order ; (to explain what it looked like and what it's used for).

Then the children went on to think about why it was special to them and what they liked to do there ; play with friends, visit with family, take part in sports, relax, learn, explore. And finally, they were asked to consider one thing they might change about that place and why.



Photos Nick Jones

Favourite places included Winsford Library, Winsford Lifestyle Centre, Chester Park, the skate ramp, Leaf Lane Park, Knight's Grange Park and sadly, a recurring theme in what they'd like to change was the presence of litter and hazards in play areas.

You can listen to two of the podcasts and see more photos [here](#) :

This project also saw us run Family Friendly **digital photography workshops** at Northwich Library with more coming up soon. Check our website and social media for more details.





If you're interested in any of our local history projects you might like to come along to **The North West Industrial Archaeology Conference** on 23rd September.

This conference will explore themes relating to the salt landscape in Britain, particularly in Cheshire. [Bookings are being taken here](#)

Learning to Archive. Saturday 29th August, Middlewich Canalside Conference Centre

A course for local history groups run by staff from Cheshire Archives and Local Services who would like to learn more about maintaining and exhibiting their archives.

For further information or to book any of these events call Saltscape on 01606 723 160 or email info@saltscape.co.uk

Guided Walks Training

Friday 8th September

Run by Interpretation Specialist Nigel McDonald. How to communicate to visitors what is special about your landscape. Meet at the Groundwork Offices 10am.

All Saltscape's projects will be coming to a close over the next few months as we tie up the final elements of our delivery scheme. Final reports and evaluation will be taking place alongside financial reporting to the Heritage Lottery Fund so it will be a busy few months for all the partners who have been involved in delivering the Landscape Partnership Scheme.



Stop Press: Congratulations to our friends at Weaverham Trust who have completed the interpretation of the the Petal Walks self guided trail around the village. This project has been a key part of Saltscape and will officially kick off mid September. Check our website for more details.

Keep up to date with us on social media and www.saltscape.co.uk

