

**Salters' Hall**

**8th and 17th September 2022**

# **OPEN HOUSE 2022**



# WELCOME TO SALTERS' HALL

## The Salters' Company

In medieval times, groups of traders in the City of London joined together to form Guilds to strengthen bonds within their trade, provide training for future members, ensure quality products, and look after widows and orphans. Salters' was one of these guilds, and the guilds became Livery Companies. All salt arriving and leaving the port of the City of London would be inspected by a Salt Meter, a person responsible for maintaining the standards and checking the quality.

Today Livery Companies have four main purposes: fellowship, philanthropy, civic duties and education.



By the 19th and 20th centuries, salt's importance had shifted, and the Company began to focus on chemistry and the chemical industries.

In 1918, the Salters' Institute of Industrial Chemistry was established. Later in the 20th century two Masters of the Salters' Company of the Company won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.





# THE SALTERS' COMPANY AND ITS CHARITIES

**The Salters' Institute**  
Charity Number: 328463



The Salters' Institute is the flagship charity of the Salters' Company. Chemistry has been our passion since we were founded in 1918. Since then, we have continued to promote excellence in the teaching and learning of chemistry and related sciences. We connect learners and educators to opportunities that transform their perception of chemistry, what it can do, how it shapes our lives and the career pathways it offers. Chemistry opens doors.

Through our digital and in-person outreach, we provide creative, fun and inspiring spaces to explore chemistry, discover its potential as a subject, and recognise those who are using chemistry to make the world a better place.

Our education strategy, developed in 2020, is our five year strategy focusing on creating a **sustainable talent pipeline** that encourages engagement with chemistry from a young age.



# THE SALTERS' COMPANY AND ITS CHARITIES

## The Salters' Charitable Foundation Charity number: 328258



Charitable giving has always been important to the Salters' Company, and the Salters' Charitable Foundation (SCF) upholds this philanthropic tradition by distributing grants to a wide range of causes.

Annual donations are made to organisations close to Salters' hearts, including our military affiliates, charities with personal connections and City institutions. The SCF also awards larger grants each year to help people facing socio-economic challenges in London, and more recently to support Covid-19 relief.

Increasingly, the SCF endeavours to complement the work of the Salters' Institute by funding a variety of educational bursaries, assisting exceptional young people in their studies. The SCF is proud to support so many talented, ambitious students with their education and aims to maintain contact with as many Salters' scholars as possible as they move on to further and higher education, training and their careers.





# THE SALTERS' COMPANY AND ITS CHARITIES

## The Salters' Company Almshouses

It has always been the tradition of Livery Companies to look out for members who were unable to work, those who were sick, and the elderly. The Salters' Company Almshouses were originally established for the primary purpose of providing for those members of the Company who needed support.

Today, the Salters' Company has two schemes within its Almshouse Trusts that provide sheltered accommodation for elderly people in Maidenhead and Watford.



# PUBLIC PROGRAMMES: GET INVOLVED

The Public Programmes is delivered across both the Salters' Company and its flagship charity, the Salters' Institute. This outreach work is dedicated to welcoming and encouraging new and existing audiences to engage with the Salters' Company's rich history, whilst also bringing its focus on chemistry education to life for the wider community.



## Resources

Check out our family **Experiment of the Month** resources, designed to celebrate the fact that science and chemistry are all around us. From creating your own lava lamp, to discovering cool chromatography to making your own super scent, there is something for every small scientist to be inspired by. All experiments are designed to be completed at home.



## Find out more

Explore the fascinating history of the Company and its seven halls, and hear about our present and future outreach work and vision by watching our **Salters' Snapshot films** on our website:



# PUBLIC PROGRAMMES: GET INVOLVED



Public Programmes launched an incredible new science offer for schools this year, inviting London based schools to take part in a challenge to increase **biodiversity** in their school and local area. Through partnering with forest gardening experts **Edible Landscapes London**, students explored the importance of biodiversity in our individual lives and wider communities.



Taking part in **interactive experiments**, play and **scientific research**, the students worked hard and imaginatively to design their own biodiversity spaces at their schools.

**Wilbury Primary School** was the winner of Wild City 2022 and Edible Landscapes London have now **brought their design to life**, creating their very own Wild City space within their playground. It was an inspiring project taking science teaching out of the classroom and confronting important societal issues. Thank you to all those involved in Wild City 2021/22.



# THE SALTERS' COMPANY ARCHIVES

The Salters' Company archives hold documents dating back to a Title Deed from 1216. Today we are discovering Petitions for Assistance, which can be seen below.

THE FOLLOWING PARTICULARS MUST BE FURNISHED BY ALL PERSONS FREE OF THE SALTERS' COMPANY, OR THEIR FAMILIES, APPLYING FOR PRESENT RELIEF.

Name, Age, and Residence of the Party applying, and how long they have resided there.	<i>Elizabeth Drinkwater aged 40 years 14 Finsbury Street Resided 4 Weeks</i>
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**FINSBURY DISPENSARY,**  
BREWER STREET, GOSWELL ROAD, E.C.

**DR. GRIFFITH.**  
DAYS, Tuesdays and Fridays, at Half-past 11 o'clock.

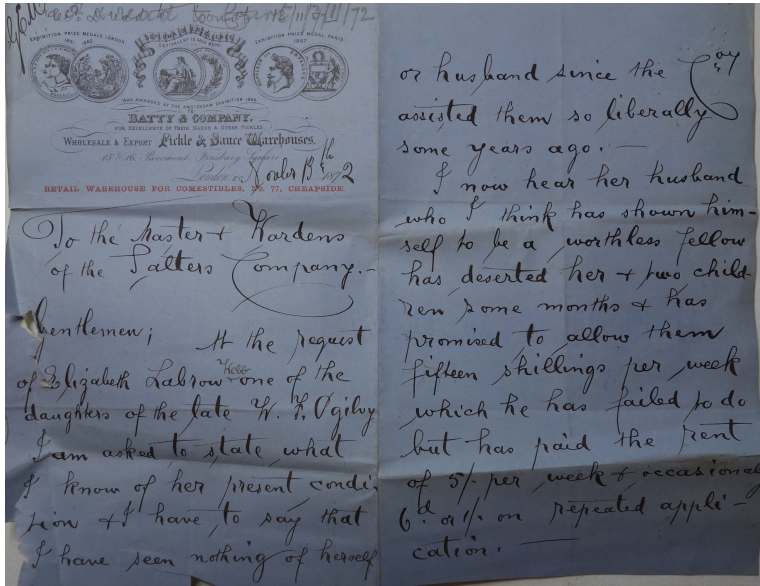
Name	Age
Residence	
Mem. of Case.	

*Drinkwater*

The official Salters' Company form used by petitioners when applying for assistance. Petitioners were required to provide details including their name, age, address and length of residence there. The form shown was completed by or on behalf of Elizabeth Drinkwater, petitioner in 1875-77 and 1881-85. Also shown is a form from Finsbury Dispensary, used by Elizabeth to obtain the medication she needed.



# THE SALTERS' COMPANY ARCHIVES



A letter dated 13 November 1872 from George Batty, a member of the Salters' Company, in support of Elizabeth Labrow Webb's petition for assistance. Elizabeth and her children had been left "in great want and suffering" following her husband's desertion.

Extracts from a "Report of Distress on the Scilly Isles, with proposed plan of Relief", which was supported by the Salters' Company in 1819.

how the children lived for the last few months, she replied, "I can't tell; many times we have been for days without a potatoe for them, and often without a crust of bread: limpets have then been our only support, excepting when the children get a cold potatoe, or a piece of fish, from any neighbour who knew we had neither land or boat." Mr. Jeffery, a minister on the Island, confirmed this statement.

SAINT MARTIN'S.

J. O. five in family. It may be presumed no family in England inhabits a more wretched dwelling than this. Part of an old chest and a piece of iron in the chimney smoked every thing that was like furniture. Three children almost naked, who had been out all day carrying sea-weed, and very wet, had just come as part of the family. Filled with astonishment, Mr. Smith enquired, "Do you live here?" "Yes, Sir." "Have you any changes of clothes?" "No, Sir." "Where is your father?" "Fishing." "Where do you sleep?" The boy pulled away the old chest and showed us some dirty straw over an old piece of canvas stretched on the floor. "We spread this out, sir, and lie on it." "You lie down in your clothes?" "Yes, sir, in what little we have on." "Have you nothing more than what I see in the house?" "No, sir." "How have you been for food last winter?" "Almost starved, sir." "What have you eaten?" "Limpets." "Have you had any thing to eat to-day?" "Yes, sir, once; that was early in the morning, when we went out to get sea-weed we had some limpets." "Have you had any thing since?" [It was seven o'clock in the evening.] "No, sir." "Are you going to eat this tub of limpets for your supper?" "Yes, Sir." "Any bread or potatoes?" "No, Sir." One girl seemed about thirteen years of age with a pleasing countenance, and companionable manners. Mr. Megarthen here observed, that some persons who belong to the Society of Friends, had furnished these poor children with what they had on, and though it was not much, yet it covered their nakedness. —S. B. three in family, two were old people, the woman 76, and her husband, no bread or potatoes, and no food except limpets.

cipal request was, that we would obtain for them mullet nets, for want of which they were the greatest distress. A poor widow here rents in a Sunday school, and takes great care of them.

BRYHER.

F. H. five in family. This was a case of relation of which made every heart in compassion every thing sold for bread, many days quite without a potatoe had been in the house for some weeks out for a month, early in the morning, to have of bread, hot water, and limpets, were all that work just got them this bread. The mother in the most affecting manner, she had shed many tears for her clothes but what they had on: have two sons deaf and dumb, nothing for them to do. The father and sons might go in her and get the family from perishing.—A. P. four in family to get bread by knitting; suffered great distress, excepting when the neighbours gave a little fish; the poor little creatures appeared in great distress, with scarcely any clothes to cover their family; declared he had worked night and day, but he could find to do; and that he had sold all his bread for his children, and with all his exertions was not practicable.

It is astonishing to hear the extraordinary efforts and mothers have made to get bread; and to describe the desponding tone in which they utter failure of all their efforts. It ought to be that tea, coffee, butter, or meat, were luxuries that families did not aspire; their general, their distressed cry was, "only let us have a little potatoes, that we may not totally perish for want of food." It was sufficient to say it was shocking, rather it was to hear their cries. We held a consultation with the people as to the best means of support, and commending the mackerel and pilchard fisheries.

# SALTERS' HALL TODAY



The Salters' Company was without a Hall for 35 years following the Blitz. Livery events had to be conducted in other Companies' Halls, of which the Ironmongers' was the most frequently used. The current Hall was opened by HRH The Duke of Kent in 1976.

This, the seventh Hall, was designed by Sir Basil Spence and David Nightingale Hicks and can be visited with a paid guided tour. Spence is well known for his Brutalist structures – of which Salters' Hall is an excellent example. He is particularly well known for his work on Coventry Cathedral.

Salters' Member of the Livery, David Hicks, designed the interiors of the Hall, which are intended to be very different from traditional Livery Halls.

**To book a paid guided tour please contact:  
[publicprogrammes@saltersinstitute.org](mailto:publicprogrammes@saltersinstitute.org)**





We would be so grateful if you were able to donate to our charitable work.

## How to donate

- Via our website: <https://saltersinstitute.org/support-us/>
- Using the tap machine in the building
- Through this QR code





## Thank you for visiting Salters' Hall.

To find out more about the Salters' Institute and the Salters' Charitable Foundation,  
please visit: <https://www.saltersinstitute.org/> and  
<https://salters.co.uk/the-salters-charitable-foundation/>



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