



## THE SALTERS' COMPANY TIMELINE

**1216**

The oldest document in the Salters' Company archives (pictured right), a title deed written in Latin and on vellum, refers to land in Bread Street on which the earliest Salters' Hall was later located.



Title deed, 1216 © the Salters' Company

**1394**

King Richard II confirmed the Salters' trading activities with their first official License. The origins of the Salters as an organisation are unclear, but they are known to have been in existence as a religious fraternity at the City church of All Hallows, Bread Street, well before 1394. Some members of this fraternity were salt merchants and their trade was centred in and around Bread Street.



Portrait of Richard II at Westminster Abbey, mid-1390s

**1455**

The Salters' first Hall and almshouses for poor Salters were bequeathed by wealthy Salter, Alderman and Sheriff Thomas Beamond. Both were situated in Bread Street, the centre of the City's salt trade. The Hall provided a headquarters for the Salters to meet. Further almshouses in Monkwell (formerly Mugwell) Street were bequeathed by Salter and Lord Mayor Sir Ambrose Nicholas in 1578.



The Church of All Hallows on Bread Street (image dated 1839)

**1515**

The Court of the Aldermen settled on an order of precedence for the City Livery Companies. The Salters were ranked ninth among the 'Great Twelve' Companies (a position they hold to this day), having steadily accumulated considerable wealth through members' bequests of money and property.



The River Thames with St Paul's Cathedral on Lord Mayor's Day, c. 1746-47. No known copyright

**1530**

The Salters were awarded their Grant of Arms (pictured right) by King Henry VIII. The supporters, added in 1591, resemble snow leopards, or they could simply be 'ounces' or 'big cats' decorated with spots. Only two other City Livery Companies have 'spotty beasts' as supporters for their arms: the Dyers' Company and the Painter-Stainers' Company. This could signify shared trade links with the Salters.



Salters' Grant of Arms, 1530. © photography by Charles Sturge

**1559**

Queen Elizabeth I granted the Salters their first Charter, and so for the first time they became a Company, led by two Wardens. King James I's Charter followed in 1607 (pictured right), creating the role of Master as the annually elected head of the Court of Assistants, (similar to a board of trustees). These roles still exist within the Company today.



Salters' Company Charter, 1607 © the Salters' Company

**1588**

With England under threat of invasion by the Spanish Armada, the Salters sent 160 men to the defence force mustered at Blackheath, in south-east London. In 1596 they helped strengthen Queen Elizabeth I's navy, contributing to the cost of fitting out 12 ships and two pinnaces (small sail boats) for the capture of Cadiz.



English Ships and the Spanish Armada in August 1588. No known copyright

**1610**

The City of London was ordered by King James I to colonise land in Ireland, which led to the creation, in 1613, of a new county called Londonderry. The project was assigned to 12 groupings of City Livery Companies. The Salters led a group comprised of the Dyers, Saddlers, Cutlers, Joiners and Woolmen. Known as the Manor of Sal, this group received 23,000 acres. In the years that followed, Manor of Sal projects included two new villages, Salterstown and Magherafelt, along with new schools and churches. Gradually, the Salters disposed of all its Irish property through sales to tenants.



The ruins of Salterstown, pictured in 2020

**1661**

The Salters' almshouses opened in Maidenhead as a gift from Salter James Smith. They are still there today as one of the oldest buildings in Maidenhead, and continue to be managed by the Salters' Company for local people in need of assistance. The original 'orders' or rules were particularly strict, with swearing, adultery, drunkenness and 'scolding' resulting in fines and even expulsion!



Salters' Company Almshouses at Maidenhead, 2012. © photography by Charles Sturge

**1666**

The Great Fire of London destroyed Salters' Hall (in St Swithin's Lane since 1645) and all other Salters' properties. The Salters' Clerk, Henry Redmayne, heroically rescued silver and money from the Hall before the fire struck. The Salters rented Cooks' Hall for £10.00 a year until their own Hall was re-built and opened in 1668.



The Great Fire of London with Ludgate and Old St Paul's, Unknown Artist. Date Unknown. No known copyright

**1778**

Salter Thomas Weston met regularly with other salt merchants in the City coffee houses to import salt into London and fix salt prices. His salt trading records (pictured right), kept from 1778, show that these merchants continued to meet at least until 1799. Interestingly, the records also show that their principal supplier was a woman – Mrs Amelia Stewart of Great Salterns, near Portsmouth.



Thomas Weston's salt trade book, 1784 © photography by Mitzi de Margary

**1821-1827**

Salters' Hall in St Swithin's Lane was greatly enlarged and refurbished to reflect the Company's heightened prosperity and to better service its needs. The image shows the enlarged Hall in 1827.



Enlarged and refurbished Salters' Hall, 19th century. No known copyright

**1864**

The Salters' almshouses in Watford, known as 'Salters' Gardens', were officially opened, replacing the London almshouses, which had gradually fallen into disrepair. Salters' Gardens still stand today and are run by a housing association for older people in need of affordable housing.



Salters' Company Almshouses at Watford, 2012. © Charles Sturge

**1879**

John Corbett, known as the 'Salt King', became an honorary member of the Salters' Company. He owned the salt works at Stoke Prior, Worcs, which, through his improvements in commercialization and mechanization, became the largest salt works in Europe. He spent much of his wealth on philanthropic projects in and around nearby Droitwich. His agents were Weston & Westall Ltd - the Westons were Salters' Company members descended from Thomas Weston - see 1778 above.



Stoke Prior Salt Works 1870s. No known copyright

**1884**

The Royal Commission, appointed in 1880 to set up an official enquiry into the workings of the City Livery Companies, published its report, which encouraged the Companies to devote more of their funds to educational work connected to their original trades. In 1885, the Salters doubled their existing grant to the scheme for technical education known as the City and Guilds of London Institute to £1,000 a year. The Company also instituted a number of scientific research fellowships worth £100 a year.



Livery Companies Commission Report, 1884 © photography by Mitzi de Margary

## 1914-18

During the First World War, 76 members of the Salters' Company served in the armed forces. Throughout the conflict, the Salters made many donations to war-related charities, and in November 1916, they hosted a tea party and entertainment for wounded soldiers at Salters' Hall (pictured right).



Tea Party and Entertainment for Wounded Soldiers at Salters' Hall, 1916. No known copyright

## 1918

The Salters' Institute was founded at the end of the First World War in order to help young men continue chemistry studies that had been interrupted by the conflict. The Institute began by awarding annual research fellowships in chemistry, in order to equip recipients for work in the industry. This began a strong relationship with educational institutions and with the chemical industry which continues today.



No. 14 'D' Coy. Photograph shows Clement Callingham, Salters' member who served during the First World War. Image courtesy of Lizzie Graham

## 1941

Salters' Hall was badly bombed in the Second World War, during a major air raid in May 1941. After the war, the Hall remains were demolished and the land was sold under compulsory purchase order in 1949. The Salters moved to a temporary headquarters at Portland Place in the West End, and from there continued their search for a site on which to build a new Hall.



Salters' Hall in ruins © the Salters' Company

## 1961

Nobel Prize winner Professor Lord (Alexander) Todd OM FRS served as Master of the Salters' Company. He won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1957 for his work on nucleotides, which are the building blocks of DNA. Alexander's work was an important prerequisite for Watson and Crick's discovery of DNA's double helical structure.



Professor Lord (Alexander) Todd OM FRS, Master 1961 © the Salters' Company

## 1976

Salters' Hall in Fore Street was opened by HRH The Duke of Kent, an honorary Salter. This seventh Hall was designed from a concept by Sir Basil Spence, a Scottish architect well known for his design of Coventry Cathedral. In 2010 the Hall received Grade II Listed Building status, and from 2013 to 2016 it underwent major refurbishment, including a new entrance pavilion, accessed from the newly created London Wall Place.



Salters' Hall, 2014 © photography by Charles Sturge

## 1983

The Salters' Institute began working on curriculum development. This initiative was to bring about a much larger concept – a range of new science courses at GCSE and A Level based on teaching science in context ('the Salters' Approach'). The Salters' Approach has been taken up in many other countries with resources written in several different languages.



Chemistry: The Salters' Approach Textbook 1989. Image courtesy of the Salters' Institute

## 1991

The first Salters' Festivals of Chemistry to inspire pupils aged 11 to 14 through practical chemistry were held around the UK and Ireland. In 2000, the Festivals became annual events and focused on a challenge-based day of practical chemistry which continues today.



Salters' Festivals of Chemistry, University of East London, 2015. No known copyright

## 1993

The Salters' Prize for the Teaching of Chemistry was introduced as part of the Company's 600<sup>th</sup> celebrations of its first License in 1394. Since then, two former winners, Dr Ann Hubbard and Dr Kay Stephenson have become members of the Salters' Company.



Dr Kay Stephenson and Dr Ann Hubbard, 1998. No known copyright

## 1993-94

Nobel Prize winner George Porter served as Master of the Salters' Company. He won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry alongside Ronald Norrish and Manfred Eigen in 1967 for their work on observing and measuring extremely fast chemical reactions. George also made a number of TV appearances, including the Royal Institution's Christmas Lectures.



Chemistry Club Students with Lord George Porter. No known copyright

## 1998

The first Salters' Chemistry Camp was held at the University of Birmingham. Students aged 15 were given the opportunity to experience life as a chemistry student in a university environment. The Camps ran in the UK for 18 years and during that time more than 9,500 students took part! The Camps continue to run today in India.



Salters' Chemistry Camps in India, 2015. No known copyright

## 2000

Professor Sir John Holman was appointed as the first Salters' Professor of Chemical Education at the University of York. The post was introduced to celebrate the millennium and to continue the success of the University of York's nationally renowned Science Education Group.



Professor Sir John Holman © the Salters' Company

## 2002

The Salters' National Awards for Science Technicians were launched. The awards continue today and aim to acknowledge the amazing contribution made by science technicians to science education.



HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan speaking at the 2012 ceremony © photography by JT Spragg

## 2010

Two existing Salters' charities merged to form the Salters' Charitable Foundation. Charitable giving has always been important to the Company and its Members, and the Foundation upholds this philanthropic tradition by distributing grants and donations to a wide range of organisations including the Salters' military affiliates, educational establishments and projects working with poor and vulnerable people.



King's Royal Hussars, one of the Salters' military affiliates. Image courtesy of the Salters' Institute

## 2017-18

In 2017, the Salters won the prestigious City Heritage Award, presented by the City of London Corporation. The following year, the Salters' Institute celebrated its Centenary, and as part of these celebrations, the Centenary Awards were created to recognise the achievements of early career chemists and chemical engineers and also to play a key role in the Institute's ethos to promote chemistry.



The Institute Awards 2018: Julia Cole, one of the Centenary Award winners, with Dr Emma Scroats, CEO of Isogenica Ltd, and the Master, The Hon P.J. Remnant CBE. © photography by JT Spragg

## 2020

The coronavirus / Covid-19 pandemic spreads across the world, causing millions of people to work remotely. Salters' Hall is closed for only the third time in its history (the first time was during the Great Plague of 1665, and the second time following bomb damage during World War Two).



Main entrance to Salters' Hall, London Wall Place. © photography by JT Spragg