

a builder, for her to study architecture. She was educated at James Gillespie's high school and studied landscape architecture at the Edinburgh College of Art, which was then affiliated to Heriot-Watt University. There she was part of a cohort taught by the exacting but inspiring Prof David Skinner, several of whom went on to be leaders of their profession.

She worked for the landscape architects Gillespies on projects including the Liverpool international garden festival of 1984 and then for the multinational architectural practice SOM, on the Canary Wharf development in London's docklands. While she respected the latter's professional approach, she felt (as she later said) that it "didn't adequately address local communities". Keen to do her own thing, she set up Kinnear Landscape Architects in 1991.

In 1992, as a lecturer at the University of Greenwich, she helped to interview a young architect called Sean Griffiths for a part-time teaching post. Finding him arrogant, she recommended someone else, but was overruled. They became life partners, despite this unpromising start, and had a daughter, Lily, together. They also built their family home, the Blue House in east London, designed by Sean and his practice FAT, whose playful use of colour and ornament stood courageously apart from the architectural mainstream, and have made it a place of pilgrimage to students. Completed in 2002, it remained Lynn's home until she died.

Meanwhile, her growing reputation won her a succession of projects. She designed, with the artist Richard Wentworth, a new civic square in Walsall, in the West Midlands, next to the New Art Gallery by the architects Caruso St John. The investment in education under Tony Blair's government gave her the opportunity to design several schools. Design for London, an agency set up under Ken Livingstone after he was elected mayor of London in 2000, enabled her to work on several of the capital's neglected green spaces. As well as designing individual projects, she also carried out strategic work; for example, on the downlands in south London.

Despite the protracted and punishing treatment of her cancer, which was diagnosed in 2017, she continued the work of her practice until 2023, when she decided to close it. She and Griffiths separated in 2008, but remained on good terms, and he helped care for her during her illness, alongside other friends and family.

She is survived by Lily, and by her sisters, Jo, Susie and Sally.  
**Rowan Moore**

*Lynn Kinnear, landscape architect, born 15 February 1960; died 9 March 2024*

## Stephen Salter

### Versatile inventor whose projects ranged from a wave-power device to the first AI robot

**S**tephen Salter, who has died aged 85, was the inventor of the Salter's Duck, a wave-power device that was the first of its kind and promised to provide a new source of renewable energy for the world - until it was effectively killed off by the nuclear industry.

In 1982, after eight years of development under Salter's direction at Edinburgh University, the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) was asked by the government to see if the duck might be a cost-effective way of making large quantities of electricity. To the great surprise of Salter, and others, the UKAEA came to the conclusion that it was uneconomic, and that no further government funding should be given to the project.

A decade later it emerged that, thanks to a misplaced decimal point, the review had made Salter's duck look 10 times more expensive than the experiments showed it was likely to be. The UKAEA said this was just a mistake, but Salter, who had never been allowed to see the results of the secret evaluation, put it another way: asking the nuclear industry to evaluate an alternative source of energy was like putting King Herod in charge of a children's home, he suggested.

By then, however, Salter had become interested in other projects, and as a result his duck has never been tested at sea - although wave-power devices using some of his technology are now in development in the Orkneys and off the coast of Portugal.

The prototype ducks are now in the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, where there are a number of other exhibits with links to him, including the only remaining Black Knight rocket, a UK ballistic missile from the 1950s, and Freddy the Robot, from the 60s, the first machine to have artificial intelligence that could "see" and had a sense of touch. He also invented the Dervish, a low-cost method of clearing landmines, using a revolving three-wheeled mechanism with a constantly changing path.

Perhaps the range of those projects sums up Salter better than anything else. Colleagues who worked with him said that while other scientists concentrated for years on one subject to the exclusion of all others, Salter was fascinated by new problems.

Although it was the oil shock of 1973 that triggered his interest in renewable energy, he later became one of the first scientists to realise the dangers of climate change. Doubting that the slow pace of cutting fossil-fuel use would be

enough to prevent dangerous overheating, at the turn of the 21st century he set up a scheme to develop marine cloud brightening - an idea to produce more and brighter clouds over oceans in order to reflect sunlight back into space, thereby keeping the oceans cooler and reducing sea-level rise.

He designed a project to build a large number of automated ships spraying aerosols from sea water into the atmosphere and - having made a considerable fortune by selling some of his inventions - was able to set up the Lothian School of Technology just outside Edinburgh for £2.4m. The centre provides premises for up to 60 of his students to work on inventions and develop them commercially beyond their time at university.

Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, Stephen was the son of British parents who had emigrated there, Rachel (nee Floyd) and Willoughby de Carle Salter. His father joined the Royal Navy as a meteorologist during the second world war and afterwards the family moved to Britain, where Willoughby became head of a prep school in which Rachel also taught. Stephen attended two boarding schools and then Framlingham college in Suffolk.

By that time he was designing, building and flying model aeroplanes, and his ambition was to take an engineering degree at Cambridge University. But he failed to get good enough grades, instead becoming an apprentice at Saunders-Roe, an Isle of Wight aero- and marine-engineering company, where he was involved in the Black Knight rocket project. After studying at night classes he was finally accepted at Cambridge to study natural sciences.

He moved to Edinburgh University in 1967, aged 29, to become a research fellow working on artificial intelligence in robots. Within six years he was also a lecturer and had begun his work on wave energy. In 1984 he became professor of engineering design.

Perhaps Salter's left-leaning politics and his willingness to take on the London establishment prevented him from receiving the honours he deserved, but he was elected to a fellowship of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1991, made MBE in 2004, and inducted into the Scottish Engineering Hall of Fame in 2021. He never stopped working, becoming an emeritus professor at retirement age and continuing to research, advise companies and refine his inventions until the end.

He married Margaret Donaldson, a professor of development psychology at Edinburgh University, in 1973. She died in 2020. He is survived by his younger brother, Edmund.

**Paul Brown**

*Stephen Hugh Salter, inventor, born 7 December 1938; died 23 February 2024*



**While other scientists focused for years on just one subject, Salter was fascinated by new problems**

*Salter in 1976, working on his 'duck' device*  
EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY

## Birthdays

**Today's birthdays:** **Andrew Bailey**, governor, Bank of England, 65; **Warren Beatty**, actor, 87; **Tracy Chapman**, singer-songwriter, 60; **Eric Clapton**, guitarist, 79; **Martina Cole**, writer, 65; **Sue Cook**, broadcaster, 75; **Debbie Crosbie**, chief executive, Nationwide Building Society, 54; **Jeremy Deller**, artist, 58; **Celine Dion**, singer, 56; **Margaret Fingerhut**, concert pianist, 69; **MC Hammer**, rapper, 62; **Rachel Hopkins**, Labour MP, 52; **Lady (Beverley) Hughes of Stretford**, former Labour MP and minister, 74; **Norah Jones**, musician, 45; **Karim Khan**, KC, human rights lawyer and prosecutor of the international criminal court, 54; **Lord (Mervyn) King of Lothbury**, former governor, Bank of England, 76; **Lord (Ian) MacLaurin of Knebworth**, former chair, Vodafone, 87; **Kate Mavor**, former chief executive, English Heritage, 62; **Piers Morgan**, writer and broadcaster, 59; **The Most Rev Pat Storey**, bishop of Meath and Kildare, 64; **Cindy Sughrue**, director, Charles Dickens museum, 61; **Johnnie Walker**, DJ and broadcaster, 79; **Prof Glynn Williams**, sculptor, 85.

**Tomorrow's birthdays:** **Herb Alpert**, bandleader, 89; **Roger Black**, sports presenter and former athlete, 58; **Deirdre Clancy**, costume designer, 81; **Gareth Davies**, Conservative MP and Treasury minister, 40; **Sir Alan Duncan**, former Conservative MP and government minister, 67; **Lord (Don) Foster of Bath**, former Lib Dem MP, 77; **Al Gore**, former US vice-president, 76; **Christopher Hampson**, chief executive and artistic director, Scottish Ballet, 51; **Shirley Jones**, singer and actor, 90; **Tess Knighton**, early music scholar, 67; **Ewan McGregor**, actor, 53; **Prof Tim O'Brien**, astrophysicist, 60; **Victoria Smurfit**, actor, 50; **Lord (David) Steel of Aikwood**, former leader, Lib Dems, 86; **Lord (David) Trefgarne**, former Conservative minister, 83; **Christopher Walken**, actor, 81; **Angus Young**, guitarist, 69; **Chloé Zhao**, film-maker, 42.

## Announcements

### In Memoriam

**AYRES, David Antony.** 23 February 1941 to 30 March 1999. Collyers, Horsham, Pembroke, Cambridge. Teacher, councillor, JP and battlefield guide. Loved and missed for 25 years by Anne, Matt, Ben, Jon and the grandchildren he never knew: Bea, Harriet, Jasper, Kira and Soren. Tho' much is taken, much abides.

For Announcements, Acknowledgments, Adoptions, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Births, Deaths, Engagements, Memorial Services and In Memoriam, email us at [announcements@theguardian.com](mailto:announcements@theguardian.com) including your name, address and telephone number or phone 0203 353 2114.