



# The Conservator

Summer 2013 | Issue 46

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

## A Message from the Master

Dear Water Conservator,

I appreciate greatly my appointment as your 25th Master. As a Livery Company we are uniquely placed to make an impact in the broader world and within the City. If we are to achieve this dual objective then we should lead and learn from the future as it emerges, this is not such an unusual approach; examples of it working are plentiful. Members of the Water Conservation Trust already have some experience of this. Seeing and appreciating the emerging opportunity is the critical first step; connecting and identifying personally with what wants to emerge must follow and then acting quickly to gain momentum. Emotion is the spur to action, entrepreneurship or social responsibility could be 'in the mix' and innovation is a likely consequence; remember the episode of John Snow and the Broad Street pump.



My over-arching aim would be to see the Water Conservators become 'Globally Useful'.

I read geography, geology, pure mathematics and photogrammetry at UCL. Alan Twort of Binnie and Partners fame said I was a 'back door' engineer like him. I treasured that opinion.

At the Installation lunch I stressed that sustainability should embrace environmental, social and economic advantages; certainly in these days the three elements should always be at the front of our minds because they are intrinsically linked.

Two years ago I said in my Fleet Warden profile that I thought there were still a great many things to do to improve lives and landscapes. If we take time to stand and stare as advised by W H Davies, the tramp poet, we can see nature continuing with recovery at her own slow pace. The Water Conservators could consider helping those many organisations who are helping nature along. These projects are typically long term, especially if they are comprised of sustainable elements and often promoters need technical help rather than funding. I have asked the Wardens to consider how we can get involved.

I want to give you a review of my own experience as an engineer facing an emerging future. My wife Marjorie and I were heavily involved in the Aberfan disaster in October 1966 and for quite some time afterwards as emergency repair and recovery got underway; that

event shaped the rest of our lives in every respect.

Post-Aberfan, public safety and the stability of waste heaps were the immediate problems, solutions were based on geotechnical experience, but what did we learn from the disaster? Everyone learned that the management of these heaps left a lot to be desired; learning from what had happened became the new experience and the basis for new guidelines, a proper and common reaction to events like this.

Marj and I experienced and saw things very differently. We entered an emerging world, a world that was driven by two factors: emotion and trust – first a passionate vision for improving lives in severely degraded societies - and trust from technical and political managers that we would deliver that vision. We grasped emerging patterns to realise a future that we cared most deeply about. The impetus to act was important but caring was equally significant. Heart, head and will, came into play. Experience was valued but not allowed to be a hindrance.

Inspiration came from a variety of sources. In his 'Essay on human understanding' John Locke wrote that 'Nature never makes excellent things for mean or no usage'. As a response to the trust placed in us, our team worked with the 'excellent things' in nature. Trust was the catalyst for progress. The work was delivered at a low cost, and involved aspects we would now recognise as sustainable features.

By leading and learning on the journey

from Aberfan we produced a significant shift in emphasis across civil engineering in the UK. Our reach extended well beyond land reclamation. In the 1990s a journalist who reviewed our work suggested that because of the impact of our approach the children and teachers at Aberfan might not have died in vain after all.

Following Aberfan my emotions ran deeply and purposefully. After visiting Snowdon and the adjacent slate quarries early in the 1970's I reported 'These tips are not a danger to the public, but it is obscene that such dereliction exists in this most beautiful place'. Many projects progressed on this heart-centred analysis. Emotion and trust had penetrated to the very top of the administration. Trust was the catalyst to innovation.

Do we analyse and paralyse these days? One is also tempted to ask "Where has all the trust in professional judgement gone"? Written procedures and 'tick boxes' seem to dominate professional life. I see this happening every day in environmental fields and it makes me fret. I believe that this risk-averse approach blights the professional development of young scientists. If we were looking for a 'mission', then an assessment of the adverse impact of current practice on the professional development of future leaders in science could be one.

If we chose, we can live in and influence interesting and challenging times.

Ivor Richards OBE  
Master





# Deputy Master's report

## Reflections on a Year as Master | 2012 – 2013

by Peter Mathews

Wow – where did that year go!? Lis and I have been privileged to represent the Company. I cannot express what I want to say in 500 words – this is an abridged version of a longer report on our website

The Company has achieved much of what we set out to do – I use the word 'we' deliberately because it has been teamwork. Members offered to champion projects and have carried them through. We have a revamped website, with a continuous history of the Company, a book, Reflections on Water and the first edition of a consolidated Company Manual.

A rough inspection of attendance lists shows that most Members participated in some activity in the year. We had visits to Cromer, a Vineyard, a Cider farm, Windsor Castle, the Shard and the Globe theatre.

We made progress in rekindling contacts with Water UK and British Water, organized a dinner debate at the Reform Club on the future of the Water Industry, and were active in the

WET 10, which organized an excellent evening on the subject of changing climate and weather. We led the WET10 contribution to the City of London Energy and Sustainability Sub Committee. Our first Corporate Member is Huber Technology UK which supplies equipment to the water industry.

Our ladies team continues to row supreme in our cutter. We continued our partnership with the Maidstone Sea Cadets; this included raising over £2,500 for a new boat, which I had the pleasure of launching

We also made very good progress in the Water Conservation Trust. Its report is in the unabridged version. Members and guests showed great generosity in our collections and we have made donations to other charitable activities.

The blog of our activities was successful in keeping Members informed of Lis's and my activities in the Livery. It was our honour to have the Lord Mayor at the Myddelton Lunch in January and the Company

participated as judges in the City of London PLHA Thames Fishing Competition and the Living Cities Awards.

Where-ever we went there was camaraderie. When the Companies gather together, there is often a procession in which the Masters are organized by Livery Number and one gets to know the newer Modern Companies best – we have much that we can share with them.

Thanks for your confidence in electing and installing me – I hope that Lis and I have repaid you well. I wish Ivor and his Wardens the very best for the future. I have handed on Mastership of a Company in good heart and with a good reputation.

At the very end of the year Court Assistant Nick Reeves suffered a severe stroke and he passed away on July 7th. Nick was a very good friend, a steadfast Liveryman, and played a very significant role in the successful delivery of projects during the year. Nick, we thank you and honour your contribution. We will remember you.

### Calendar of Events 2013–2014

6-8 September 2013	Master's Weekend	Wales
17 September 2013	Company Visit	Globe Theatre
24 September 2013	Michaelmas Lunch	Armourers Hall
30 September 2013	Election of Lord Mayor	Guildhall
5 November 2013	25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet	Vintners Hall
9 November 2013	Lord Mayor's Show	City of London
17 December 2013	Carol Service	St Mary-at-Hill
January 2014	Myddelton Lunch	TBA
4 March 2014	United Guilds Service	St Paul's Cathedral
17 April 2014	Election Court Lunch	Cutlers Hall
24 June 2014	Election of Sheriffs	Guildhall
2 July 2014	Installation Court Lunch	TBA

### The Company would like to welcome the following new Liverymen:

- David Barrow
- Richard Bennett
- Richard Franceys
- Simon Jefferson
- David Richards
- Carolyn Roberts

### Journeyman:

- Rose Norman



# The Water Conservation Trust reviews its Bursaries Programme



Lord Macdonald

A Conference took place on 3 July 2013 in London, attended by over 80 people from universities, industry and donors, to review the outcomes of the Universities Bursary Programme run by The Water Conservation Trust. Chaired by Lord Macdonald of River Glaven, Warden of Wadham College, the Programme's positive impact on universities was noted as well as its crucial importance to individual Bursary holders.

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Opening the bursary review, Master Water Conservator Ivor Richards, explained the commitment of the Livery Company to improving the perception of the water and environment sector, and the quality and relevance of research and education. The Company's registered charity, The Water Conservation Trust, had devised its Universities Programme around bursaries for postgraduate students' fees and other support for university departments. The Company aims to extend and deepen its relationship with universities in the future.

Starting with a pilot at Exeter University in early 2007, the Programme's first three-year agreement in 2007 was with Wadham

College, Oxford University, followed by Sheffield and Brunel in 2008. After the 2012 intake, the Trust had assisted 44 students at 11 UK universities. The time had come for a review of the Programme and, particularly, to hear the views of the students themselves as to the importance and usefulness of the bursaries.

The Company and Trust were grateful to Lord Macdonald, Warden of Wadham, for agreeing to chair this event, which was part of the review.

Lord Macdonald said the connection with Wadham had been extremely useful. The bursaries awarded to Wadham over the last six years had allowed the College to identify strong candidates who, otherwise, would not have stayed in the sector.

The performance of the bursary holders had been good and, in some cases, exceptional. The bonds created between the Company and Trust on the one hand, and the university and the bursary students would endure.

Five bursary holders had agreed to contribute to this review with presentations, followed by a question and answer session and conclusions.

A number of questions were

asked about the technical issues surrounding each students research and post-graduation work.

Looking at the bursary mechanism, the conclusion reached was that the studies, projects and subsequent careers of the bursary students would make a significant contribution to the sector.

Colin Bland, Chairman of the Water Conservation Trust said that Trustees were pleased with the outcomes but because the programme is entirely funded by contributions from Company Members and donations there was a limit as to how far the Trust could make an impact using bursaries alone. That said, during 2013-14 the Trust has announced that the Bursary Programme would be extended to 14 universities, and bursaries worth £80,000 would be awarded.

Colin Bland thanked the event sponsors: Pinsent Masons, WAMITAB, ESAET and Brunel University. He stated that the Trustees would take the views expressed into account in their review.

**Peter Hall**

Treasurer, Water Conservation Trust

## Installation Lunch

The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators installed its new Master, Ivor Richards, at the Master Mariners Hall based on HQS Wellington on the River Thames in London on Wednesday 3rd July 2013. Ivor is the 25th Master Water Conservator and will serve for one year, supported by his three newly elected Wardens: Roger North (Thames Warden), Peter Hall (Fleet Warden) and Keith Tozzi (Walbrook Warden).

At the Installation Lunch, following the ceremony, Ivor welcomed his guests, Andrew Parmley (Alderman), Paul Cutill OBE (Master, Fuellers Company and his Clerk), John Freestone (Past Master, Master Mariners and their Clerk), John Redmond (Master, Watermens

Company and his Clerk) and Maureen Marden (Master, Environmental Cleaners and her Clerk). Ivor had a particular welcome for his Principal Guest, Lord Elis-Thomas (Welsh Assembly) and proposed a toast (in water) to all the guests of the Company.

Lord Elis-Thomas in responding on behalf of the guests, explained his longstanding friendship with Ivor, (dating back to the 1960's), their love of rugby and his support for the essential work of sensitive environmental planning for both reclamation and new construction.

Lord Elis-Thomson proposed a toast the Company "Root and Branch, may it flourish for ever".

In responding, Ivor confirmed that both he Lord Elis-Thomas were from Wales! He reinforced his intention of creating stronger links with Universities during his year and sadly recalled the Aberfan disaster of 1966, where a colliery spoil tip collapsed with tragic loss of life, and explained how it had shaped the rest of his professional career and that of his late wife Marj.

A collection after the Installation Lunch raised £875 for the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers' MAGICAL TAXI TOUR to Disneyland Paris in September 2013.

**Keith Tozzi**

Walbrook Warden



# The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators Wardens

## First Patrimonial Redemption

THAMES WARDEN

**Roger North**



Roger North B.Eng. C.Eng. FICE. FCIWEM. C.WEM. MIAM, was installed as Thames Warden on 3rd July 2013.

Roger was admitted as a Freeman in 1995, became a Liveryman in 2000 and has been a Court Assistant since 2007. He continues his role as Hon. Treasurer for the Company.

Roger has worked in the water and environment business for over 40 years. After graduating from the University of Sheffield in 1969, he started his career in water and wastewater consultancy with John Taylor and Sons.

In 1978 he joined Atkins, one of the world's leading engineering and design consultancies where he is now the International Development Director for the Water and Environment business having recently relinquished his position as Managing Director of Water Operations. He has held a number of senior management positions in the UK and overseas including two years as resident manager in Sri Lanka. His career has involved him in a wide range of water related services from research and development, design and asset management, to institutional development and operation support services. He has worked in many countries across Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia and the Far East. He is a member of the UK Trade and Investment Environmental and Water Sector Advisory Group.

Roger and his wife, Christine, have two married daughters and three grandchildren. His hobbies include gardening, DIY and golf.

In April of this year David Richards (son of the then Master Elect) gravitated from being a Journeyman to the first Freeman to be admitted by Patrimonial Redemption, David then at the Installation Court was clothed in the Livery by his father.

Since the Company introduced the category of Patrimonial Redemption there has been keen interest as it allows for sons or daughters of Liverymen over the age of 21 to apply to become Freeman of the Company even though their own trade or profession may not be linked in any way to our profession.

If any Liveryman would like to know more about this scheme, then please contact the Clerk accordingly.

**Ralph Riley**  
Clerk

### Corporate membership

The Company welcomed the first Corporate Membership organisation at the Installation Lunch, that of Huber Technologies which on this occasion was represented by the Managing Director Steve Morris.

**Ralph Riley** Clerk

FLEET WARDEN

**Peter Hall**



Peter Hall B.Sc. M.Sc. ACMA, joined the Company in 1999 and was appointed Fleet Warden on July 3rd 2013.

After graduating in chemistry Peter qualified as an accountant with the British Gas Corporation. He joined the finance team at the National Water Council in 1977 and, on its demise in 1983, Peter was appointed assistant secretary at the newly formed Water Authorities Association, where he dealt with finance and general policy matters, including industry-side logistics for water authority privatisation.

Appointed deputy director at the Water Services Association in 1989 Peter spent several years coordinating views on policy issues, setting up the European Waste Water Group to lobby for practical and achievable environmental standards. After a year with OFWAT, he contributed to the European Commission's evaluation of progress of former centrally planned economies towards EU membership. In the period 1996- 2002, working for MWH, Peter was the evaluation director for Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia and Hungary.

During the last ten years, he has undertaken policy evaluation studies for the European Commission and reviewed SME developments in Central Asia and South East Europe for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Peter has been a Court Assistant since 2004 and was appointed a Trustee of the Water Conservation Trust in 2005, where he is the Hon Treasurer, edits the Charity Update and manages the successful Company bursary scheme.

Peter is Secretary of Thames Valley CIMA branch and long-time treasurer of Reading Coin Club, specialising in Roman Coins.

In July 2012 Peter received an Honorary Fellowship from Brunel University in recognition of his significant contribution to the work of the University.

WALBROOK WARDEN

**Keith Tozzi**



Keith Tozzi BSc, MA, FICE, FCIWEM, CIM, FRSA

Keith has been a Freeman of the Company since 1995 and was appointed Walbrook Warden on 3rd July 2013.

Keith spent his early career with Thames Water and Southern Water and was one of three executive directors of Southern Water plc during the exciting period of privatisation and growth into a wide range of ancillary businesses. In 1996 he was headhunted as CEO of the British Standards Institution and he led the extensive international expansion into 96 countries and the establishment of several commercial enterprises. In 2000 he was appointed Group Chief Executive of the Swan Group plc which owned Mid Kent Water, an energy consultancy, a food testing business and an international engineering consultancy - Keith led a successful management buy out of the business.

In 2005 he established two new testing and inspection businesses listed on the London Stock Exchange - Inspicio plc and Concateno plc. As Chairman of them both, Keith led a total of ten acquisitions and successfully sold the enlarged businesses to private equity and a US competitor respectively in 2008 and 2010.

In 2010 he co-founded a new biological testing business, Ingemino Ltd. This business has made four acquisitions to date and is already a leading player in its space. In 2010 Keith was also appointed as Chairman of Kane Ltd, an international insurance services group based in Guernsey, US, Cayman, Bermuda, Malta and Dubai.

Keith enjoys spending time with his three children and four grandchildren and finds time to indulge himself in his love of cars and more particularly, Fiona.