



THE WATER CONSERVATION TRUST

CHARITY UPDATE

Registered Charity 1007648, c/o HQS Wellington, Temple Stairs, Victoria Embankment,



AUTUMN 2018

Message from the Chairman of the Trustees, Roger North



The Water Conservation Trust spent £54,000 on its charitable objectives in the year to 30 June 2018 and plans to spend over £74,800 in 2018-19.

There are eleven Trustees and an Hon. Secretary, Christine Duthie who, with the Hon. Treasurer, Peter Hall, make sure that Trustees wishes are carried out. The Trustees meet quarterly and as well as ensuring compliance with Charity Commission requirements, review projects proposed by its Charity Committee.

This Charity Update looks at some of the Trust activities. The Schools Programme and the Universities Programme are set out on pages 2 and 3. But the Trust also supports City charities and a number of smaller events.

Funding comes mainly from the members of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators - for which the Trustees are extremely grateful. Not every member donates and I should like to encourage new donors to join us.

If you would like further information on any topic, please do get in touch.

Roger North

**WANT TO DONATE OR FIND OUT MORE:
CONTACT PETER HALL ON
peterbhall@hotmail.com**

The Company and Trust support a number of City Charities. This year the Company has had collections at its Luncheons to benefit the Hackney Carriage drivers Magical Disney Tour, where over 100 Black Cabs take terminally ill children to Disneyland Paris for the weekend; we also supported the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) and Treloar College.

Maidstone Sea Cadets

For many years the Company has awarded the cost of a berth in their training ship to the best cadet and helped in other ways. In 2012, the Company with the WCT bought a replacement rowing boat, suitably named *Conservator*.

Three years ago Maidstone Sea Cadets were faced with replacing their moorings with a pontoon landing stage, at an estimated cost of £30,000, a large sum principally determined by the large tidal range in Maidstone. The Trust agreed to help and promised £5,000 if the balance could be raised from other parties.

The works have been completed and the official opening ceremony took place in



July 2018 when guests included the COs of HMS Scott and the Sea Cadets, the Mayor of Maidstone and Trustees.

The project, which has been many years in its making with many ups and downs, has finally come to a successful end and without any financial overdraft. The Mayor of Maidstone has kindly donated 5 canoes for the cadets to use from this facility, in addition to the *Conservator*.

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THE WATER CONSERVATION TRUST IS THE CHARITABLE ARM OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF WATER CONSERVATORS

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OUR SCHOOLS PROGRAMME - The Trust has had projects in 17 schools over the past three years. Here are some examples of Trust schools projects, in Islington and in a network of schools in North Wales

Hugh Myddelton School

The Trust has funded some key projects at Hugh Myddelton including the successful makeover of the wildlife area, a safety grid for a pond inside the school building, a weather station to support the STEM Club at the school and furniture for a new STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) classroom. During last summer, at the request of the School, the Trust also funded laboratory coats for children for use in the new STEAM room.

Roger North, Chairman of the Trust, officially opened the STEAM room on the 16 March 2018. He was accompanied by Trustees, school staff, children, and representatives from Islington Borough Council, who were very impressed with the facilities.

Recently the Trust has funded more projects. The recent Ofsted report for Hugh Myddelton School, which highlighted the School's journey from 'Requires Improvement' in 2015 to 'Outstanding' in 2017, gave the School just one area for development: *"Further improve the outdoor provision in the Nursery, so that these children have the same excellent opportunities as those in the Reception classes, particularly in supporting their physical development"*.



The School identified a number of targets through which this could be achieved and approached the Trust for the funding of Outdoor Learning Equipment to assist with:-
Development of early scientific exploration and enquiry for disadvantaged 2-4 year olds through high-quality equipment that promotes learning through water play;

Promoting early physical development in the most densely populated borough in England (with very limited access to high-quality, age-appropriate outdoor learning facilities);

Directly and immediately benefiting some of the youngest, most vulnerable and most disadvantaged children in London.

Ysgol Gogarth (Llandudno) and Tir Morfa (Rhyl)

The Trust has helped finance small development projects in these special schools for several years. The Trust projects at Gogarth have contributed to the School becoming a leader for horticulture and related outreach services. In 2017, the Trust financed tools and sundries for Gogarth pupils for restoration work at Tal y Bont Memorial Hall in the Conwy valley.

Tir Morfa staff gave Trustees a site visit in June 2018 which indicated a number of areas where the Trust could be helpful. Of particular interest is the purchase of a topographical survey for site planning which can be used for school mathematics and science. This Trust developed tool is expected to be used in other schools.

Ysgol Llanbedr D C

The Trust has financed small projects for Llanbedr Primary School in Ruthin for three years. Most recently, a gate has been installed in the School's perimeter fence to allow easy and safe access to a woodland recreational area.



This replaces a walk of 800 metres along a narrow road with no footpath. The School has an eco-committee which suggests and reviews projects designed to enhance the School's eco reputation.



Trustee Ivor Richards, the Head Teacher and the Chair of the Governors is seen here with the eco-committee

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THE UNIVERSITIES PROGRAMME - The Trust offers a bursary against fees to needy students studying for Masters degrees in water, environment and waste in several UK universities

This year, The Water Conservation Trust celebrated the tenth year of operating a bursary programme to assist MSc students who otherwise could not afford the fees.

In 2008, responding to a request by the Water Conservators Company to implement a scheme to increase the number of post graduates entering the water and environment sector, the Bursary Programme was introduced offering £4,000 against students' fees and £1,000 contribution to departmental dissertation costs.

After a trial with Exeter University the scheme was implemented, first with Wadham College Oxford and Brunel University London, and then extended to fifteen more universities. In addition, to maintain contact with the best, the Trust offered a MSc Best Dissertation Prize at each participating university.

The scheme has not changed and Trustees know that the fees have effectively doubled in the last 10 years. The scheme will be assessed in Autumn 2018 to see whether changes need to be made.

Despite the rise in fees, beneficiaries of our bursaries greatly value the funding and in most cases our bursary makes the difference between going on to an MSc course or not, as was intended.



Trustee Peter Hall with the Wadham Team

The scheme has been effective and 113 students have been assisted. Furthermore, two charities, WAMITAB and the ESAET have made substantial donations to augment the number of beneficiaries. Recently a donation from the Mister Gees Foundation has been allocated to one of the participating universities.



Master Mike Williamson with Birmingham University prize-winner, Adam, and supervisor

During the year to June 2018, the Trust has continued funding bursaries at seven universities namely, Oxford (Wadham College), Brunel, Birmingham (2), Imperial College, Queen Mary, Newcastle and Cambridge (Sidney Sussex College). In total during the year we have granted bursaries to the value of £44,000.

This year we have set up new arrangements with Plymouth and City Universities, with funding to start in the 2019 recruitment year.



We keep in touch: Edna, 2012 bursary student at our Myddelton Lunch seen here with Lady Hoskins

Within our university programme we award prizes for the best MSc dissertation on the course where our bursaries are given. It may not be one of our bursary students who receives the prize. Staff from Queen Mary University attended the Election Court Luncheon when best dissertation prizes were awarded to Greg Corcoran (2017) and Helen Wilson (2018), and to Adam Bennett (2018) from Birmingham University.

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STUDENT EATS—THE NUS REPORTS ON PROGRESS

NUS's Student Eats programme supports sustainable food enterprises on campuses and in the community. In partnership with **The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators**, last year, we offered enterprises the chance to win between £200 and £1500 to support a water-saving initiative.

Through this opportunity, they supported Student Eats projects to improve the water efficiency of their operations, and to raise awareness of the importance of water conservation.

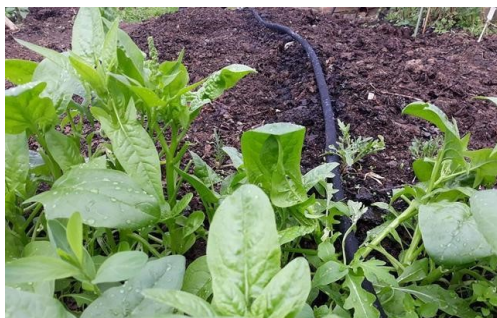
To celebrate their successes, here's a roundup of the winning projects' progress.

University of Exeter



The team has developed a gravity feed water system for their garden with their prize money – apparently the plants have been extremely grateful for it during the recent heatwaves! An irrigation system for raised beds is underway, too. Oliver Sanders has been the project's lead volunteer; every Wednesday they hold a meeting and extra Saturday workshops bring more volunteers - "enhancing the ethos of the Community Garden as a shared, and sharing experience," says Dr Paul Cleave, Honorary Research Fellow.

University of Warwick



The team has made great progress with their solar powered irrigation system. "We have long since faced the challenge of keeping our polytunnel watered, and thus planned to use a solar panel and pump to do it for us," says Stephen Clifford, former Allotment Society President. The project has encountered some challenges due to higher-than-expected costs, but has overcome these by scaling back the project. The spring crops are already benefitting, and the team hopes to get things totally up and running over the summer.

University of Sheffield



The multi-purpose water conservation structure at Sheffield enables rainwater harvesting and all-weather gardening at their Endcliffe allotments. The project volunteers have done things such as levelling the ground, digging and installing foundations, and working on the 'superstructure'! "Although it hasn't always been easy working against the elements, and manually mixing concrete," says Joseph Hook, PhD researcher in the Department of Civil and Structural Engineering, "the team have stuck at it, and are well on the way to finishing a project that will benefit the whole sustainability focused community at the University.

Lancaster University



Three students have taken the lead on this polytunnel project - an engineering student, a conservation student, and a hydrology student – cutting the parts and installing them themselves. They've also innovated on their design as they've progressed; revising things to include new parts that will optimise the installation's effectiveness and efficiency. Their next step is to start digging the main water line trench to the polytunnel itself! Finally, they're installing a timer system to manage the water use and optimise irrigation supply to the plants.

The NUS congratulates all these innovative and important water conservation projects, and thank you so much to the Water Conservation Trust for their kind support.

The Water Conservation Trust has agreed to fund a third EATS programme during 2018-19. The closing date for applications is 31 October 2018.