



# The Conservator

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The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

## A Message from the Master



It is an enormous privilege to be installed as the 32nd Master of the Water Conservators Company and it is with great pleasure that I look forward to serving the company in the year ahead. It was disappointing to cancel the Installation Court and Ceremony at Stationers' Hall on 15th September, but my Virtual Installation on 21st September worked well. I look forward to meeting up with everyone in due course, but our virtual meetings will have to continue for some time.

I would like to start by paying my thanks to my predecessor Mark Lane, and his consort Judy, for doing a splendid job under such difficult circumstances, and leading the way with new virtual initiatives, to keep the company on its feet. It was always my plan to group the objectives for my year under an overall theme of "Adapting to Change". This theme recognized how livery companies have adapted over centuries to survive and prosper, and it was originally about how the Water Conservators could adapt and respond to some of the threats facing the livery movement in the 21st century. However, with the current coronavirus pandemic this theme becomes even more relevant.

Without a doubt this year will be a challenge for both myself and the Company. With no real certainty about how long current social restrictions may last and the form they may take my first objective will be to seek new ways of engagement with the membership and encouraging social interaction, even though initially this may have to be in the virtual form. To do this I will continue the webinars using Zoom successfully started by Master Mark Lane and I am planning a "virtual wine tasting evening" event for the 15th October to enable members to socially interact via Zoom using the breakout room facility. I am also making arrangements with the Water Conservation Trust for a special webinar in late October / early November where Trust bursary students can present the results of their research to company members and the wider livery. This is also an appropriate event to involve our young and potential new members continuing the networking theme started by previous Masters.

That brings me to my second objective which will be to increase the awareness and involvement of company members in the work of the Water Conservation Trust. To launch this, I will be asking company members to use their links with water industry companies to encourage companies to sponsor school visits to the Museum of Water and Steam. At £280 for a day visit this supports the Trust's aim of encouraging water related science and environmental learning in schools and helps secure the future of this important water industry museum. Also, the children get to see some of the iconic beam engines in steam and learn much about the history of the water industry.

My third objective will be around the theme of continuity. Continuing the H2Outreach initiative started by Past Master Simon Catford to build our membership. Continuing to build our links with the City of London Corporation on key

environmental issues so successfully initiated with our support for the Plastic Free City Campaign. Regarding the WET10 debate, the plan is to adopt the topic from the postponed debate this year. Also, I am hoping that we will be able to carry out the postponed schools' environmental workshop around World Water Day 2021.

Finally, I am planning a number of social visits for the New Year as soon as government restrictions allow. Unfortunately, our annual visit to the Globe Theatre in September has been cancelled as the theatre will remain closed throughout the autumn season. However, I have invitations for a special visit to the Museum of Water and Steam at Kew, a special visit to the Pathfinder Museum at RAF Wyton (including lunch in the officers' mess) and a special visit to AIDU at RAF Northolt. Also, the plans for my Masters Weekend at Holmfirth in Yorkshire for the weekend of 22/23rd May 2021 are well advanced (see photograph) and the hotel is already booked. Details of these events are being provided in the monthly update newsletter by our PR Manager, and dates will be provided on the website as soon as government restrictions are lifted sufficiently.



Rob Casey  
Master

# Our Wardens 2020 - 2021

## Thames Warden

Graham Howells, BSc. CEng. FICE, started his career in East Kent with Thanet District Council who sponsored him to read Civil Engineering in which he obtained a First Class Honours Degree. He was fortunate to work on two major schemes, Margate Outfall and Relief Sewer and the development of Ramsgate Harbour.

Following a period with Southern Water Authority he moved to East Sussex to take up the role of Group Engineer within Wealden District Council. He was primarily involved in rural drainage and flood relief schemes. Privatisation of the UK Water Industry resulted in Graham joining South West Water as a Project Manager looking after the upgrade of new waste treatment plants within the region.

Graham made the move to Oscar Faber in 1993, looking after the South West Offices in Exeter and Bristol. Following the merger with AECOM, reorganisation of the business resulted in him being appointed to the position of Managing Director of Water and Environment. Further acquisitions lead to Graham's role expanding to cover initially Europe, followed by the addition of the Middle East and later Africa and India. Highlights during his career included the management and engineering of building dams and flood channels through the city of Jeddah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, assisting with water pollution from disused gold mines in the Johannesburg region of South Africa and winning numerous frameworks within the UK Water Industry.

Throughout his career Graham has kept his passion for Engineering along with

a strong belief in the development of graduates and apprentices - this led to AECOM being recognised as one of the top graduate employers in the UK.

Graham now fully retired enjoys spending time with his grandchildren, travelling, playing golf and helping to run the local rugby club.



## Fleet Warden

Martin Baggs, BSc. CEng. FICE, joined the Company as a Freeman in 2012 and was installed as Fleet Warden in September 2020.

Martin originally trained as a civil engineer and started his career in the water industry in 1986 with Southern Water in the days of drawing boards, pens, stencils and tea trolleys. Martin spent almost 20 years with Southern Water covering most areas of the business enjoying the challenges that it brought as the Operations Director before eventually leaving in 2005 to become Managing Director of South East Water.

With a total change of direction Martin then joined Macquarie Bank with

responsibility for a range of investments across Europe including Thames Water. After a spell of being a Non-executive Director he became the Chief Executive Officer of Thames Water in 2009. As well as being responsible for running the largest water and wastewater company in the UK the role also included the development of the Thames Tideway Tunnel following in the footsteps of the great Sir Joseph Bazalgette.

Martin is a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers, an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management, a member of the Institute of Water and a Trustee of Thames 21. He is passionate about education and the environment and has a keen interest in the history and heritage of the industry whilst having a reputation

for being challenging and delivering change.

Being born in Portsmouth, educated in Plymouth and now in Brighton, Martin has always lived on the south coast enjoying everything that it has to offer. He has a range of hobbies and interests but above all else enjoys spending time with his two daughters, Rosie and Anna.



## Walbrook Warden

Christine Jarvis B.Sc Econ (International Relations) has been a Freeman of the Company since 2014 and was installed as Walbrook Warden in September 2020.

Graduating from LSE, Christine began her career in the American First National City Bank. However, her interest in law and politics (when young and idealistic!) resulted in a move to the Civil Service in Whitehall to draft Private Bills and take their passage through Parliament. Subsequent years saw her return to negotiating/drafting/promoting legislation and draft regulations both in the UK and Brussels. This included the Water Privatisation Bill and then transposing EC Directives into UK law.

Other work in central Government included the Parliamentary Ombudsman's Office, investigating claims of public maladministration, Deputy Director of the Joint DoE/DTI Environmental Markets Unit (promoting UK environmental technology in the world market) and Head of Construction Materials.

During her career, Christine never gave up her interest in international affairs and she has also worked on the Afghanistan / Pakistan Desk in Overseas Development covering topics as varied as help for refugees displaced by war, the role of women in Islamic countries and the repair and maintenance of British-built dams in Pakistan. This was later followed by 2- year stint in Rome working for the United Nations as an economist

at the International Fund for Agricultural Development, where water (or a lack of it) played a vital role.

Since taking early retirement, Christine has trained to become a London Blue Badge, City of London and Historic Royal Palaces Guide. She also is a great theatre fan and has travelled extensively (including taking 30 tourists around the whole of India on the railways).



# Reflections on my year as Master



The year didn't go as planned! The first eight months did; the last six months did not!

It has been a great privilege to serve the Company as your Master, as well as to represent it at so many unique events.

I have fond memories of my Master's Weekend in Bridport in September – those attending enjoyed good company, good food and wine and, remarkably, good weather, see photograph below!

Another treasured event was the Annual Banquet at Painters' Hall on the 5th November where we were richly entertained by an amusing speech from Alderman Sir David Wootton, and some wonderful music, see photograph above.



And so - from the relaxed ambience of our Annual Banquet to the dignified splendour and ceremony of the Remembrance Day Service at St Paul's Cathedral . How was such immaculate timing achieved where the last notes of the preceding hymn were soaring upwards into the dome as the clock struck eleven and the first Notes of The Last Post cut through the solemn atmosphere?



January brought a unique opportunity - to accompany two of my grandchildren whose birthday it was on that very day to the Lord Mayor's Annual Children's Party. Imagine the Egyptian Banqueting Hall with around 700 people present and everyone, at the Lord Mayor's bidding, singing "Happy Birthday" to my twin grandchildren – I will never forget it, and they most certainly won't!

I said a year ago that my themes for my year would be threefold - Thought Leadership, Growing our Relationship with the City Corporation, and organising some worthwhile events. Social outings took place to 18 Folgate Street and Sir John Soane's Museum, as well as a trip to the Globe Theatre, my Master's Dinner at the Travellers Club, and two well attended Associate Freemen Pub Evenings. During lockdown, I instigated a Photographic Competition for Company members and their families on the theme of "Spring Water." Lockdown has

resulted in the publication of a Monthly Update to our Members.

In the field of Thought Leadership, the WET 10 Lecture on " Which Way Water – 2050 ?" has been rescheduled for March 2021 , and during lockdown I instituted an ongoing series of monthly webinars on water related topics which are proving very popular .

The past year has seen our relationship with the City Corporation deepen through projects such as the Schools Photographic Competition (Project Manager – Simon Catford), the River and Environment Workshop initiative (Project Manager – Rob Casey), the Eco – House Initiative , the City of London Hall of Fame initiative, and our signing of The London Funders Covid-19 Statement.

A busy year! I am very fortunate to have enjoyed throughout the unstinting support of a team that has been talented, knowledgeable, enthusiastic and collegiate. It is they who have made the achievements of my year possible, and I owe each of them a huge debt of gratitude - most of all, my wife Judy!

I look forward to serving the Company over the coming year as Deputy Master.

Mark Lane  
*Deputy Master*



## The Water Conservation Trust

Trustees met on 5 May 2020 to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Trust's programmes and beneficiaries. Schools and universities are struggling, as are the students. Assurances have been given to current beneficiaries that support will continue and that delays and adaptation are acceptable. This has particularly affected our Schools Programme in London, but schools have kept in touch and, hopefully, will complete their projects later this year.

Bursary Programmes for Masters students at nine universities were supported in 2019-20. These are now successfully drawing to a close, but field trips have been cancelled which has brought a different focus to knowledge acquisition and dissertation topics. Universities have been contacted to confirm Bursaries

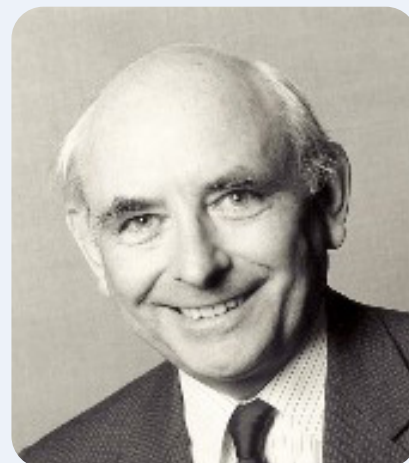
for Masters students in 2020-21 and that the finance reserved for dissertation support could be used to alleviate students' financial hardship. All universities are working hard to deliver a first-class result.



Grant Tregonning, recently appointed Research Fellow at Warwick University, was supported by the Trust during his MSc (Queen Mary University) and, recently, his PhD studies at Newcastle University. Grant is applying to become an Associate Member of the Company, a move supported by the Trust.

Roger North  
*Chairman of the Trustees*

## Gwilym Roberts CBE



It is with much sadness that the Company has learnt of the death of Gwilym Roberts CBE, aged 95. Gwilym was a founding Member of the Water Conservators having been made a Freeman in 1994 – he was a strong supporter of both the Company and the Water Conservation Trust.

Gwilym was born in Harlech in North Wales and studied Engineering at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge before serving with the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve where he achieved the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

He had a distinguished engineering career working with consultants John Taylor & Sons where he developed a lifelong association with the Middle East. In 1968 he was elected as President of the Institution of Public Health Engineers and became John Taylor's senior partner in 1984 before being elected as President of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1986. He was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1987 and on the merger of John Taylor and Freeman Fox as Acer Consultants was appointed Chairman, retiring in 1992.

Married with two children, Gwilym lived in Newick in East Sussex. He was a prodigious writer of articles and books many of which were on non-technical aspects of engineering topics. He will be much missed.

Keith Tozzi  
*Past Master & PR Manager*

## Forthcoming Events

### Sponsored Walk

Each year the Water Conservation Trust organise a sponsored walk to raise funds for its important work. This year the walk on 4th October will be at Bourne End and restricted to 6 walkers, but you can help by sponsoring the participants. Full details are on our website.



### Virtual Wine Tasting

The Master will be hosting a Virtual Wine Tasting evening on Thursday 15th October – full details are on our website. Hope you will be able to participate.



## The Conservator

The next edition of The Conservator will be published in early January 2021. Please contact our PR Manager at keithtozzi@aol.com with details of any articles you would like to see included.

