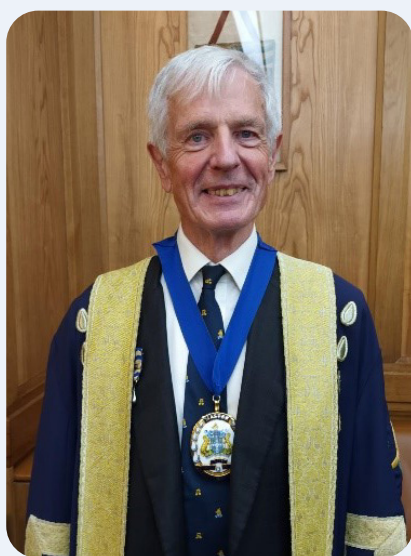




The Conservator

A Message from the Master



Dear Friends,

It is a great privilege to have been elected as Master for 2022/23, having previously served in 2007/08. The lock downs and disruptions of the past two years have been difficult for everyone, not least the livery movement where fellowship is at the heart of all we do. Now is a wonderful time of reawakening and building anew – though the next few months will have their challenges.

Throughout our Company, so much is being done in many areas including:

- climate action (where we are playing a leading role in the City of London, thanks to Past Master Rob Casey and many others)
- responses to government consultations (at the sterling initiative of Past Master Peter

Matthews)

- topical webinars by high profile speakers (orchestrated by Rob Casey with input from so many of our members)
- a resurgent social programme
- our charity which has over the past 15 years provided bursaries to more than 150 students on post graduate degree courses – a phenomenal record; we are seeking to build on this with a renewed focus on building our associate programme (under the excellent leadership of Ramon Bravo and Thames Warden Martin Bigg).

For the coming year we have some high profile speakers lined up. We were privileged to have Alex Plant, Director of Strategy and Regulation at Anglian Water, at our Installation Lunch; John Gummer/Lord Deben has kindly agreed to speak at our Banquet (15 years on from his previous speech), and we have Robert Hannigan CMG, former head of GCHQ, at our Michaelmas Lunch who will speak to us on cyber security issues in the water industry. There are a few spaces remaining for my Master's weekend in Somerset (16 September) and Georgina and I are looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones!

I would like to thank Peter Hall for all he has done as Master for our Company over the past year as the country emerged from lockdown; his selfless dedication is an example to us all. I would also like to thank his predecessors Rob Casey and Mark Lane for all they did in ensuring the Company progressed during the

earlier days of the pandemic. I will be privileged to have their support and counsel during the coming year.

I am very sad that Ralph Riley, our learned clerk, has decided to retire. I would like to thank him for all he has done for the Company over the past thirty years; I have much enjoyed working with him over the years and wish him well in his retirement. I am deeply grateful for the fearless way Liveryman Christine Duthie has stepped forward as acting clerk, and for sterling assistance from our Treasurer Ken Marsh, Past Master Roger North and many others.

In short, there is a lot on the go involving so many of us – as is right for a membership organisation. The Court has a list of some of us who are involved in our various initiatives – and apologies in advance if we have omitted anyone. We will share this with all of you so that anyone who wishes may join in.

To end with a watery observation. As a philosopher said, 'everything flows – you can't step into the same river twice'. Many of the friends I knew more than 20 years ago when I first joined the company have passed away or are no longer with us. Many new friends have joined. That is and must be a never ending process. What matters is that our essence remains unchanged – a fellowship of friends and like minded people committed to the long term health of water and the environment. Let's build on our reawakening.

Colin Drummond OBE DL
Master Water Conservator

Our Wardens 2022-2023



Thames Warden

Martin G Bigg BSc MSc PhD FRSC FIEMA CChem CSc CEnv has been a Freeman of the Company since 2019 and was installed as Thames Warden in July 2022. As Emeritus Professor of Environmental Technologies Innovation at the University of the West of England (UWE) in Bristol, Martin continues to be a committed champion for the environment, sustainable development and better regulation.

After studying and research in

chemistry, Martin graduated to manage more exciting pharmaceutical and agrichemical manufacturing. He then crossed to the other side, joining Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution (later part of the Environment Agency), regulating everything from power stations to rendering plants, establishing international pollutant reporting and supporting local authorities on air pollution control. As Head of Industry and Waste Regulation he led the development and delivery of many EU Directives, including on major accidents, incinerators and industrial emissions, and UK Environmental Permitting regulations.

Recruited by UWE in 2011, Martin directed a multi-million pound EU programme involving universities, NGOs and local authorities, supporting regional enterprising businesses develop innovative environmental technologies. Reflecting his community commitment, Martin became a Board Member and Chair of the Bristol Green Capital Partnership and steered the winning Partnership

bid for the European Green Capital 2015 for the City of Bristol.

Martin has always supported the environmental profession and until 2020 was Chair of Council and Board Member at the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA). Recently he has collaborated in EU/China government projects on future environmental regulation. He has also worked with the World Bank on environmental inspection, permitting, better regulation and tackling environmental issues in Russia, the Middle East, Tajikistan, and Mongolia.

Martin is a Trustee of the Water Conservation Trust responsible for the programme supporting students at 15 universities.

Martin comes from south London and after 10 moves around England now lives in Hertfordshire. He is supported by his wife Eileen, children and grandchildren. He loves walking, travelling and challenging opportunities.



Fleet Warden

After leaving school Dylan became an apprentice within the construction industry. On completion of his apprenticeship he moved into the building services sector, later forming his own company primarily as a heating and ventilation contractor serving mostly the retail sector. During this time Dylan also formed a recruitment company that specialised in supplying labour into the heating and ventilation industry.

His knowledge gained in the mechanical service sector stood him in good stead as he now works along

with his wife Sharon at Precolor, which specialise in the manufacture of potable water, effluent & chemical storage tanks.

Through his tenure Dylan has been responsible for increasing the product range of one piece rectangular freestanding tanks to the largest in Europe. Designed systems for testing ROV's, covers for the security of water treatment works and designed chambers for well heads for the security of boreholes.

His hobbies include rugby and sailing.



Walbrook Warden

Professor Carolyn Roberts is a water resource management and science communication specialist who has worked, researched and published across the world. She specialises in the impact of human activity on the water cycle and water quality, including the impact of housing, industry, mining and waste disposal, but has wide interests in environmental management. She was Technical Advisor to Gloucestershire County Council following the dramatic flooding of 2007 that led to changes in UK flooding policy. After an academic career at Exeter including the Head

of the School of Environment and Director of the National Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at Gloucestershire University, she moved to Oxford University, directing a national programme that linked industry with researchers to foster the development of innovative environmental technologies. At Oxford Carolyn worked with hundreds of businesses - multinationals to SMEs. Carolyn also assisted the government to promote UK technical expertise internationally.

Reflections on my year as Master 2021-22



As with 2019-20 and 2020-21, the shadow and the reality of the pandemic followed the Company through the year. The ceremony around my Installation as Master in July 2020 and the related Court meeting was by Zoom. This combination of video conferencing and face-to-face, switching at the last minute, continued until the end of December 2021. Even then there was a high risk of contracting Covid-19 travelling to London to our events, starting with the Myddelton Lunch. The Clerk and Court persevered and Members began to renew old friendships. In the New Year, things started to return to normal in the City, but with understandable nervousness.



Two previous Past Masters, Mark Lane and Rob Casey struggled successfully, to keep the Company alive through the use of webinars and remote working. Our monthly webinars, have attracted an audience of over 130 at times. These will continue for the foreseeable future as we use this device to focus on a range of technical and environmental issues.

In pursuit of the Company's main remits, water and environment, and charitable activities, the Company has been very successful. It has pioneered the production of climate action plans for Livery Companies and, in July 2022, implemented the methodology to produce a climate footprint for the Company, the first in the Livery

movement. This is the baseline from which future actions will be compared.

This year, the Government consulted on river pollution and the setting of environmental targets. Members of the Company have years of experience, stemming from their previous river basin management responsibilities. Robust and helpful responses were made in May 2022.



Company Members support the charitable work of the Water Conservation Trust - supporting river and environmental learning, through individual giving and collections at functions. Trustees focus on schoolchildren and postgraduate students. These interventions make a significant impact on those who will have to make choices in the next few years in efforts to combat climate change and maintain biodiversity.

City life has recovered, and the Livery movement has moved on. One of the first events was the United Guild Service in March which, started in 1943, when Liveries and Guilds held a Service in St. Paul's Cathedral, to lift the spirit of the City following the blitz. Recently, the election of City Sheriffs took place on Midsummer Day.



Shrove Tuesday is usually celebrated with the inter-Livery Pancake races, organised by the Worshipful Company of Poulterers. One competition survived the weather and tube strikes - which we won, with Member Andy Williamson winning the fancy dress award with, or rather in, his Water Butt.



The Tudor Pull, celebrating the use of the River Thames as an historic highway, took place in June. It is an annual river Pageant when Her Majesty's Row-berge, Gloriana, with a flotilla of City Livery Company Cutters, transfers the River Stela from Hampton Court to the Tower of London. The Stela is a cross-section of an ancient wooden water pipe, now enclosed in a glass travelling case.



Members of the Company gathered at Thorner's School in Dorset, supported by the Water Conservation Trust, to dedicate a Ginkgo tree on the occasion of the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.



On the social side, trips have been organised to the Oxfam Distribution Centre in Bicester, the Middle Temple, HQS Wellington and a visit to Venice to see at first hand the challenges facing the flood protection authorities.

Many people have made the year so interesting and so successful: the Court, the Clerk and Company Officers, and my wife Georgina, to all I offer a huge thank you.

The Water Conservation Trust

Trustees meet quarterly to manage funding and operations within the Trust Deed objects, and also to ensure compliance with Charity Commission regulations. The two main programmes relate to education in water and environment, but Trustees also consider special requests for funding.

2021-22 Sponsored Walk



Each year, the Trust organises a sponsored walk. In 2021-22, it was a tour of 17 drinking water fountains and water pumps in the City (above, Cornhill Pump). Twenty-five walkers took part, raising £4,500 in support of the Schools Programme.

The Schools Programme

The main thrust of the Schools Programme has been to provide opportunities and funding for learning for schools and pupils otherwise unable to afford to participate.

London Museum of Water & Steam

London Museum of Water & Steam has restarted educational school visits, which are an approved part of the school curriculum and encourage water-related science and environmental learning. The Trust has set up a bursary scheme for school visits in the Brentford area, which have a high percentage of disadvantaged children.

The Trust has also recently agreed to sponsor a young engineers club called Steam Explorers at the Museum to introduce 11 to 15 year old children in Houslow and Brentford to water engineering and technology, aimed at children who wouldn't normally be able to afford this type of opportunity.

Educational visits for children to Spitalfields City Farm

The half-day educational visits to the Farm are low cost. Children learn about food production, pollination, and animal welfare (Winton School visit pictured below). Many of the children live in flats and had never visited a farm before. The Trust plans to set up a bursary scheme, to allow local schools with a high percentage of disadvantaged children to visit the Farm.



The Universities Masters' Bursary Programme

Fifteen universities are likely to join our Bursary Programme in the 2022-23 academic year, delivering on our pre-Covid-19 commitment.



The Company Best Dissertation Awards have resumed and four prize-winners attended Company events to receive their awards, including Maddy Czura (Dissertation: Rewilding-driven vegetation regeneration: spatial organisation and implications for carbon storage potential) from Queen Mary University, who was a Company Bursary holder in 2020-21.

Retirement of Our Clerk



Our Clerk, Ralph Riley, retired on 30 June 2022. For most of us, Ralph has always been there: pictured above.

Ralph was appointed Clerk upon the inception of Livery in the year 2000, having previously been both Deputy Clerk and Assistant Clerk respectively since 1989. His career began in the City of London in 1974 and in 1984 he moved to the Chamberlains Court where, as Deputy Clerk, he was responsible for admitting individuals to the Freedom of the City of London. Ralph became a Liveryman of the Water Conservators' Company and has had an enormous impact on the Company's development. He will be greatly missed. Details of the interim arrangements for the Clerk's duties will be circulated to Company Members.

Associate Members

There has always been agreement that our connections with universities provide an insight into the future, and our support to Master's students connects us to state of the art thinking about issues in our sector. The Company has examined ways in which the close contact with students during their period of study could be maintained. We now have a programme of events designed to retain the interest of students and enable them to participate in Company events as Associate Members.