



The Conservator

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The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

A Message from the Master



City initiatives, such as Pollinating London Together, a collaboration of some of the City of London's Livery Companies, initiated by the Wax Chandlers.

Implementing Deputy Master Rob Casey's themes – Governance and Charitable Giving have mostly been delivered and I intend to finish the job.

Peter Hall
Master

Following the commissioning of the website in October 2021, Rob has been leading a sub group helping Livery Companies to calculate their current carbon footprint. The establishment of a simple and straightforward baseline is a key task, choosing the most appropriate model for Livery Companies, with or without Halls.

Welcome to our new Beadle

Climate Action -the Company's Commitment

The Water Conservators have been keen supporters of the Livery Climate Action Group (LCAG) since its inception in January 2021. The LCAG is led by Alderman and Sheriff Alison Gowman and its role is to support the City of London's Climate Action Strategy.

Deputy Master Rob Casey and eight Water Conservator volunteers (the most from any Livery Company) supported the drafting of the initial guidance notes to help Livery Companies formulate their own Climate Action Plans and the Water Conservators were the first Livery Company to produce a draft plan.

Our draft action plan plus our two guidance notes on water efficiency and waste management, along with a short video are all available on the LCAG website (<https://liverycag.org.uk/>).



In the Autumn we welcomed our New Beadle - Mark Anderson. Mark was born in Ipswich and soon after the family moved to Penzance. Mark attended the local Grammar school and at 16, left to join the Army. He was assigned to join the Royal Corps of Signals serving in Northern Ireland, Germany, the Middle East, and the Balkans.

In 2000, Mark was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 1 and posted to Middlesbrough as the Regimental Sergeant Major of 34th (Northern) Signal Regiment. In 2003 Mark was appointed as the Office Manager in Northampton's Army Recruiting Office.

In 2010, Mark was selected to become a Yeoman Warder at the Tower of London. Apart from the usual duties associated with that position, Mark is a member of the team who look after the Ravens. In his spare time, Mark is a member of the London City Voices Community Choir.

With a decrease in Covid infections, the Company resumed its regular programme of events in September 2021, starting with the Michaelmas Court Lunch. This enabled Members and friends to get together and for Company business to be discussed. The monthly webinars on matters of current interest have continued.

Covid returned in December and led to the cancellation of our Carol Service and the Service of Dedication of the Company Cross. Meetings continued using Zoom and social events were postponed. Hopefully, these will be the last 'adjustments', as the Myddelton Lunch took place in January, albeit with fewer attendees than usual.

The Company has been establishing itself as the go-to place on water and the environment within the City and this important activity is supported by the Membership. There is more to do. Recently Thames21 has mounted a campaign to reduce sewage litter that blocks sewers, a cause we support.

There are other issues, such as biodiversity, where we are supporting

When not in London, Mark lives in Leicester, and he is an Honorary Vice President of his local rugby club. He is also writing two novels and hopes to publish them at some time in the future.

Mark successfully officiated at our Annual Banquet in November and our Myddelton Lunch in January.

A Jug of Thames Water

Following the Installation Lunch, the first public engagement in July is to present the Lord Mayor with an engraved jug filled with tap water.

The presentation, attended by the Lady Mayoress and the Wardens, commemorates the purchase of the River Thames conservancy by the City



of London in 1197, giving the City the right to rent or tax all users of the River.

Michaelmas Lunch

On 27 September 2021, the Company held its Michaelmas Lunch at Trinity House. The Master welcomed over 60 Members and guests to the first face to face Lunch since January 2020. The theme was climate action and the speaker was Alderman & Sheriff Elect Alison Gowman.

Her plan was to work with City institutions to address climate change and had formed a pan-Livery



partnership to develop and adopt individual climate action plans in the run up to COP26. She was pleased to note the significant contribution from Members of our Company.

The Company's thanks went to Alison

Gowman who had found time to join us on the eve of commencing her Shrieval duties.

The Lord Mayor's Show

After missing a year, everybody was keen to see a return to the biggest day in the City. The Water Conservator's contingent was the Master, Warden Martin Bigg, and placard bearer, Liveryman Simon Hall.

We had lots of encouragement from the good natured young and old crowd, who stood watching about 7,000



people and 150 Floats pass them by – and it didn't rain!

The Annual Banquet

The Water Conservators' Company Annual Banquet took place on 11 November at Cutlers' Hall. The Master welcomed over 80 Members and guests.



The Guest speaker was Martin Salter, a life-long angler who talked about his experience of pushing for water quality improvements. He was broadly appreciative of the steps taken since the River Thames was declared biologically dead 50 years ago, but he had major concerns about the sufficiency of water in the South East.

The 2022 Myddelton Lunch

The Water Conservators Myddelton Lunch commemorates the life and work of Sir Hugh Myddelton who

constructed the New River (1613) bringing water from the River Lea, near Ware, to Islington. It also commemorates the the Granting of Livery in 2000.

The Guest Speaker was Mary Hardy, Master World Trader.

Mary reviewed the water providers'



important role in the development of the City of London.

The Master thanked Mary and added that it has been a difficult two years for a fraternity that moves forward on the basis of shared friendship and objectives – both in our trade and in our charitable work.

The Water Conservation Trust

Although the pandemic has reduced the opportunities for Trustees to meet, they have been very active in two areas: the Trusts' own management affairs, and expanding the Trusts' grant programmes.

Progress has been made towards a Charity Commission regulated Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), and Trustees have also completed their assessment of the two investment houses, and as a result, both have been changed to funds with investment criteria more aligned with the Trust's ethical, sustainable and environmentally friendly standards.

The Schools Programme

The Chair of Governors and Headteacher at Thorne's School in Dorset invited Trustees to see what could be done to enhance environmental education and good practice in the use of water.

During the COP26 Summit, the school received support for prizes for children's creative work relating to climate change.

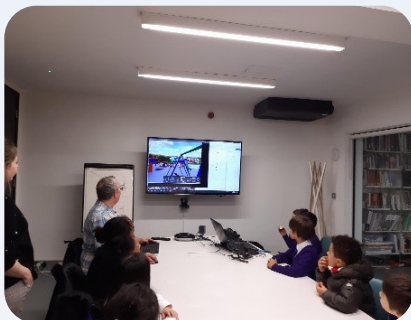


Trustees have offered support to the London Museum of Water and Steam for their educational visits focusing on STEM subjects. The Museum is identifying local schools in Brentford who would benefit but lack the funding.

Trustees had visited Spitalfields City Farm early in 2021 which supports animals and agriculture education. Following a successful visit by Winton School, Islington, the Trust have agreed to offer the bespoke course to more schools in this diverse catchment area.



Following a very successful topographical surveying pilot project at Hugh Myddelton School, Islington, Trustees have approached local building designers to support a further course in 2022.



The Universities Programme

The Bursary Programme for students studying Masters degrees in water and environmental subjects is to be expanded. Three new universities/

courses are to be added to the present 12, starting with this September's intake.

Student Eats

Trustees have supported the Student Eats programme for several years. The NUS competition for funding closed in November 2021 with five projects being put forward. The winners were: Warwickshire College Improve the growing area with polytunnels and water butts; Leeds University Build a timber-framed round house with rain water capture; Roehampton University Reduce water usage and increase the efficiency; Leeds Beckett University – Creation of an irrigation system to harness rainwater run-off, possibly utilising a pond. More information was requested from Walsall College rehabilitation and extension of current garden

Maidstone Sea Cadets

Trustees celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Affiliation between Maidstone Sea Cadets (T.S. Scott) and the Company on 21 August 2021. The Sea Cadets organised a display of the activities covered by the Unit followed by a lunch prepared by them.

The Affiliation Trophy inscription mentioned all cadets, recognising their contribution to keeping the Unit operating during the pandemic.



Over the years, the Trust has responded to requests for financial assistance, including a contribution to a new mooring in 2016.

Roger North
Chair

Webinar review

Following a summer break the Water Conservators have renewed their programme of monthly webinars with two very successful webinars both presented by members of our

Company. Professor Carolyn Roberts, presented "Out Of Our Depth? Assisting The Police With Their Enquiries" in December.

Often murder victims are disposed of in our rivers. Carolyn Roberts' work with UK police forces and other agencies as an Expert Witness has applied scientific principles to murder investigations, helping to establish the new science of forensic hydrology.

Conservator Professor Simon Spooner presented "Decarbonising the City of London" on 26 January, describing the potential for district heating and cooling systems to help the City meet its climate change target of Net Zero by 2040. It was particularly well attended and some follow-up events are planned.

Livery events

On 20 September 2021, I attended a service at St Vedast-alias-Foster to celebrate the 650th anniversary of Worshipful Company of Fletchers' foundation.

The Launderers and Water Conservators have a strong mutual interest – water and their Annual Banquet was a much-anticipated reunion, hosted by the Lord Mayor Locum Tenens, Alderman Sir David Wootton,



I was guest of Master Launderer Ken Cupitt and we looked forward to a year of co-operation on water issues.

Mrs Carrie Marsh was installed as Master of the Worshipful Company of Fuellers and celebrated the event at a Dinner at Fishmongers Hall. The Principal Guest was Alderman & Professor Michael Mainelli, who had just completed two years as Sheriff of the City. He set out his vision of Livery service, around three 'Cs' – Charity, Community and Commerce, and the need to maintain our relevance.



The Engineers' Livery Company held their Annual Livery Banquet at the Mansion House on 29 October, inviting Alderman Sir Charles Bowman (representing the Lord Mayor), Alderman and Sheriff Alison Gowman.

Malcolm Brinded, Chair of Trustees, EngineeringUK, described the Company's outreach and charitable work. My thanks go to Master Peter Blair-Fish and his Company for a very enjoyable evening with like-minded Liverymen.

The Livery Committee, with the Royal British Legion, organised a Garden of Remembrance Service at St Paul's Cathedral on Monday 8 November. The Service was attended by representatives from about 100 Livery Companies.



Livery Companies' Masters came forward in order of precedence to plant crosses and the Service concluded with the National Anthem.

Roy Harris



It is with sadness that the Company has learnt that Roy Harris passed away on 20 December 2021. He was always part of our Company, even from the early days, when with fellow Shovelers, they decided that something needed to be done about restoring our trade in the City Livery movement.

Roy had a long career with Thames

Water and its predecessors, and was active in the professional associations. He was a member of our Guild, later Company without Livery, and ultimately, was present at the Granting of Livery in 2000.

Roy was Master of the Company of Water Conservators in 1993-4, and the Father of the Company since 2014. His contribution to Company life was outstanding and the friendship and help he offered to Members, especially new Members, was first-class, and he did much to encourage people to join our Company.

His funeral took place in Amersham on 17 January 2022 which was attended by many Conservators and their partners. Many kind words were said and comfort given to Sonya, his wife.

New Members

The Company has welcomed new Members. Freemen: Brett Bader and Justin Harper, and Associates: Jessica Bain, Sam Dickens and Grzegorz Skowronek.



Greg Skowronek

Greg's main focus is on improvement and sustainability of the water treatment process.



Sam Dickens

Sam's intention is to apply his hydrology skills to green energy solutions, particularly in geothermal applications..

Forthcoming Events

Please refer to the Company's website for latest information.

1 March 2022: The Pancake Race, Guildhall Yard, at 11.00. Come and support your Water Conservators' Team.

13 March 2022: City Walk, starting at St Pauls, everybody welcome, about 2 hours led by City Guide and Thames Warden, Christine Jarvis.

20 March 2022: Special 'in-steam' event at the Museum of Steam and Water, Brentford, to look at the work the WCT is doing to support STEM in local primary schools.

1 April 2022: United Guilds Service, St Paul's to mark the recovery of the Livery after the Blitz.

7 April 2022: Election Court Lunch at the Wax Chandlers' Hall.

25 May 2022: The Master's Trip to Venice (postponed from March).

11 June 2022: Watch out for the Tudor Pull, sailing on The Gloriana from Hampton Court to the Tower of London to deliver a 'Stela' to the Governor of the Tower for safekeeping.

7 July 2022: Installation Court Lunch at the Bakers' Hall.

Webinars going forward

The February 2022 webinar will be presented by Company Member Dr Gemma Harvey, Reader in Physical Geography, Queen Mary University of London on Zoom and will look at biodiversity in the water and environmental landscape.

On the eve of World Water Day, 21 March 2022, the Company will host the annual WET 10 debate on Zoom. Entitled Managing our Oceans – The Climate Change Challenge, the webinar will be presented by experts from Plymouth University.

Peter Hall
Master