

# The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

*Promoting a diverse and sustainable  
environment*

## Monthly Update



September 2023 Issue 33

### Message from the Master 23/24



Our commitment to water, the environment, the Livery and the future is reflected in our amazing range of activities over the past two months.

At the Installation Court I was pleased to welcome new Freemen to the Company and as guest speaker Dame Glenys Stacey OBE, Chair of the Office for Environment Protection (OEP). She described the work of the OEP, the challenges it faces and its future direction.

On behalf of the Company, I presented a jug of water to the Lord Mayor to mark 14 July 1197 when Richard I sold the Conservancy of the River Thames to the Corporation of London.

Eileen and I have met up with incoming Masters and Consorts and ventured north to the Livery Brigantes Breakfast in Harrogate. Our cutter won the Port of London rowing challenge, and we waved a flag at the Doggett's Coat and Badge Wager Coronation Row. Many of us observed Swan Upping which recorded a 40% drop in the number of cygnets on the River Thames, mainly due to bird flu.

A highlight was a trip to Plymouth for a Company tour and lunch on the Royal Navy's only ocean survey vessel HMS Scott.

I was particularly pleased to meet students supported by the Water Conservation Trust, and Dissertation prize winners. Other Livery business has included visits to gardens, museums, churches, cathedrals and refuse truck upcycling!

We have an exciting programme coming up. We will continue to share our skills and experience in collaboration with the water

and environmental sectors while learning and enjoying formal and social activities. I encourage everyone to invite friends and colleagues to join us.

Martin Bigg  
Master

Follow the Master on: [https://  
masterwaterconservator23.blogspot.com/](https://masterwaterconservator23.blogspot.com/)

### Future Events (see website for all event details)

- 21 September – WCWC Webinar: National Underground Asset Register, Guy Ledger
- 24 September - Livery Fair and Sheep Drive, Southwark Bridge
- 25 September - Associates Webinar: Seize the opportunity, Jane Barron
- 27 September - Michaelmas Court Lunch, Cutlers' Hall
- 1 October - WCT Sponsored Walk, Walthamstow Wetlands
- 17 October – Visit to the Apothecaries' Hall and meal at Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese
- 18 October – WCWC Webinar: Sustainable resource management, Dr Adam Read

### September Webinar

The National Underground Asset Register will be the topic of our webinar on 21st September and will be presented by Guy Ledger, Divisional Digital Director at Atkins Global. There is estimated to be around four million kilometres of buried pipes and cables in the UK, and a hole dug every seven seconds to install, fix, maintain or repair these assets. Approximately one in every 65 holes dug results in an accidental asset strike (c. 60,000 a year), causing around £2.4 billion of economic cost, putting workers' lives at risk and disrupting our day-to-day lives. Details of the webinar will be on our website soon.

### Associates Webinar

Jane Barron, a founder member of Water Conservators, will be presenting our Associates webinar on "Seize the opportunity – what you can do to reach the next level". Jane has had a long and varied career in a wide variety of fields ranging from major infrastructure planning, design and construction to the management of wastes, environmental assessment and sustainability. See our website to register.

### WCT Sponsored Walk

This year's Sponsored Walk to raise funds for the Water Conservation Trust's schools programme will take place on Sunday 1st October as a walk around the Walthamstow Wetlands. Walthamstow Wetlands are a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which also forms part of the Lee Valley Special Protection Area and is on the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. The ten reservoirs offer a haven for overwintering wildfowl, such as pochard and gadwall, and are regionally important for breeding birds such as grey heron, tufted duck and little egret. Swifts visit during the spring and kingfisher and peregrine falcon can be seen all year round. Details will be on our website soon.

### Michaelmas Lunch

Michaelmas Court Lunch will be held at the Cutlers' Hall on Wednesday 27th September. The guest speaker will be Sarah Mukherjee, MBE, CEO of IEMA, who will share her views on The Future of the Environment Profession. Places may be reserved by e-mailing Christine Duthie via [clerk@waterconservators.org](mailto:clerk@waterconservators.org)

### Sheep Drive & Livery Fair 2023



Members of the Company are participating at about 10.30am in the annual Sheep Drive organised by the Woolmen's Company on Southwark Bridge on Sunday 24th September from 10am to 4pm. A long-established charity event, it celebrates a Freeman's ancient right to bring sheep to market over the Thames, toll free. The Livery Fair offers visitors the opportunity to learn about the Sheep Drive and Livery and specialist wool companies celebrate their trades with interactive displays and sales of their wares. Other fun activities include expert blade shearing displays and some wonderful rare breed sheep! See the web site <https://sheepdrive.london/>

