

# The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

Promoting a diverse and sustainable  
environment

## Monthly Update



February 2023 Issue 27

### Message from the Master



23rd January was an occasion both solemn and glittering for our Company. It commenced with the Myddelton Service for Rededication of the Livery at All Hallows by the Tower, which was most beautifully and thoughtfully led by our Honorary Chaplain, Rev Katherine Hedderly. This is no empty ceremonial but a solemn reaffirmation of the pledge of Service we made when we became Freemen, and of our promise of allegiance to our Sovereign. We were reminded of the mission we have stated of 'promoting a diverse and sustainable environment'. After the Service we were led in procession by our Beadle, Mark Anderson, past the Tower of London and the Memorial to merchant seafarers to Trinity House.

Our Myddelton Lunch flowed naturally on from this Service. Our guest of honour was the most distinguished former sea dog, Rear Admiral Brian Perowne CB DL, who spoke very entertainingly on commitment; given his lifetime personal service to our Sovereign and Nation his words carried particular weight.

In response to both the Service and Brian's speech, I thanked members for all you are doing to put our commitment to 'promote a diverse and sustainable environment' into practice, both individually and corporately, by convening serious debate through our wonderful series of webinars, February's discussion dinner with the Minister, and our showcase event in March, the City Water Debate.

The other way we put our commitment into practice is through our wonderful charity, the Water Conservation Trust. Over the past 15 years we have provided bursaries for postgraduate study in water and environmental sciences to some 180 students, and dissertation prizes to

some 70 further, at leading universities throughout UK. I feel we do not advertise enough the impact we are having! These students are by definition some of the best in their year; they are supported by the Trust to become associate members of the Company and a number have already progressed to become Freemen. It was a particular privilege at the lunch to be able to present prizes to nine of this year's cohort of dissertation prizewinners. The photo below shows some of the people who will work for a diverse and sustainable environment individually and perhaps even in some cases as members of our Company. They represent the future!



Colin Drummond  
Master

Follow the Master on: [https://  
masterwaterconservator22.blogspot.com/](https://masterwaterconservator22.blogspot.com/)

### February/March Events

(see website for all event details)

- 1 February 2023, WCWC Associates Webinar: Prof Carolyn Roberts
- 3 February 2023, WCWC Visit to Charterhouse
- 20 February 2023, Master's Dinner, Oxford & Cambridge Club
- 21 February 2023, Pancake Race, Guildhall Yard
- 15 March 2023, Mudlarking, The Thames Foreshore
- 15 March 2023, Associates Pub Evening, tba
- 21 March 2023, Wet 10 Debate, Bakers' Hall
- 24 March 2023, United Guilds Service, St Paul's Cathedral

### January Webinar

For our January webinar Jim Hall, Professor of Climate and Environmental Risks in the University of Oxford, and Jon Chappell, Senior Policy Adviser at the

National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) gave us a fascinating presentation on the key water resource recommendations made in NIC's 2018 report "Preparing For A Drier Future" and the progress on their implementation. The presentation was followed by a stimulating discussion on key topics such as future leakage reductions, water efficiency and demand management.

### February Webinar

I am delighted to announce that Professor Simon Spooner (pictured below), Principal Scientist, Atkins Infrastructure will be presenting our next webinar on the Thursday 23rd February 2023 at 5.30pm titled "Preparing for Combustion Transition: A framework for accelerating our transition to Net Zero". We have grown prosperous and numerous by burning and consuming the products of biological systems of the past and present. We have now learnt how to get what we need without having to do this anymore. We just have to get on and manage the transition to embracing and stewarding our world instead of consuming it. In this talk Simon will set out some concepts and principles for this, some metrics to measure with and some plans and tools to help manage the transition.



### City Water Debate

This year the WCWC City Water Debate on Tuesday 21st March will be "Does the governance of the water sector need to change to meet the requirements of the 2020s and 2030s, and, if so, how?" To discuss this we welcome the following speakers:

Sir Dieter Helm CBE (Professor of Economic Policy at the University of Oxford), Alan Lovell DL (Chair of the Environment Agency), Iain Coucher (Chair of the Office of Water Regulation), Lila Thompson (Chief Executive of British Water) and John Hirst CBE (Chair of Anglian Water).

