

The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

and

THE WATER CONSERVATION TRUST

(Registered number 1007648)

Charity Update – June 2012

The Company and the Water Conservation Trust (WCT) are very active in charitable activities in the water and environmental sector and also in the City of London. *Charity Update* sets out some of the things we do. To find out more about the WCT and how you can help please use the contacts on page 4.

The London Eye to Greenwich on foot!

The second Water Conservators' *London Water Walk* led by Alison and David Cowie took place on 24 March 2012. The beneficiary this year was the *Cirdan Sailing Trust* which provides disadvantaged young people across the UK with self-development, integration and learning opportunities through the challenge of life at sea aboard large sailing vessels.



Intrepid 2012 London Water Walkers at the London Eye. Distance covered twenty feet..... only nine miles to go!

Twenty walkers assembled at the London Eye and followed the South Bank to Tower Bridge. After crossing the Bridge walkers followed the North Bank via Wapping Station, the Prospect of Whitby, and the Great Eastern's building berth to the Greenwich Foot Tunnel - designed by Sir Alexander Binnie. Emerging from the Tunnel on the South Bank the walk continued to the Cutty Sark, now looking spectacular after restoration, and into Greenwich to complete the nine mile walk.

David commented, 'We were jolly lucky with the weather and the walk went very well. Only one fall (grazed nose, first aid applied) and no one got lost or drowned.'

Although largely redeveloped, the route through docklands provided a constant reminder of London's Victorian heritage, and particularly the contribution made by engineers. Through sponsorship, the walk raised over £1,600 for Cirdan.



Nine miles later blurred but undefeated, walkers in the 2012 London Water Walk at the Greenwich Foot Tunnel

With the success of the 2012 *London Water Walk*, David is open to ideas for 2013.

The Universities Programme

The Universities Programme is the Company's principal commitment to post-graduate education in its core business - promoting and spreading awareness of the science and practice of water and environmental management. The Company is particularly keen to support a new generation of skilled professionals in the water, waste and environment sectors and to be associated with the latest developments in applied science and technology

The Company and WCT offers *Water Conservation Bursaries* (to supplement course fees); *Dissertation Support Grants* (which contribute to research and dissertation expenses); and the prestigious *Water Conservators' Dissertation Prizes* (for the best dissertation at each institution) to post-graduate students in water and environment related departments in selected UK universities.

The WCT has expanded its bursary awards to postgraduate students at Reading (meteorology -climate change), Imperial College (environmental engineering), Oxford Brookes (environmental assessment and management) and Aberystwyth (food, water and energy security) Universities. It has offered second bursaries to Oxford Wadham (water science, policy and management) and Brunel's School of Engineering and Design (water engineering).

During 2012, the Company and WCT have offered 11 post-graduate bursaries at nine UK Universities.

University Links - Wadham College

The WCT set up its first bursary and dissertation grant programme five years ago to support the MSc in Water Science, Policy and Management at Oxford University, with bursary students being members of Wadham College, Oxford. This formed a model for similar successful schemes at Brunel, Sheffield and elsewhere.

Since its inception issues surrounding water have achieved higher profile. Oxford University in particular has significantly expanded its activities, not least with a major international conference on Water Security, Risk and Society. The WCT has been able to contribute to this success.

In February 2012, Colin Bland, Chairman of WCT, and Trustee Colin Drummond met Sir Neil Chalmers, Warden of Wadham, Dr Rob Hope, the Course Director and no less than three Conservators bursary students from this and previous years: Alexandra Girard, Helen Parker and Patrick Thomson. Patrick is now doing research into intelligent hand pump design. Sir Neil Chalmers will be presented with the Honorary Freedom of our Company at the Michaelmas Court.

Given the success of the link, at the recommendation of our Chairman, the WCT has agreed to double its support to students on the course. The WCT will now be supporting two bursary students a year and providing dissertation support grants for up to eight students.

Whilst the amounts of money are small they make the difference between a student being able to undertake a course or not.



Back row- Dr Rob Hope, Colin Drummond; Sir Neil Chalmers; Colin Bland, Front row bursary students- Alexandra Girard, Helen Parker and Patrick Thomson.

Previous Bursary Student News

Keeping in touch with bursary students provides feedback about the usefulness of the scheme.

Catherine Hepburn (Sheffield 2010, Bursary Student)



Caroline was awarded an MSc with Merit. She is now working on her PhD at Cranfield University on the topic of "Removal of Siloxanes in Biogas". Her PhD is being sponsored by Severn

Trent Water and her research will focus on the development of improved treatment technologies to remove these chemicals from biogas produced at water utility treatment plants.

Maidstone Sea Cadets

There was a full turn out at the Maidstone Sea Cadets on 20th December 2011 for their annual presentation evening which was attended by Councillor Brian Mortimer the Mayor of Maidstone, Edwin Borman, the President of the Maidstone Sea Cadets, Officers from the Area Command and Water Conservators Court Assistant Trevor Harrington .

The awards were presented by Mayor Mortimer to those cadets who had excelled at water activities, attendance and seamanship skills. Those present also heard of the achievement of the Unit in being granted a *burgee* for their overall performance. It is now one of the top 100 units in the country.

The event was directed by Sub-lieutenant Nick Gilks and the evening was concluded with the presentation of the award to the *Best Cadet of 2011* which was made by Trevor Harrington to Able Cadet Lily Adams. As well as the Certificate, the Company's award provides a berth on *TS Royalist* to give the *Best Cadet* the experience of a week's sailing on this square rig brig training ship.



Sub Lieutenant Nick Gilks, best cadet of 2011 Able Cadet Lily Adams and Court Assistant Trevor Harrington.

Finally, as a further contribution to the Unit in recognition of its recent successes, Trevor Harrington gave details of a special donation of £2,500 by the Water Conservators Trust to fund a new Trinity 500 rowing boat for their crew's use and practice, prior to participating in future inter unit competitions.

Ysgol-y-Gogarth

The Company and WCT continue to support Ysgol-y-Gogarth, a day and residential special school catering, at present, for approximately 170 pupils aged between 3 and 19. Previously, support has been given to develop education and training facilities for students and to trial community programmes which allow the senior students, under supervision, to carry out paid gardening work in the community.



Equipment bought in 2011 with a WCT development grant.

The school now wants to provide careers for school-leavers (in accordance with the Welsh Assembly strategy for helping people up to the age of 23) and has asked the Company for a grant to support an enterprise project to make garden furniture. This will be co-managed with Pinewood Products, as an employment project for adults with learning difficulties. The WCT has agreed to fund a pilot project – tools, and a compressor and spray gun to give the furniture a durable finish.

Headmaster Jon Goodwin thanked the Company for its continuing support. He added, 'We also achieved the Careers Wales Quality Mark - another hard won and uncommon bit of recognition for the Careers work done in school. The students enjoyed kitting out the van and love using the strimmer and leaf vacuum. They can't believe that they are allowed to! This responsibility is very beneficial to their self esteem and self confidence. They are also using the kit to do useful work in the community.'

The Lord Mayor's Appeal 2012.

Each year the Company, through its charity, the WCT, donates £1,000 to the Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal.



This year, Lord Mayor David Wooton will help five charities – the primary being Barts and The London Charity on behalf of the Trauma Unit at The Royal London Hospital.

The Rowing Foundation, London Youth Rowing, Fields in Trust and Futures for Kids will also benefit, creating a healthier future for all.

The Guildhall School

The Company has donated £1,000 to The Guildhall Development Fund. The Guildhall School needs new facilities at Milton Court to complement its current premises and meet the growing training expectations of its future students in an increasingly competitive market. The development is already supported by 50 livery companies and donations from individuals, trusts and companies.

The Charity and the Company

The WCT now has 11 trustees (all Water Conservators' Company Liverymen) reflecting the increase in activities and compliance issues.

The Trust is supported by a Charity Committee which reviews applications for grants and makes recommendations to the Trust.

Chairman of the Trustees, Colin Bland, has announced the appointment of four new trustees: David Johnstone, Rob Casey, Mark Lane and Trevor Harrington.

Trustees are actively involved in charity projects, supported by Company members and volunteers. Individual project grants are small and the trustees are particularly interested in a strong multiplier effect and replication.



New Trustees: (l. to r., top to bottom) David Johnstone, Rob Casey, Mark Lane and Trevor Harrington

Over half the regular funding comes from Company members' giving; the balance comes from investments and donations.

Who to contact:

The Water Conservators Company, The Clerk, Ralph Riley at waterlco@aol.com

The Water Conservation Trust, Hon Treasurer, Peter Hall at peterbhall@gmail.com or Secretary, Mike Williamson at williamson.m@virgin.net

More about the WCT on - <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/>

...then enter **charity number 1007648**

