

The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators and THE WATER CONSERVATION TRUST

(Registered number 1007648)

Charity Update – April 2011

The Company and the Water Conservation Trust (WCT) continue to be very active in charitable activities in the water and environmental sector. In this edition of our Charity Update we report on some of the projects in which we have recently been involved. To find out more about the WCT please use the contacts on page 4.

The Bario Project, Sarawak

Occasionally Company members identify projects where a small financial contribution can make a significant difference to people's lives and the environment. The project involves supporting sustainable development in the forests in the Kelabit Highlands by supporting community initiatives in forest conservation and education for local people and visitors. The project will be supervised by one of our members. Funding has been provided by a collection at the Company's Annual Banquet in November 2010 and a sponsored *London Water Walk*.



Start of the London Water Walk, April 2011
Company members and families with the walk organiser Alison Cowie – David being temporarily *hors de combat*.

The nine mile walk followed the route of the Regent's Canal (picking up Walbrook Warden, Ivor Richards, in Camden) before turning south-east, passing New River Head and St Pauls, crossing the wobbly Thames bridge and finishing at Tower Bridge.

The events are expected to raise about £1,400 for the project.

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 this has been very successful. The school has been trialling community programmes which allow the senior students, under supervision, to carry out paid gardening work in the community. This is important for their future employment prospects as well as providing an economic solution for routine garden jobs. The school had obtained a crew bus but had no equipment.



Ysgol-y-Gogarth – The 'empty' crew bus

The WCT's annual development grant has enabled the school to equip the bus with gardening tools to allow this initiative to progress.

One current project is to work with pupils from a local school on inclusive projects, mixing with mainstream pupils. The scheme is being monitored by a range of schools in the area with a view to replication.



Ysgol-y-Gogarth – Pupil Prize Winner 2010
Ivor Richards presents the prize to Jacob.

Individual skills are recognised by the school and through the Company's Pupil Prizes Scheme which makes awards for students' water and environment projects. A presentation took place at the Friday assembly for the pupil who had made the biggest contribution to making the project work.

Ruislip School Pond

The pond has been filled and spring planting out has been completed.



Ruislip High School pond launch March 2011
How many people does it take to fill a pond?

The Company would like to foster further development of this resource, especially encouraging the school to further develop the educational component. Local Company

member Rob Casey has agreed to maintain and develop our relationship with the school.

The Water Conservation Bursary Programme

The Company and WCT currently offer Water Conservation Bursaries (to supplement course fees); Dissertation Support Grants (which contribute to research and dissertation expenses); and the prestigious **Water Conservators Dissertation Prize** (for the best dissertation at each institution, each year) to post-graduate students in water and environment related departments in Brunel, Oxford and Sheffield Universities.

The Company asked for further WCT funding, to extend the present three year programme to six years because of the overall benefits to both sides as well as students. This has been agreed by the Trustees.

Awards

During the year, post graduate Water Conservation Bursaries have been awarded to Patrick Thomson (Wadham, Oxford) and Girish Rambaran (Brunel).



Oxford University 2011 Bursary Student
Patrick Thomson with Court Assistant Dr David Johnstone at Trinity House, January 2011

Patrick Thomson is an Oxford engineering graduate who, after leaving university, worked around the world in humanitarian mine clearance with the Halo Trust. Returning to Wadham, he has gained a place on the post graduate Water Science, Policy and Management programme.

Girish Rambaran obtained his first degree in environmental sciences at the University of East London. For the last three years, he has worked for the London Wildlife Trust as programme manager for the 2012 Olympic Games, developing biodiversity conservation projects with London 2012 and increasing the Trust's expertise in local land management.



The Brunel Team at Trinity House, January 2011
L. to R. Director of Development Clive Gee, Reader in Environmental Chemistry Dr Mark Scrimshaw and Girish Rambaran, the Brunel University 2010 Bursary Student.

He is currently studying for an MSc in environmental sciences: climate change impacts and sustainability at the Institute for the Environment.

University Links

Students and university staff are encouraged to play a full part in our affairs, including attendance at Company functions. Following on from the success of the Company / Brunel Annual Lecture in 2010, Sheffield University are discussing the prospect of a joint University / Water Conservators lecture in June 2011, held in Sheffield and particularly aimed at members and the water and environment community in the north.

A number of other universities have approached the Company about possible collaboration in a range of activities. In June 2011, Imperial College will host a joint lecture sponsored by COSTAIN.

News about previous bursary students

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



Tim Foster (Oxford University 2010 Bursary Student) completed his Masters studies with distinction. He has been working on a DFID contract looking at new and emerging technologies in Zambia and Kenya. The focus of his work has been to explore the potential of smart water systems for improved water supply sustainability and poverty reduction.



Alexandra Girard (Oxford University 2009 Bursary Student) completed her Masters studies and is currently in the second year of her DPhil on the hydrological and socio-economic implications of traditional water storage in northern India. She has won a further funding award from the Hay Family to complete her studies.



Carya Maharja (Brunel University 2008 Bursary Student) is working at the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen on a project on development of polymers for remediation of oily wastewater and sludges which will lead to a PhD. As part of the job he manages a waste company's waste treatment and transfer station in the Scottish highlands.

The Lord Mayor's Appeal 2011

Each year the Company, through its charity, the WCT, donates £1,000 to the Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal. This year, Lord Mayor Michael Bear has chosen two charities under his *Bear Necessities* banner: children's charity CORAM, which sets out to provide an environment where young people can achieve their goals, and disaster relief charity, RedR.

The Water Conservators' Church

The Company's Hon Chaplain, the Revd. Peter Mullen, asked the Company's help towards the cost of special period music for Choral Evensong in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible.



St Michael's Cornhill

The Church lies over part of Roman Forum built in the first century AD and near the site of a church founded by King Lucius - the oldest site of Christian worship in London.

The Company donated £500 as a result of a retiring collection at the Company's Annual Livery Dinner in March 2011.

The Charity and the Company

Like all other livery companies, the Water Conservators Company has charitable giving at its heart and is a major part of its *raison d'être*. The Company has established the WCT to provide focus and funding for its public interest projects. Also, from time to time, the Company supports charities and charitable projects other than its own by holding special collections.

WCT Trustees

There are seven trustees, all Company members, who are appointed by the Master, in consultation with the Chairman of the Trustees, to provide the balance of skills necessary to run a modern trust.

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

WCT Objectives and Funding

The activities of the WCT reflect the objectives set out in its Trust Deed, which are:

- Grants to individuals in need, and
- Education and Research.

Over half the funding (£15,600 in 2009-10) comes from Company members' regular giving and other donations. The balance comes from dividends and interest from investments.

Company Donors

It is hoped that all members of the Company support its charity work. If you are already a regular contributor to the WCT, please accept the Trustees most grateful thanks. If you are not a regular donor, please give serious thought to becoming one. A small regular donation via Gift Aid is much appreciated and can do much. A Gift Aid form is available from the Company's website and when completed should be sent to our Hon Treasurer, Peter Hall.

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@hotmail.com
More about the WCT on - <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/>
...then enter charity number 1007648