



The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators



THE WATER CONSERVATION TRUST

Registered Charity 1007648, c/o HQS Wellington, Temple Stairs, Victoria Embankment, London, WC2R 2PN

Charity Update – June 2014

The Schools Education Programme

The Company and the Water Conservation Trust (the Trust) continue to be very active in charitable activities in the water and environmental sector. This Charity Update looks at the Schools Education Programme during 2013-14. To find out more about the full range of Trust activities please use the contacts on page 4.

Developing a Schools Education Programme

A key objective of the Trust is to support the education of young people. For many years this was implemented through the **Pupils' Prizes Scheme**, which is a school-based project aimed at increasing the awareness and understanding of the role of water and environment in our lives. The Scheme, which provides prizes for projects undertaken by schoolchildren and supervised by a Schools' Water Conservators, continues, but take-up is modest.



Successful prize-winners for environmental projects in schools

In the meantime, the Trust has responded to a number of direct requests from schools for financial and technical assistance to improve science and environmental education. This experience has led to the development of **Schools Projects**, where the Trust and Company Members play an active role in *delivering infrastructure* and a *sustained interest* in the outcome. The Pupils' Prizes Programme will continue both as part of the Schools Projects and independently, but it is being complemented with more specific assistance requested by schools. This approach has been successfully trialled at Ruislip High School and at Ysgol y Gogarth, in Llandudno. The sustained approach has also led to partnerships with commercial organisations, the Royal Air Force and local charities. Recent projects in London have led to close links with Thames Water.

A significant impact has also been made through technical and financial support to schools for special projects such as the management of ponds and an aquarium. These facilities allow the children to study water ecology, consider water quality and the need to balance the ecology of water life.

The London Schools Project

The London Schools Project is an important part of the Trust's expanding Schools Education Programme which funds and supports suitable projects to enhance water related science and environmental education in our schools. The Trust also gives prizes to pupils for school projects in support of these activities. This helps to encourage more of our

children to consider a career in science, particularly the water industry, and also helps to encourage thinking about water efficiency and care of the environment at an early age.

Ruislip High School



Left: The pond before planting; Above: Headteacher and Company Members at the aquarium 'opening'.

The Trust has funded and planned the construction of an outside natural pond and the purchase of an indoor aquarium and microscopes for science studies. This project followed from a request from the school to develop a practical science facility. The excavation and construction which took several months, was led by Ivor Richards, Present Master. The pupils' course notes prepared by the science department are exemplary. The interest created by the pond led to a request for funding for an aquarium. This was granted and the aquarium, installed in a public area, is now a popular school attraction. The interest in science has led to mini-projects leading to awards under the Pupils' Prizes Scheme.

Hillside Primary School, Orpington

Faced with an urgent 'fence or fill-in' requirement on safety grounds, Hillside Primary School approached the Trust for help to retain and make the pond safe for use by the school for science studies.

Two choices were discussed: backfill with gravel to leave essentially a bog garden or install a grid just below the surface. After discussion, the grid was installed. The grid was co-funded with Thames Water.



Trustee Rob Casey and members of Hillside Primary School in front of the pond.

Myddelton Primary School, Islington

Myddelton Primary School, located near New River Head and named after the 'Father' of London water supply, has been a focus for the Company for several years. Projects have resulted in Pupils' Prizes.

Reducing costs and eliminating waste is a priority and, with the Trust's assistance, Thames Water has installed a smart meter to encourage water efficiency studies.



Comparisons between the Thames and the Rhone.

Rosendale Primary School, Lambeth

The Trust is supporting water efficiency studies along with the London Wildlife Trust as part of the Lost Effra Project. Thames Water has funded a water audit at the school.

Lent Rise Primary School, Burnham

The Trust has funded the installation of a water butt to collect rainwater and planned a natural pond. The school has developed course notes and the Trust has assisted the school through the purchase of microscopes to study wildlife in the pond. The Trust has recently organised a competition on water efficiency and presented pupils' prizes to the winners.

The Pumpkin Growing Competition

The competition is being organised by Thames Water to raise money for Water Aid, with prizes for the heaviest pumpkin and most creative carving. The Trust is also offering pupils' prizes to schools teams competing via the Trust.

Nine schools are taking part in the competition. The Trust is offering to supply a water butt free to a school (if suitably installed) to encourage schools to water the pumpkin using rainwater harvesting where possible. Students are encouraged to measure how much water is required to grow the pumpkin to appreciate just how much water is required for growing plants and vegetables.



This a great opportunity for children to grow their own pumpkin for Halloween, learn about the importance and amount of water required to grow the vegetables that feed us, and also learn about the important contribution that rainwater harvesting can make to ensure the best use of our water resources to meet future population growth.

Outside London

Ysgol y Gogarth, Llandudno

For many years the Company and Trust have supported eco projects at Ysgol y Gogarth, Llandudno, a school for special needs children. This has helped the school establish a garden and to develop gardening skills. The school has taken those skills into the community and the Trust was able to fund tools and equipment for the work bus. This project has attracted considerable interest from other schools in North Wales and beyond.



Early days, with polytunnels



Prizes for eco studies



The new school

The school is very successful and has been re-built, opening in January 2014. The continuity and drive by the staff to increase the close connection between students and the environment has been maintained and the Trust continues to offer funding and assistance to environmental projects.

Other support

The City of London Freeman's School is a co-educational day and boarding school for pupils aged 7 to 18. Each year the Trust funds a prize for achievement in science which presented at Prize Day, which is attended by the Lord Mayor.

The next steps

The Trust is looking to expand its commitment to the Schools Programme and is pursuing the possibility of widening its links with schools, initially, in the London area by working with Thames Water in projects to improve water efficiency in selected secondary schools. This project could also link with the Pupils' Prizes Scheme. The success of this venture could lead to similar schemes with other UK water companies.

Funding

Raising funds for the expansion has started already with the **New River Sponsored Walk**, which raised £2,500 for WaterAid and the Trust's schools programme. The Trust is raising money to expand its schools programme which encourages more children to consider a career in science, especially in the water industry.

The walk celebrated the 400th anniversary of the opening of the New River in 29 September 1613 with a walk along nine miles of its route. Starting at New Gauge on the River Lea walkers passed a number of historic sites including one of the original sources at Chadwell Spring, and a number of Victorian pumping stations before completing the walk at Broxbourne. Walkers are shown the historic sluice at New Gauge by Gary Stephens (Thames Water).



A second sponsored walk is planned for Sunday 21 September 2014. This will cover about eight miles, finishing at New River Head. Walkers and sponsors are needed. Please contact the Trust if you are interested.

All members of the Company should consider supporting its charity work. If you are already a regular contributor to the Trust, 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 Trust on - <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/>
...then enter charity number **1007648**