



THE WATER CONSERVATION TRUST

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

Charity Update – November 2014

Whereas the Company plays a full part in City life and organises events for Members, the Water Conservation Trust – the Company’s charity – works exclusively with outsiders. Not every outsider, but those we can help because of our accumulated knowledge, skills and resources.

The Trust has three main platforms: supporting needy Masters Degree students in ‘our’ subjects, helping schools with programmes to interest children in science and engineering, and a few cases of financial assistance to former water sector staff and their families.

Charity Highlights



The 2014 New River Walk raised over £2,000 for the schools programme (Page 4)



Pumpkin Competition – The Trust Chairman’s special award to Ruislip High School (Page 2)

Universities Programme update

During the academic year 2013-14, the Trust awarded 16 bursaries in 14 UK universities for students pursuing Master’s level courses in water, waste and environmental subjects. Total grants, including Water Conservators Dissertation Awards for the best dissertations on the course, amounted to £72,000. The Environmental Services Association Education Trust (ESAET) and WAMITAB have provided substantial financial assistance to the Trust over the period 2011 – 2014 and have allowed the Trust to double its grant programme over this period.

For the 2015 recruitment, the Trust will be offering water, waste and environment bursaries to four ‘core’ universities: Brunel London, Sidney Sussex Cambridge, Newcastle and Wadham Oxford. A further sum

will be available to Birmingham, Imperial, Queen Mary and Sheffield Universities.

Links with the universities are strong and the continuity of support has led to a better understanding of each others’ needs and how they can be met. Long term support to Wadham College has enabled the University to pursue the problem definition and solutions to water pump reliability in Kenya.

Brunel students have conducted scoping studies in support of the *Lost Effra Project*. This project was launched by London Wildlife Trust in January 2013, and commissioned by Defra and the Carnegie UK Trust, to develop and test a community-based water management strategy aiming to inspire people to create new ways to manage the water environment in their area.

The Company's objective was to increase the number of well-educated entrants to the sector by funding students who otherwise would not have been able to study. A recent survey for the ESAET showed that of the 14 students completing their studies, 12 had secured jobs in the sector. The Trust gives no guidance to universities about the bursary students, except that they should be able to work in/ from the UK – to meet our objective of increasing the pool of well qualified people in the sector. During the last seven years, the Trust has assisted 68 young people with their tuition costs – exactly 34 male and 34 female students at this point on time.

Best Dissertation Awards

The Company offers the *Water Conservators Best Dissertation Award* to top students on the courses it supports. In the last year, seven awards have been made to students at Brunel, Wadham Oxford, Aberystwyth and Birmingham.



Girish Rabaran (Institute for the Environment) and Ali Mohammed (School of Engineering and Design), Brunel University London

The Trust and Company encourages Members to get involved in proposing dissertation topics or providing facilities for students.



Kevin Wheeler, Oxford University, The Master, Roger North, Caroline Freeman, Aberystwyth University

A recent Award nominee, Gugan Siva Subramaniam, at Cambridge University, has completed a highly topical Dissertation – *The Energy, Water Nexus in the UK – Impact of shale gas exploration on water resources in the Midlands*. This is one of a number of dissertation subjects of interest to the Company.

The Schools Education Programme

The Schools Programme 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.

Pumpkin Growing Competition

A pumpkin growing competition was organised by Thames Water to raise money for Water Aid. Separately, in schools supported by the Trust, prizes will be offered for the heaviest pumpkin and most creative carving.

Eight schools were invited to compete, five entered the competition, and three successfully grew pumpkins. Judging for the Trust's prizes took place at the Trust's Charity Committee in November.



The prize for the biggest pumpkin went to Ruislip High School

This competition has been 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.



The prize for the best carved pumpkin went to Whitegrove School, Bracknell



But it isn't easy. Two schools, Lent Rise seen here, grew plants with no pumpkins

The Trust intends to repeat the competition in 2015.

Water Detectives Competition

A competition has been organised with three schools and two scout troops in South London as part of the Lost Effra Project to promote water efficiency with school children. Children are encouraged to look for where water is being wasted or efficiency could be improved both at home and in school.

The Trust is offering small prizes to the best submissions. The first group of prizes were presented to Hill Mead Primary School in Brixton in November 2014 by Helen Spring from London Wildlife Trust.

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 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 Company's *Pupils' Prizes Scheme*. The success of this venture could lead to similar schemes with other UK water companies.

The Lost Effra Project

Rosendale Allotments

The allotments are the largest in southern England with over 400 plots. Two visits to the allotments have taken place to establish options for improving water efficiency and potential rain water harvesting at the site. Thames Water is supporting the project and has installed smart water meters to continuously monitor consumption at the site.

Company Giving

The Company also arranges charitable giving, directly and through Lunch-time collections.

Our Hon Chaplain, The Rev Canon Flora Winfield recommended **Toilet Twinning** which is raising funds to enable people living in poor communities to have clean water, a decent toilet, and to learn about hygiene – a vital combination that prevents the spread of disease, reduces the number of deaths among children, and brings hope for the future.

The Company has supported the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers' **Magical Taxi Tour** for many years. It organises an annual visit to Disneyland Paris in a convoy of taxis, for the benefit of children with life-threatening diseases. The trip is mainly funded by donations and sponsorship. The start, as usual, was from Canary Wharf where the children and helpers are entertained and given the *'Big breakfast'* before the giant convoy departs to catch a ferry at Dover.

The passing of Court Assistant Nick Reeves was a sad event. Nick had been involved in many aspects of the Company's work, most recently in the collection of 'reflections' about water. Donations have allowed these to be consolidated into a book and surplus funds, including the proceeds of book sales, have been donated to the **Stroke Association**.

Each year, the Company supports the **Lord Mayor's Appeal** and a donation was given to the Lord Mayor at the Company's Myddelton Lunch in January 2014. This year, the Appeal supports four community-based charities that all have "*the energy to transform lives*" – the Mayoral theme.



Master Ivor Richards and the Lord Mayor

The opportunity was taken to present the Lord Mayor with a bound copy of Reflections.

Fund Raising



The statue of Sir Hugh Myddelton in Islington

The second charity event connected with the New River was held on Sunday 21 September 2014, raising funds for the expansion of the

schools programme. The event started at New River Head, with a tour of the 1693 Oak Room - removed intact to the 20th Century replacement building. The eight mile walk continued through Islington to the Alexandra Palace, for the most part tracing the line of the River over culverts and through gardens. Sponsorship and donations have raised over £2,000.

Annual Report for 2013-14

In the year to 30 June 2014, the Trust spent £80,000. Of this, all except the £540 spent on the accounts inspection and the registered office, was used to promote the Trust's charitable aims. The Trust's income, £44,000, derives from charitable giving and investment income.

Of the charitable giving, only £12,000 is derived from regular giving. Trustees want this to increase as it will underpin medium term planning and involve more Company members in the work of the Trust. The balance, £36,000, is drawn from reserves built up specifically to finance the universities programme.

The Trust's programme for 2014-15 continues to focus on universities and schools with a planned reduction in university bursaries but a substantial increase in education in schools.

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 our Hon Treasurer, Peter Hall.

Who to contact:

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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**