

The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators



THE WATER CONSERVATION TRUST

Charity Update



Charity news of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

Summer 2021



Message from Roger North, Chair of the Trustees

– When Trustees met via Zoom on 11 May 2021, they discussed what more could be done to help our beneficiaries, reviewed the progress towards incorporation and looked at

the performance of the Trust's investment funds.

Incorporation

I have outlined previously the limitations of the present Trust Deed which means that although Trustees take decisions, all contracts entered into bear the name of individual Trustees, who then personally takes the risk of legal challenge, frivolous or otherwise.

Progress has been made on the path to converting the present unincorporated charity (The Water Conservation Trust) into a Charity Commission regulated Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Trustees and the WCWC Court have agreed that the application to the Charity Commission should go ahead and to the creation of a Company team to work with Trustees to extend the Trust's and the Company's profile in charitable giving. Two important protections have been added: (i) no change to the new CIO Constitution can be made without the agreement of the Court and (ii) all Trustees to be appointed by the Court. The latter points are unlikely to make a difference to the operations of the Trust, or its relationship with donors and beneficiaries.

The Trust CIO will operate as now with active Trustee and Company membership participating in the formulation of plans and the running of projects. An Information Webinar is planned for later in the year to update Company members.

Ethical Investment Funds

For several years, Trustees have wanted to ensure that their two Investment Funds, set up to support charitable expenditure, are ethically based and complement the Company's green credentials. The larger investment fund has offered a (practically free) entry to its Ethical Fund in July 2021 and Trustees

have authorised the transfer. Choices for the second Fund are under review.

Gift Aid

Gift Aid donations to the Trust remain the biggest contribution Members can make to achieving the Company's Livery obligations. With the World focus on climate change, Trust programmes contribute directly to the understanding and mitigation of water and environmental problems.

Over 50 Members already contribute to the Trust's work. If you want to join them, please contact the Hon Treasurer, Peter Hall, on peterbhall@hotmail.com.

Trustee News

Since the last Charity Update, there have been three changes to Trustees. Roger Hewitt re-joined the Trust in the Spring and Simon Catford resigned.

Walbrook Warden **Professor Martin Bigg** was appointed Trustee by the WCWC Court in May 2021.



Martin has worked in the chemical industry and environment protection, and led environmental innovation in business. He has been a chair of school governors, IEMA council, pension board member, and supported community initiatives. He is keen to see environmental and sustainability commitments in the Trust's investments and support the Trust's water and environmental management education programmes.

Trustee and Hon Treasurer Peter Hall was elected Master Water Conservator and took up his duties on 9 July 2021. He remains a Trustee.

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The Schools Programme

COVID-19 has particularly affected our Schools Programme trials, where water fountains were being installed in the Aldgate School and the lifespan of reusable water bottles was being researched at Hugh Myddelton Primary School. Hopefully, this work will be completed in Autumn 2021.

The sponsored school visits to the Museum of Water and Steam at Kew, supporting engineering and science, have been put on hold. The Trust and the Museum continue to search for additional water sector sponsors for 2022.

River Holme – Mayfly in the Classroom

River Holme Connections requested funding for their Mayfly in the Classroom project. The project will involve 20 primary schools including a day field trip to collect mayfly and introduce project, Day 2 - river ecosystems, food chains and mayfly life cycles, Day 3 - field trip to release mayfly.



River Holme Connections have decided not to have any teaching sessions this year due to the pandemic, so have instead outlined a thorough approach in planning and setting up the project this year, in preparation for Spring 2022.

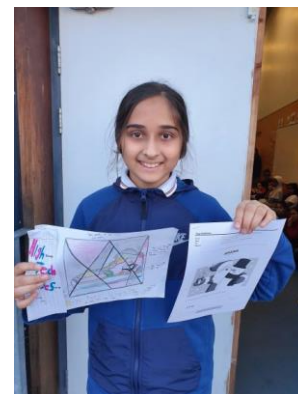
Pupil Prizes During the Period of Social Restrictions

Although school children returned to schools from September to December the pandemic strictly limited visits to schools and outside visits by schools. Also teaching staff were under extreme pressure and hence unwilling to sign up to activities that fell outside the basic curriculum.

In order to continue the work of the Trust in September the four schools that are most closely linked with the Trust (Hugh Myddelton, Winton, London Welsh School, and The Aldgate Primary School) were asked if the Trust could sponsor some prizes for children for existing learning activities within the schools related to STEM, water and/or the environment. Trustee Rob Casey thought it would be easier for school staff for the Trust to work with each school individually

recognising projects/activities that were already part of the curriculum this term/year.

Hugh Myddelton and Winton both responded with a request for prizes for their “Wearable Technology STEM Competition”. Tony McMahon, Science Lead at Winton School sent the following pictures and comments.



A huge congratulations to Elias in Year 1 and Sofia in Year 6 who are this term's winners of the school's 'Wearable Technology', STEM competition! There were a huge number of entries across the school and some of the ideas produced were truly original and inspiring, including lots of entries that looked to help people as a result of living with Coronavirus. Elias' entry of a magical food backpack was an inspiration to helping people who have struggled to feed themselves during 2020, whilst Sofia's High-Tec shoes were a lovely idea incorporating fit-bit technology and heart rate monitors to give real-time health information to its wearers! The competition has been a real highlight of the academic year so far and the children very much look forward to taking part in future competitions.

Both schools have agreed to participate in a “Water and the Environment Project” for the summer term this year.

Topographic Surveying in Schools

The topographical surveys project offers the opportunity to reinforce the basic principles of simple maths, measurement, scale and mapping to Key Stage 2 pupils in a practical way with outdoor sessions which introduce children to the basic concepts of surveying and mapping. Following up on the very successful pilot project conducted in 2019, local building designers, Heyne Tillet Steel, agreed to support a further course in September, utilising Autocad software. For the final session the children were able to experience their design using 3D reality headsets This project was well received by both children and staff at the school.

Hillyfield Primary Academy

Water Conservator Dr Gemma Harvey has requested a link with Hillyfield Academy in Walthamstow which will be followed up once schools are fully open.

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The Universities Programme

During 2021, the Trust has supported MSc students on water and environmental management courses in nine universities: Birmingham, Brunel, Cambridge (Sidney Sussex), City, Exeter, Imperial, Oxford (Wadham), Plymouth and Queen Mary. Plans were made to make awards to Newcastle and Sheffield but a combination of Covid-19 pandemic planning and senior staff changes meant that no nominations were forthcoming.

The Trust does not dictate the subject matter for dissertations and many students choose to focus on world problems, creating a centre of expertise in their university. This has been used to support the UK's international development programme.

Our Exeter correspondent writes – In addition to the pandemic ..., we have also been hit by the Official Development Assistance (ODA) cuts – thankfully our two sanitation projects which have been affected are being supported by partner (lead) organisations. Others affected include – Borneo peatland protection, reducing plastic pollution in East Pacific, conservation in Galapagos, shrimp biosecurity in Bangladesh... and many more! It's all rather sad as these projects have such a significance in their locations, for the project, the employees, research and of course the leading academics.

A typical overseas case is the Dissertation by **Rita Sharma Pandeya** (Queen Mary University Bursary 2020-21) studying MRes Global Health Geographies, which focuses on global and national health systems, including medical care and public health services.



Rita's Dissertation was entitled: *Investigating the health and societal impacts in relation to post natural disaster context in Nepal* focused mainly on flood disasters and the impact on public health.

She concluded that there are now clearly defined institutional responsibilities towards flood disaster risk among central, provincial and local government bodies. However, a lack of coordination between key stakeholder organizations has been a major concern in terms of implementing mitigation measures in disaster affected areas.

Rita is now studying for a PhD: Investigating the impacts of waterborne disease outbreaks (cholera) in post-natural disaster contexts in Nepal.

Prior to COVID-19, Trustees had decided to increase the number of universities in the Bursary Programme. Work will start on this later in the year.

Plans for the WCWC *Best Dissertation Awards* have also been put on hold. These Awards, which go to the student producing the best dissertation on the course include an invitation to a Company Lunch for the presentation. Some thought will be needed to deal with the two-year backlog.

Student Grants

Trustees agreed to make two grants, to **David Pryce** and **Paul Wills**, PhD students at the Centre for Water Systems at the University of Exeter. Due to the restrictions put in place due to Covid19, the students have been delayed in finishing their projects. In both cases, the students were originally awarded funding for the research as well as living costs, but due to the delays, this funding was exhausted.



Paul's PhD project uses modern techniques and hardware to develop cost effective methods of disaggregating domestic water usage in households. The data being collected from over 1000 households is a joint project between the University of Exeter and South West Water, with both microdevices and smart meters enabling a robust approach to data acquisition.



David's research is focused on optimizing a UK-developed package wastewater treatment system (Integrated Fixed Film Activated Sludge (IFAS) bioreactor) for the treatment of wastewater in developing countries. This treatment unit offers high potential in areas of limited land availability due the large amount of biomass that it can accommodate within a reduced footprint, yet a key constraint of this technology is the high energy demand required for aeration.

Student EATS

Trustees support the NUS Student EATS programme. Two awards have been made which focus on water capture and usage in campus areas dedicated to growing plants and encouraging biodiversity.

Cardiff Metropolitan has already funding for 25-50 fruit trees from Welsh farms and gardens. Building a 'food forest' at the youth centre will leave a legacy of sustainable food.

Warwick University plans to build an onsite irrigation system to ease the management of the garden, in particular, by the construction of a secure building for the solar panels, pump and equipment.

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Sea Cadets 20th Birthday

Maidstone Sea Cadets, aka TS SCOTT, have been linked with the Water Conservators Company since 2001 when an Affiliation Document was signed by Master Peter English.

The Water Conservation Trust was asked to encourage cooperation and, since then, has made an annual award to the best cadet to cover the cost of a berth in the Sea Cadets' training ship. This was usually included in a small ceremony.



L to R. Trevor Harrington (WC Liaison) Jeff Rasbash (Chairman of Trustees); Lt Peter Lewis (Regional CO Sea Cadets); James Weaver (Winner of Best Cadet 2010)

Over the years, the Trust has supported the unit, providing substantial financial support for the purchase of a new Trinity 500 rowing boat and the building of a new landing stage. In turn, Sea Cadets have supported the Company, for example, by providing a Guard of Honour for the Lord Mayor, The Lord Mountevans, at the Myddelton Lunch in 2016 (see below).



A small 20th Birthday celebratory event is planned in Maidstone in September 2021, hosted by Commanding Officer and Chairman of the Management Team, to which the Master and Trustees will be invited.

Associate Company Members

Trustees have agreed to finance the second year of Associate Membership for young people who have previously benefitted from support from the Trust.

People in the News

Judy Ling Wong CBE, the UK Founder of the Black Environment Network – and importantly - Judge for the **Water Conservators' Poetry Competition** has been included in the **Woman's Hour Power List 2020**. Congratulations!



Tom Fudge, seen here receiving his *Best Dissertation Award* has been chosen by Brunel University as **Alumni of the Year 2021** for his work developing innovative sanitation systems for some of the world's most underserved and remote communities.

Tom is a loyal supporter of our young persons events and, as well as running WASE Limited, is completing his PhD at Brunel.

Trustees are being asked to consider a request from **Patrick Thomson** to fund ten new Waterpoint Data Transmitters to make the handpumps *smart* water pumps for use in Kenya. Ordinarily, Trustees do not support spending abroad because other charities, such as WaterAid, do it on a greater scale. In this case, the Company and Trust have supported this initiative for over 10 years, and many Wadham MSc students have contributed to its development.

2021 Charity Walk

The 2021 Annual Water Walk will take place in late September, led by Deputy Master and Trustee Rob Casey.



Scene from the socially-distanced, Covid-compliant Charity Walk in 2020 which raised over £4,000 for the Trust's Schools Programme.

Hopefully, it will be open to all and, as well as Company members, will be supported by some of our Bursary Students. In the past, this has provided a useful informal exchange. Proceeds will go to the Trust's Schools Programme.

Previous *Charity Updates* are available at:
<http://www.waterconservators.org/charity-updates>