



THE WATER CONSERVATION TRUST

Charity Update



Charity news of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

Summer 2022

Supporting River and Environmental Learning



WCT Partner, River Holme Connections: River invertebrate sampling with Hepworth Junior and Infant School



Roger North, Chair of the Trustees –

Beneficiaries are recovering from the pandemic and we have assured them of our continued support.

Trustees have assessed the ESG credentials of our investments and moved our funds to two “ethical” funds. Some months ago Trustees submitted an application to the Charity Commission to change from a Trust structure to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (“CIO”) and this has been approved.



2021 Annual Charity Walk raises over £4,000 for the Schools Programme

Every year in October Trustee Rob Casey organises our Charity Walk. Open to all Company friends, in October 2021 we visited 17 City of London Fountains, walking some seven miles, all within the *Square Mile!*

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The Schools Programme

As schools and museums recover from the lockdowns, Trustees have been able to re-start projects agreed in 2019. The main thrust of the Schools Programme has been providing opportunities and funding for learning consistent with the school curriculum, for schools and pupils otherwise unable to afford to attend.

Educational visits for children to Spitalfields City Farm

The half day educational visits to the Farm are comparatively low cost and Winton School in Islington has already visited the farm - both teachers and children speaking highly of the visit. The children learnt about food production, growing vegetables and fruit, pollination, natural pest control and animal welfare. They also made butter with herbs from the farm. Many of the children live in flats and had never visited a farm before.



Hugh Myddelton Primary School is also planning a number of one day visits starting in September to the Farm for a Key Stage 1 year group at the school. The Trust has approved funding for children to visit the Farm in 4 groups of 15 children with a follow up visit to build on the knowledge gained as part of their outdoor learning programme.

The Trust is currently in discussion with the Farm to set up a bursary scheme, similar to the one with the Museum of Water and Steam, to enable local schools with a high percentage of disadvantaged children to visit the Farm.

London Museum of Water and Steam

The Museum has now reopened after the pandemic. It has recommenced educational school visits to the Museum on water supply and water treatment including a tour of the historical exhibits that once formed an important part of London's

water supply. These visits are an approved part of the school curriculum and encourage water related science and environmental learning.

To date the Trust awarded funding to the Museum for school visits and set up a bursary scheme with the Museum where they are contacting local schools in the Brentford area with a high percentage of disadvantaged children who would be interested in an educational visit. This is a great opportunity for the Trust to extend its contact with further schools in a deprived area of London. Details of the bursary scheme are contained on the museum's website.



Members of the Company and the Trust visited the Museum on the 20th March to see the unique collection of historic water supply beam engines and educational displays and exhibits available to children.

Thorner's Primary School, Dorset



Our good relations with the School meant that our Company and Trust were invited to plant a tree on 9 June 2022 to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

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Visit of Judy Ling Wong to Hugh Myddelton School

Trustees were able to facilitate a visit by Judy Ling Wong CBE, one of the most influential environmental activists, to the children of Hugh Myddelton Primary School as part of their Environmental Week arranged around World Water Day. Judy is pictured here with Trustee, Rob Casey and Teacher Kate Ellander.



The Universities Bursary Programme

During 2020-21, the Trust continued to support 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. During the 2021-22 academic year, while we endeavoured to keep in touch with contacts in all universities in our programme, due to a combination of Covid-19 pandemic planning, senior staff changes and a change in timing of Bursary Awards, only four bursaries were awarded.

For the 2022/23 academic year, the offer of a Bursary has been made to 15 universities. Prior to Covid-19, Trustees had decided to increase the number of universities in the Bursary Programme and Trustee Martin Bigg completed this work earlier this year. The financial impact of this will be evident in the Trust's accounts for 2022-23 as the grants are now awarded to the university when students enrol.

Company prizes for **Best Dissertation Awards** had been put on hold during the pandemic. These

Awards, which go to the student producing the best dissertation on the course where we have granted a Bursary, include an invitation to a Company Lunch for the presentation. Arrangements are being made to deal with the backlog. So far in 2022, four graduates have attended Company Lunches to receive their awards.



At the Election Court in April 2022, Prizes were awarded by the Master to Michael Ho (Imperial), Maddy Czura (Queen Mary), Mabel Smith (Cambridge) and Sonia Singh (Birmingham).

Some prizes are awarded remotely because the graduates are working overseas.

Student EATS

Trustees have supported the Student Eats programme for several years. The NUS competition for funding closed in November 2021 with five projects being put forward.

The winners were: **Warwickshire College** *Improve the growing area with polytunnels and water butts*, **Leeds University** *Build a timber-framed round house with rain water capture*, **Roehampton University** *Reduce water usage and increase the efficiency*, **Leeds Beckett University** – *Creation of an irrigation system to harness rainwater run-off, possibly utilising a pond.*

Since the awards were announced in January 2022, only one university, Leeds Beckett, has requested funding.

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Sea Cadets 20th Anniversary

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.

Trustees celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Affiliation between Maidstone Sea Cadets (T.S. Scott) and the Company on 21 August 2021. The Sea Cadets organised a display of the activities covered by the Unit followed by a lunch prepared by them.

Their Leader asked that the trophy inscription mention all cadets, recognising their contribution to keeping the Unit operating during the pandemic.



The Water Conservation Trust makes an annual award to the best cadet to cover the cost of a berth in the Sea Cadets' training ship. This is usually awarded at a small ceremony in Maidstone.

Over the years, the Trust has supported the unit, providing substantial financial support for the purchase of a new Trinity 500 rowing boat and, in 2016, 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.

Trustee News

Since the last Charity Update, there has been one change to Trustees. Dr David Johnstone retired from the Trust in November 2021 after serving as a Trustee for nine years.



His knowledge of issues, sensitivities and protocols was crucial to the creation of the Universities Bursary Programme. David will continue to advise the Trust and Company on wastewater treatment and management issues.

Associate Members

Post-graduates on courses the Trust support are encouraged to join the Water Conservators' Company as Associate Members. Because of the many benefits to their careers, Trustees agreed to grant the small first year joining fee. This was extended in the lockdown because little could be done. In the event, the Company did not charge for year 2 because the programme was cancelled.

The grant is back and recruitment is focussed on recent post-graduates. Associate Membership is open to young graduates and professional.



Sam Dickens, who gained an MSc in Hydrogeology has joined. He says *-I'd like to develop a sound technical understanding of hydrogeology and apply it to green energy solutions, particularly in geothermal applications. I also want to spend some time working in the humanitarian sector.*

Gift Aid

Gift Aid donations to the Trust remain the biggest contribution Members can make to achieving the Company's Livery obligations in respect of Charitable Activities. 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 us at conservatorstrust@gmail.com

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