

THE WATER CONSERVATION TRUST



Charity Update

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



Winter 2019



Message from the Chairman of the Trustees, Roger North

Trustees have been assessing the way in which new Charity Commission guidelines impact on our relationship with the Company. The guidelines have been evaluated by the Finance

Group of Livery Companies which concludes that there needs to be more transparency in the relationship to preserve the benefits of charitable status.

By and large there are no major issues; the Company and Trust management has been separated for about 20 years. But, there are things we need to look at, both in the appointment and conditions for Trustees, and measures to ensure that Trustees respect the terms of the Trust Deed in their actions.

Alongside this is the recommendation from the Charity Commission that the Trust should be replaced by a *Charitable Incorporated Organisation*. In its view, this offers better protection for the Trust's assets and for Trustees exercising their responsibilities.

At the same time, Trustees are determined to maintain the momentum of the commitments to our current beneficiaries, and to continue the search for projects within which our small contributions can make a difference.

Our focus is education. We have successful schools and universities programmes, but we look to Water Conservators to identify more projects, especially in schools, where our skills and limited grants can be fully utilised.

Trustees take grant decisions on recommendations from its Charity Committee. The work of this Committee is expanding and its membership needs to be more widely cast, better reflecting the broader Water Conservators' Company interests.

Funding for Trust activities comes mainly from the Members of the Company – for which the Trustees are extremely grateful. Not every Member donates and I strongly encourage all Water Conservators to join us.

Highlights in this Charity Update:

- Page 2 Autocad for ten-year olds** at Hugh Myddelton Primary School
- Page 4 Museum of London – Secret Rivers exhibition supported by the Trust** 'One of the most popular exhibitions ever..'
- Page 4 NUS Student Eats Programme** supported for a third year

Poetry Competition entries published

In 2018 the Company and Trust ran a Poetry Competition for junior schools it supports. Judy Ling Wong CBE OBE agreed to judge the competition and the results have been published by the Trust. Here is the winning entry.

Judy Ling Wong Overall Winner

OUR RIVER (The Clwyd)

Our river is a dragon,
It is furious and fast,
Hungry between the fir trees,
He will swallow up everything that comes past!

Our river is a wild bear,
Passing the grazing sheep,
Crashing through the park.
It never goes to sleep!

Our river is a wizard,
Casting a spell over your eyes,
So you can see,
The beauty of the countryside.

Our river is an eagle,
Flying to the sea,
When it gets there –
It is wild and free!

*By Matilda
Year 5, Ysgol Llanbedr D.C.*

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The Schools Programme

Vocational education in environmentally sustainable jobs has been supported by the Trust in two Welsh special schools for over ten years. Jon Goodwin from Ysgol y Gogarth writes: *Most of our students have limited skill and experience with tools ... Initially, many of our students fear tools and don't know how to use them... we soon change this with practical work in the school and in the community..., We have been developing this model for more than 10 years..*



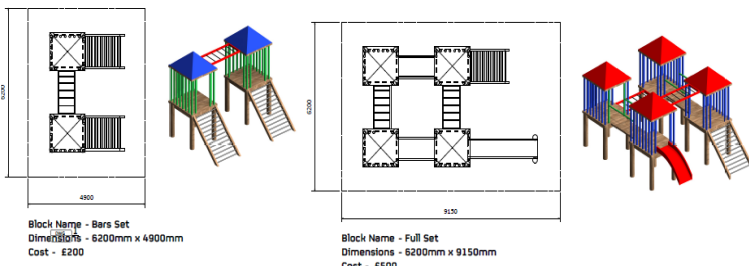
Taken in 2011, tools funded by the Trust

Water Conservators supported us from the very beginning... It is with some satisfaction I can report that many of our tools are now wearing out!

At its November 2019 meeting, Trustees agreed to fund replacement tools.

Long term support for primary education in London Schools is a key activity for the Trust.

Hugh Myddelton Primary School: The Topographic Surveying in Schools Pilot



Based on an initiative by Trustee Ivor Richards in North Wales, 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.

A pilot project to design a new layout for play equipment in the school playground is now in progress with the after-school STEM club this term. 45 children applied for the 12 places on the course.

Local building designers Heyne Tillett Steel have supplied the Autocad software and computers, and Stone Computing supplied the computer screens. The initial sessions have involved surveying and measuring up the playground while current sessions involve constructing plans in Autocad. Finally, children will cost and compare designs.

Environmental Initiative – Water Refill Bottles/Fountains in Schools

The Trust has received two applications for funding schools with water bottles to reduce the use of single use plastic cups replacing them with a refillable bottle for children, to change behaviours and encourage a healthy lifestyle.

Trustees have agreed to fund the purchase of refillable bottles at Hugh Myddelton School. As a pilot, 60 bottles will be bought and offered to pupils in Year 5. Their use and survivability will be monitored – to avoid swapping one type of waste for another. The School has agreed to keep records to see whether the pilot is worth extending to the rest of the School.

At Sir John Cass's Foundation School, two water fountains for personal use and to refill water bottles will be installed. The School will supervise implementation and monitor their usefulness in reducing single use plastics.

School River Education Pack

The River Holme Connections Charity is working in partnership with the Peak District National Park Authority education staff to run a range of river education sessions for total of 18 primary schools and two high schools in the catchment.



Trustee Rob Casey presenting River Education Packs

The Water Conservation Trust has funded a river education pack for each school and Trustee Rob Casey attended the River Holme Festival at Huddersfield University, presenting *Reducing The Impact of Plastic Waste on the Water Environment* in October 2019 and, with Trustee Carolyn Roberts, presenting the "River Education Pack" to three schools as part of a schools river education workshop.

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The Universities Programme

The Universities Programme has supported over 120 students with their fees for Masters degrees in 'our' subjects. Currently the Trust is supporting students from 13 universities, 11 of which are in the Trust's Universities Programme, and two ad hoc requests which the Trustees deemed suitable for sponsorship.

Within Universities Programme, which awards £4,000 against fees and an additional £1,000 against students' dissertation costs, grants have been given to MSc students at Birmingham, Brunel, Cambridge-Sidney Sussex, City, Exeter, Imperial, Newcastle, Plymouth, Oxford-Wadham, Queen Mary, and Sheffield.

The outcome of 10 years of operation has been very satisfactory. The Programme intention was to increase the number of young people entering the sector at this level – students who otherwise would not have been able to finance their studies, and this is being achieved. Working arrangements with university departments have been good and MSc supervisors and bursary holders often attend Company events. The background to students from two universities, Plymouth and Imperial, is set out below.

Plymouth University (MSc Environmental Consultancy)

Plymouth University has a close relationship with the Company, especially in the area of pollution caused by single use plastics. It joined the Universities Programme last year and the first bursary went to **Annabel Page**. Her dissertation: *Investigating hydrological and connectivity processes in a degraded gully system in East Africa by testing management scenarios* was adjudged the best on the course. She will be attending the Myddelton Luncheon in January where she will be presented with her Best Dissertation Award.



Annabel Page



Anne-Marie Palfrey

This year, the bursary goes to **Anne-Marie Palfrey**, who comes with a BSc (Hons) in Environment Science from Bournemouth University and a special interest in environmental issues affecting marine and fresh waters.

Imperial (MSc Environmental Engineering)

The Trust has supported students from Imperial since 2012, with 18 students receiving financial assistance. **Suzanna Hill** (Suzi) was one of four beneficiaries in 2018-19. Her dissertation was entitled: *The application of adaptation pathways to mitigate against the impact of population growth at Mogden Sewage Treatment Works in West London*.



Suzi (*left*) currently works for United Utilities. Like many bursary holders, Suzi has completed industrial placements in the sector, in her case with Thames Water before starting her MSc.

Trustees want to extend the Universities Programme and discussions are taking place with five more universities.

Amongst our alumni we have noticed a change in career paths over the years. The proportion staying in academia has not greatly changed but there has been a movement away from SME's to bigger sector companies.

Two grants were made outside the scheme to university students

LSE (MSc Urbanisation and Development)

Johanna Sutton contacted the Trust to ask whether it would contribute towards the cost of her course fees. After reviewing her application Trustees agreed. Following an outstanding first degree at Monash University, Melbourne, Johanna worked most recently with the Victoria's Department of Environment, Land and Water. As a UK citizen and the right to work in the UK, the student and the course met our criteria and an award was made in August 2019.

Camino de Agua, Mexico.

Stephan Calvert and Calum Stewart recently graduated from Edinburgh University (M Eng Chemical Engineering) and successfully obtained a grant from the Trust towards travel/ subsistence costs for a short period working at Camino de Agua, whose mission is to create access to clean water for 'at risk' communities.



Stephan Calvert



Calum Stewart

Camino de Agua provides open-source water solutions for communities at-risk on the aquifer in Central Mexico, and leverage those solutions for others confronting similar water challenges around the globe. It also acts as a "finishing school" for aspiring, socially-responsible engineers, scientists, and other young professionals and interns looking to make social and environmental impacts in their work.

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Keeping in touch with university beneficiaries

Dr Katherine Rothwell (Kath) (MSc bursary recipient 2012 – 2013) completed her PhD in Environmental Engineering in 2018 at Newcastle University. Her work investigated the potential of iron in clay minerals for organic contaminant transformation in soil and groundwater environments.



Field work sampling tidal flat sediments in the Elbe Estuary, NW Germany

Kath is now working as a postdoctoral researcher in the Institute of Biogeochemistry and Pollutant Dynamics at ETH Zürich. Her research concerns the transformation of iron minerals in natural systems, with a particular focus on the relevance for arsenic, cadmium, and other potentially toxic trace element mobility in environments such as rice paddies, mangroves and tidal flats.

The Museum of London



The Water Conservation Trust has supported the family activities at the **Museum of London Docklands** during the recent October half-term, which were themed around the major exhibition **Secret Rivers** – one of the

most popular exhibitions ever at the museum. Secret Rivers combined art and archaeology to look at the mysteries of London's rivers, both those that flow above ground and those that have been buried beneath our feet.

Over ten days in October 2019, 1,533 children and their families attended the half-term events, which ranged from storytelling to craft and dance. The most popular event was the Secret Rivers shadow puppets event, which attracted 158 children and their families. This interactive event involved children making their own Roman and river-themed shadow puppets, and enjoying a short performance at the end – a fun family experience making memories which last a lifetime.

Student EATS

The Trust supports the **NUS's Student Eats programme** supports sustainable food enterprises on campuses and in the community. This is the third year of support and Trustees have awarded three grants, and are reviewing a fourth.

Swansea's application stated: We have recently installed raised beds on campus and have begun to work with student and staff on a campus growing project called Tyfu Tawe (Grow Swansea), providing produce for the campus and a veg box scheme. We have identified an un-utilised polytunnel on campus, but it is about to be demolished. Funding will allow the polytunnel to be relocated and refurbished. We also require herbs and salad seeds for planting into the existing raised beds and polytunnel.

Reading requested funding to set up a guttering system for its polytunnel that works as a soaker hose inside the poly tunnel, saving water throughout the year by watering by itself through most of it. The site is large, with outdoor beds, wildlife sections, and a big polytunnel about 10 metres long. They would connect a hosepipe to the guttering on each side and bury the pipe through the beds. This gutter soaker hose system would reduce water usage significantly.



Keele's Sustainability Bungalow garden (above) is a student-led project which feeds into many sustainable food projects and the wider Student Eats activities on campus. On the site, a polytunnel and series of raised beds enable students living in the bungalow to grow their own food which also feeds into communal meals hosted at the Bungalow through the Vegetarian and Vegan society, host gardening sessions with other student volunteers, create educational resources such as videos (shared via social media) to inspire students to grow produce, and engage in experiential learning. This proposal is to fund an irrigation project to increase crop yields and ensure plants have sufficient water, to provide a more water efficient method of watering crops.

A fourth application, from **Goldsmiths, University of London** is being considered by Trustees.

Special thanks go to all our Company donors and

Mister Gees Foundation



The institution of
environmental sciences