



# The Conservator

Summer 2014 | Issue 47

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

## A Message from the Master

Dear Water Conservator,

I am delighted and honoured to have been elected as the 26th Master of our Company, it is a real privilege. My wife, Christine and I are looking forward to representing the Company at as many events as possible.



During my career I have placed considerable emphasis on communication and building relationships. I believe the success of this Company is dependent on good communication. My programme will include a number of social and technical events which will provide excellent opportunities for social and technical networking.

Our Company profile in the City has been building over recent years and I want to develop this further. My career, as a consultant in the water and environment sector, has spanned 45 years. In this time I have worked with a number of organisations in the UK and overseas providing a spectrum of services from research and development, design and asset management, to institutional strengthening and operation support services. I will use my business connections and relationships to strengthen our reputation.

The Company's focus on water and related environmental matters puts us at the heart of some of the most important issues facing the world today. I believe the technical events being organised will provide excellent opportunities for us to actively

demonstrate the knowledge, experience and skills that exist in the Company.

I have a technical team planning events covering future proofing cities and water from population growth and climate change, the Thames Tunnel, the history and future of sewage treatment and I'm also keen to have a debate on "Fracking". There is also a team organising social events such as the weekend in Cromer and visits to Dowgate Fire Station, Crofton Beam engines and the Globe Theatre, to name a few.

The Water Conservation Trust, our charity, is at the core of our Company business. I will be doing everything I can as Master to support and promote our charitable work. The Trust has an expanding Schools Programme which funds and supports suitable projects to enhance water related science and environmental education in our schools. We want to encourage our children to think about water efficiency and care of the environment. They may also consider a career in science or engineering. Our university programme has also developed in recent years. Since the start of the programme we have given 50 bursaries to MSc students and we will be funding a further

£160,000 over the next three years. The Trust is doing some terrific work but we need your support. I would encourage members of the Company to donate to the important charitable work of the Trust.

During the last few months I have worked to re-energise our military affiliations. I'm pleased to say that we will be continuing our links with the AIDU at RAF Northolt, with Royal Navy survey ship, HMS Scott and with Maidstone Sea Cadets. Our army affiliation is now with 66 Works Group Royal Engineers, Specialist Water Development units. We will be organising some joint events to strengthen our relationships.

Just over a year ago we introduced corporate membership of our Livery Company. We now have 4 corporate members, Huber Technologies, Thames Water, AECOM and Atkins. I look forward to developing relationships and working together to address the global challenges ahead, and make a difference!

I hope you will support our events and I look forward to us all having an enjoyable year.

**Roger North – Master**





# Deputy Master's report

## Reflections on a Year as Master | 2013 – 2014

by Ivor Richards OBE

2013–2014 has been a year of modest change in the Water Conservators. The most significant change has been the introduction of the Master's Committee to replace the Strategy Working group whose main problems was its infrequent meeting and its burial within the structure of the Company. The Master's Committee is led by the Master, and we all know who that is. The Master is supported by his three Wardens and this feature provides continuity and just a little incentive to develop the work we began in my year since all four were involved in discussions and decisions. The Committee also gives the Master a forum and a most direct way of developing his own ideas and I hope that as the years pass a clear direction of travel will become evident. The Committee is the spur to forward thinking; it is small and focussed and has an identified leader. The Committee report to the Court.

For me it has been a tasking year without my partner but I was determined

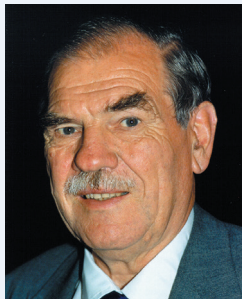
to complete the course that Marj and I set-out on when I was elected as Walbrook Warden. We were very excited at the prospect offered to us. We had long-decided that improving the quality of life and the places where people lived would simply be a continuation of our life's work and an ideal focus for the Company. There was much to talk about to bring this experience up to date and relevant in the 21st century. The messages which I have tried to emphasise during my quite short opportunities to address the Company have been to provide a focus for us; we need to aim at being Globally Useful. These are two simple words that can be straplines for us to promote the science art and practice of water and environmental management.

In my relatively few words to the Company I hoped that I was able to introduce a little colour and examples of some Welsh emotion, or hwyl, in play.

'Reflections on Water' is a review of what makes us who and what we are, a multi-faceted group of people. Nick Reeves succeeded in this so brilliantly by creating and editing a multi-faceted vehicle in which we could display our talents and emotions. The range of topics on which we have reflected should encourage us to believe that we can be Globally Useful. Perspectives is another way in which we can be equally demonstrative and produce a digital record of our thinking as individuals that will be kept on the web site and be of value to future readers. Like Reflections, I see Perspectives as a unique record of who we are and I would like Liverymen to join in what I see as an ideal opportunity for us all to contribute to what makes the Water Conservators.

Being Master is the greatest service that individuals can provide for the Company. I have found that being Master has been immensely rewarding, what more need I say?

### OBITUARY | Charles William Michael McDowell Founder Master 1988 – 1990



Mike McDowell was born in 1928 and died after a long illness on 11th July 2014.

As a boy, he lived in Huntingdon where he attended the local grammar school and then went to University College London. An only child, he sang in the Church choir and enjoyed village life. His main interest was cross-country running which he started as a schoolboy and enjoyed immensely. He joined Ranelagh Harriers club in Richmond while at university and continued running into his late 70's. After that he officiated in many local running events in Gloucestershire.

After graduating with a degree in Civil Engineering, Mike went to work in Africa, designing and making roads through the jungle with a team of local men.

When he returned to England he met his future wife at a University dance, he married Diana, a teacher, and was a father of three daughters and a son. He became a grandfather of nine grandchildren, and one great grandson - all of whom brought him great pleasure and interest in their development.

He was very proud of his children, one a nurse, one an occupational therapist, one a doctor and his son a civil engineer. When the youngest one was still a baby, together with his wife he set up his own Civil Engineering business in his dining room at home. He worked hard and hoped the baby wouldn't cry when his wife answered the phone. The business thrived, quickly moved into a small local house and finished up in an office, purposely designed by his partner and built at Ashted in Surrey. Through hard work, both in England and abroad,

the partnership grew quickly and finally ended up with over 100 employees. He was responsible for many road improvements, waste water systems and sewage works. Many family holidays involved a sightseeing tour of a sewage plant or a drainage scheme! He was an excellent mathematician, quicker than a calculator he said, which helped make him the successful businessman.

Mike became the Founder Master of the Guild of Water Conservators, a Guild of the City of London. He enjoyed attending Livery Banquets and taking part in the Lord Mayor's Show, which he attended come rain or shine. The Guild became a Livery Company in 2000. He also became a world respected Arbitrator in Waste Water Engineering.

He was well respected for his work, and travelled all over the world both for work and then competing in the Veterans world running events, including Japan, New Zealand and many other countries. He enjoyed the fellowship of all the runners.

Mike retired at 60 leaving a large well established and respected partnership. He was pleased to leave Surrey and come to Gloucestershire, away from the noise and bustle of the city. He will be remembered for his love of his family, home, running club and enjoying the local Probud Club, his Bridge Club and village life, taking his dog Gary for a walk and having his children and grandchildren come to stay. He and Diana made a great team throughout their 58 years of marriage. He was witty and cheeky and enjoyed a joke with everyone he met.

He survived three different kinds of cancer and realised how lucky he was. He will be missed by many people.



# The Water Conservation Trust

by Peter Hall, Treasurer



**Increasing awareness and skills in the field of water and environment is a key objective for the Trust and, during the year, trustees have reviewed the impact of the schools and universities education programmes and have made some changes.**

For many years support the education of young people was implemented through the Pupils' Prizes Scheme, which is a school-based project providing prizes for projects undertaken by school children and supervised by Water Conservators. Take-up has been modest. 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.

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 Pupils' Prizes Scheme 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, and has been extended to schools in the Thames area.

This 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.

Water Conservation Trust bursaries are offered to post-graduate students for Master's programmes related to water, environment and waste issues at UK universities. They are need-related which allows excellent students the opportunity to continue their studies. The programme is funded by the Trust, augmented by special grants from WAMITAB and the Environmental Services Association Education Trust. Since the Bursary Programme started in 2007, 57 awards have been made to 15 universities. In 2013-14 grants totalled £72,000. Apart from the direct benefit to the students, good working relations have been established with the academic departments, which have enabled trustees to offer four universities: Wadham Oxford, Brunel, Newcastle and Sidney Sussex Cambridge a new three-year arrangements. These long-term relationships have for example, enabled Brunel to research issues relating to the Lost Effra project in London and Wadham to develop automated controls

for handpumps in Kenya. Funds are available for bursaries at other universities on a competitive basis.

The Trust continues to support Maidstone Sea Cadets and has offered financial assistance to enable them to build their own slipway. Trustees have worked with the Company in a range of charitable activities, including fulfilling a commitment to complete the publication of Reflections which had been masterminded by the late Nick Reeves. The book was published and surpluses have been given to the Stroke Association. The Trust contributes to the Lord Mayor's Charities.

The Trust relies on regular giving from members of the Company which gives it the opportunity to plan for the medium term. Trustees are concerned that this source has declined in recent years and have, in addition, raised funds through sponsored walks. The 2013 New River Sponsored Walk raised £2,500 for the Trust's schools programme and for WaterAid. This is to be repeated in 2014.

The Company itself makes charitable donations throughout the year following retiring collections at its Lunches. In the last year, donations have been made to the Hackney Carriage Drivers Magical Taxi Tour to Disneyland, Paris, WaterAid and the Black Environmental Network.

## The Company would like to welcome the following new Liverymen:

Christine Duthie  
Robert Epsom  
Simon Hall  
Ross Hilliard  
Graham Howells  
Christine Jarvis  
Graham Keegan  
Parneet Paul  
Lynva Russell  
Andrew Urquhart  
Timothy White

## Corporate membership

The Company welcomed AECOM, ATKINS and Thames Water as Corporate Members in 2014.

## Calendar of Events 2014-2015

18 July 2014	Master's Weekend	Cromer
13 August 2014	Company Visit	Dowgate Fire Station
13 September 2014	Company Visit	Crofton Steam Museum
19 September 2014	Company Visit	Globe Theatre
24 September 2014	Michaelmas Lunch	Armourers' Hall
29 September 2014	Election of Lord Mayor	Guildhall
6 November 2014	Annual Banquet	Skinners' Hall
8 November 2014	Lord Mayor's Show	City of London
January 2015	Myddelton Lunch	Trinity House
20 March 2015	United Guilds Service	St Paul's Cathedral
9 April 2015	Election Court Lunch	Cutlers' Hall
24 June 2015	Election of Sheriffs	Guildhall
1 July 2015	Installation Lunch	TBA



## The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators Wardens



**Peter Hall B.Sc. M.Sc. ACMA**  
 Joined the Company in 1999 and was appointed Thames Warden on July 2nd 2014.

**THAMES  
 WARDEN**

After graduating in chemistry Peter qualified as an accountant with the British Gas Corporation. He joined the finance team at the National Water Council in 1977 and, on its demise in 1983, Peter was appointed assistant secretary at the newly formed Water Authorities Association, where he dealt with finance and general policy matters, including industry-side logistics for water authority privatisation.

Appointed deputy director at the Water Services Association in 1989 Peter spent several years coordinating views on policy issues, setting up the European Waste Water Group to lobby for practical and achievable environmental standards. After a year with OFWAT, he contributed to the European Commission's evaluation of progress of former centrally planned economies towards EU membership.

In the period 1996- 2002, working for MWH, Peter was the evaluation director for Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia and Hungary.

During the last ten years, he has undertaken policy evaluation studies for the European Commission and reviewed SME developments in Central Asia and South East Europe for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Peter has been a Court Assistant since 2004 and was appointed a Trustee of the Water Conservation Trust in 2005, where he is the Hon Treasurer, edits the Charity Update and manages the successful Company bursary scheme.

Peter is Secretary of Thames Valley CIMA branch and long-time treasurer of Reading Coin Club, specialising in Roman Coins.

In July 2012 Peter received an Honorary Fellowship from Brunel University in recognition of his significant contribution to the work of the University.



**Keith Tozzi BSc, MA, C Eng, FICE, FCIWEM, CIM, FRSA**  
 A Freeman of the Company since 1995 and was installed as Fleet Warden on 2nd July 2014.

**FLEET  
 WARDEN**

Keith spent his early career with Thames Water and Southern Water and was one of three executive directors of Southern Water plc during the exciting period of privatisation and growth into a wide range of ancillary businesses. In 1996 he was headhunted as CEO of the British Standards Institution and he led the extensive international expansion into 96 countries and the establishment of several commercial enterprises. In 2000 he was appointed Group Chief Executive of the Swan Group plc which owned Mid Kent Water, an energy consultancy, a food testing business and an international engineering consultancy - Keith led a successful management buy out of the business.

In 2005 he established two new testing and inspection businesses listed on the London Stock Exchange - Inspicio plc and Concateno plc.

As Chairman of them both, Keith led a total of ten acquisitions and successfully sold the enlarged businesses to private equity and a US competitor respectively in 2008 and 2009.

In 2010 he co-founded a new biological testing business, Ingemino Ltd. This business made four acquisitions and was sold in 2014. In 2010 Keith was also appointed as Chairman of Kane Ltd, an international insurance services group based in Guernsey, US, Cayman, Bermuda, Malta and Dubai.

In 2014 Keith co-founded The Body Detectives Ltd, a new testing business focused on analyzing a wide variety of matrices related to promotion of fitness and well-being.

Keith enjoys spending time with his three children and four grandchildren and finds time to indulge himself in his love of cars and more particularly, Fiona, his wife.



**Mike Williamson**  
 Joined the Company in 1998 and was installed as Walbrook Warden on 2nd July 2014.

**WALBROOK  
 WARDEN**

Mike was educated at Alleyn's School, Dulwich. He followed a career in Government Departments and a Research Council.

On leaving school he started his career in the Ministry of Works where he gained a grounding in job costing, wages, contracts and general administration of works services on the Civil estate. Subsequently he was involved with financial control of major construction projects for the Navy and then spent 3 years in Gibraltar dealing with the administration of works services for the Army, Navy and Air Force.

In 1976 he moved to the Social Science Research Council as Deputy Finance Officer. As well as budget control and accounting, he was responsible for the introduction of computerised accounting and administrative systems throughout the Council.

In 1986 he transferred to the Department of the Environment and joined a team responsible for the preparation of legislation involving major changes to local government finance.

The final 10 years of Mike's service was as Head of Water Conservation, Water Regulations and Export Promotion in DETR. He was responsible for the production of "Using Water Wisely", the Government's first consultation paper on water conservation. Work on water quality and water fittings legislation brought him into extensive contact with water companies, regulators and a wide variety of water related organisations and industries. He was also responsible for organising and participating in water industry trade missions led by Environment Ministers.

Following retirement from full time employment Mike lectured extensively at home and abroad on water privatisation, regulation and water fittings legislation.

Mike was elected to the Court in 2008, appointed Hon. Secretary of the Water Conservation Trust in 2007 and a Trustee in 2010.

In his spare time Mike has been actively involved for over 50 years in amateur theatre as an actor, director and administrator and has served on the executive committee of a local Arts Council.

## OBITUARY Hugh Bentall Berridge, MBE Master 1990 – 1991



Hugh was born on the 9th August 1932 and died after a short illness on 25th January 2014.

He was educated in Southend-on-Sea, Essex.

Although Hugh's education deemed him a scientist he was in actual fact a consulting engineer and as such specialised in industrial wastes and laboratory management.

Hugh over the years worked for many notable consultancy's until in later life he established his own consultancy in London and then went on to work for the Government specialising in measurements.

As he would say "It was measurement and not money that underpinned trade" and as such Hugh until his death worked unstintingly for DEFRA and the DTI in overseas territories .

The Water Conservators Company came about under Hugh's proposition with other members of the 5S's and in 1988 the Guild was formed with Hugh becoming the 2nd Master in 1990. In 1993 when the Guild became a Company Hugh took on the position as Clerk and after Livery Status was achieved in the year 2000 he became Clerk Emeritus.

Hugh being interested in Medieval History, Cricket and Polo is survived by his second wife Sue.



The laboratory of quality and safety of AIC products of the National University of Life and Environmental Sciences near Kiev (Dec 2011).