



The Conservator

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The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

A Message from the Master



At the Installation Lunch last July, I said that we, like the Livery movement as a whole, had gone through two years of 'doubt and sorrow'. Personal fellowship is at the heart of the Livery movement and Covid and associated lockdowns were a major disruption. I prayed for 'a great awakening.'

What a transformation there has been since then – there is a new spirit in the air! This shows itself in the number and quality of our events both serious and social, in increasing attendances and in the great warmth of our fellowship whenever we get together.

We now have a superb new Clerk, our own Christine Duthie, and despite plenty of headwinds are moving forward confidently. Installation Lunch was a success despite our guest speaker bowing out due to Covid at the last minute. Mudlarking was a success despite searing temperatures and will be repeated by popular demand next month. Our Banquet with its inspirational speech from Lord Deben was a glittering and well attended event despite the tube strike. Our shared Carol Service at All Hallows and our visit to Charterhouse were successes with the warmest good fellowship despite ongoing rail strikes.

This positive outlook is infectious (if that is not an unfortunate word post Covid) and as a result membership is increasing

for the first time in a number of years. Our Election Court looks like being a record at least in my memory for the number of new admissions and I hope as many current members as possible are able to attend the subsequent lunch to give our new friends and colleagues the warmest possible welcome.

What has driven this new spirit? We are a membership organisation, and it comes from us all, the members of this Company and our elected servants. An important step was your Court's creation of our strap line/mission statement 'promoting a diverse and sustainable environment'. This strong simple statement has proved remarkably effective. It makes our fellow livery companies or people interested in joining sit up and listen. People have engaged.

Having nailed our colours to the mast we need to ask whether we are living up to our mission – is it just a matter of warm words or is there substance to it? Obviously, we all do so in differing ways as individuals - in our hugely varied careers and in how we live our lives. Indeed, the sheer variety of interests and experiences in our Company is one of the things which makes it so enjoyable and attractive. What do we do corporately? I believe we do two main things.

First there is our wonderful charity, the Water Conservation Trust. This is particularly focussed on educating future generations of leaders in water and the environment and is a core role of any livery. I think we are far too modest and do not publicise enough just how big an impact we are making. For instance, over the past 15 years, we have provided postgraduate bursaries to no less than 179 students, a fair number of whom without our support would simply not have been able to continue their studies. In addition, we have awarded dissertation prizes to 74 students. It was a huge privilege to be able to present prizes to this year's dissertation students at the Myddelton lunch and a powerful

demonstration of our impact (which was noted by all our guests).

The students we are supporting by bursaries and prizes are by definition some of the brightest and best in their year groups and subjects; they are eligible to become associates (with their first year membership fee covered by the Trust) and a number have already progressed to become Freemen of the Company in the most virtuous of virtuous circles. They are a key part of our future.

Secondly, we have always welcomed big hitters from our sector as guest speakers at our lunches and banquets and at special events such as discussion dinners and our showcase City Water Debate. More recently under Past Master Rob Casey we have launched a powerful ongoing series of webinars and discussions by sector leaders which has been widely admired by other liveries. Similarly, under Past Master Peter Matthews we have responded to government and other consultations on matters of importance to our sector; the fact that some twenty of our members have been involved shows that this is something we feel to be important. I would characterise this second role as 'convening and participating in serious debate' on matters of importance to our sector. Again, I think we are far too modest about the breadth of expertise and practical experience which we are able to offer. We do not claim to have all the answers, but we have pertinent questions to pose and valuable perspectives to share for the good of our sector.

All in all, I think we can say we are living up to the mission we have set ourselves. I hope that you are as excited as I am by the coming packed programme of events both serious and social (or in most cases a bit of both). I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Colin



Company Events

Installation Ceremony

Pictured below are this year's Water Conservators' Master and Wardens with the Clerk at their Installation Ceremony on 7th July 2022. Left to right Carolyn Roberts,



Martin Bigg, Colin Drummond, Dylan Barker and Christine Duthie. At the lunch afterwards Alex Plant, Director of Strategy and Regulation at Anglian Water gave an insightful speech on how water companies are adapting to meet current financial and environmental issues.

Jug Ceremony

On the 19th July at the annual Water Jug ceremony the Master presented a jug, duly filled with Thames Water, to the Lord Mayor. See picture below of the Lord Mayor, the Right Honourable Vincent Keaveny and your Master, Colin Drummond, sharing a toast in water.



The ceremony celebrated the 825th anniversary of King Richard I selling the conservancy of the river Thames (from Staines to Rochester) to the City of London.

Michaelmas Lunch

3 new Freemen and a Liveryman were admitted to the Water Conservators on 3rd October at the Michaelmas Court. The photo shows new Liveryman Brett



Bader signing with Clerk Christine Duthie to the left and Master Colin Drummond to the right.

Our speaker at the Michaelmas lunch was Robert Hannigan CMG, former Director of GCHQ and security adviser to the Prime Minister, who gave a very illuminating, not to say alarming, summary of the cyber threats facing water and other industries.

The Annual Banquet

On 10th November our members and guests were treated to a splendid Banquet at Cutlers Hall. We were really privileged to have John Gummer/Baron Deben as our guest speaker, who made a truly inspiring speech encouraging



us on our path of 'convening civilised intelligent debate on water and environmental matters.'

The Lord Mayor's Show

On 12th November the Master, his Consort and the Thames Warden joined the other modern liveries to walk in the Lord Mayor's parade, escorted by a Routemaster bus.



It was a beautiful sunny day and the crowds were bigger than ever. We acknowledged and were acknowledged by the outgoing and the incoming Lord Mayor and by vocal supporters in the crowds.

Myddelton Lunch

23rd January commenced with the Myddelton Service for Rededication of the Livery at All Hallows by the Tower, which was most beautifully and thoughtfully led by our Honorary Chaplain, Rev Katherine Hedderly (pictured with members of the Court below).



Our guest of honour at the lunch that followed was the most distinguished former sea dog, Rear Admiral Brian Perowne CB DL, who spoke most entertainingly on commitment; given his lifetime of personal service to our Sovereign and Nation his words carried particular weight.

Company Social Events

With the pandemic now truly behind us this has enabled a full calendar of social events which started with a Mudlarking Event on the banks of the River Thames on 19th July. This was followed by guided tours of All Hallows by the Tower (pictured below) and the Temple of Mithras on 5th September.



On the 16th September the Master and members of the Company met for an enjoyable and relaxing Master's Weekend at the historic Castle Hotel in Taunton, Somerset.



Historian, Tom Mayberry MBE DL, gave a talk on the history of the Somerset Levels, which was followed by a visit to the Museum of Somerset and Sheppy's cider museum and orchards. A thoroughly good time was had by all (see picture above).

As a fitting end to 2022, after the Christmas Court meeting on 16th December, members of the Company met up for the Christmas Carol Service at All Hallows (see below).



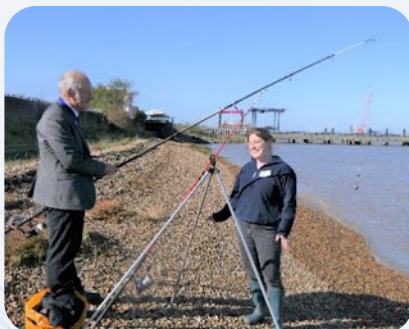
Livery Events

As always there were many varied Livery events (see Master's Blog for full details), fully supported by the Water Conservators. These included technical lectures, dinners with other Livery Companies and formal City functions (e.g. The Silent Ceremony).

Once again, our crew won the Admiral of the Port Challenge in July (see below) followed by victory in the Port of London Challenge on 9th August.



On the 8th October Thames Warden Martin Bigg presented the Biodiversity Award on behalf of the Company to the Essex County Angling Team as part of the City of London Fishery Research Experiment to establish the environmental condition of the Thames (all fish caught are returned to river).



Associates Events

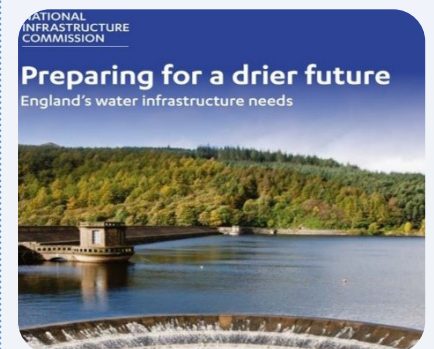
The Company held a successful networking event for our Associate members on 7th September at the Fox On The Green PH with an introductory talks by Court Assistant Allan Barton and Thames Warden Martin Bigg (pictured below).



This was followed by an engaging webinar on 9th November by Professor Simon Spooner on Relationship Building and Career Development. Our first Associates Christmas dinner was at the India Club on 14th December and on 1st February 2023 Professor Carolyn Roberts presented a fascinating webinar on "How Would I find Money and Advice to Develop an Innovative Idea?"

Webinar Programme

Following a summer break we restarted our successful programme of monthly webinars which have attracted great praise from both within the Livery sector and outside. We have continued to offer a diverse range of topics including environmental, technical and historical topics.



These have included a presentation by Dr Matthew Greetham of

Ofwat on Storm Overflows, a presentation by Hick Higham, ex BBC Media Correspondent on the History of London's Water Supply and a presentation by the National Infrastructure Commission on their report "Preparing for a Drier Future".

Defra Consultations

During the last 6-9 months we have been sharing company members' wisdom and experience on the delivery of water services with Defra via various Defra consultation responses and providing "think pieces" around future governance and water resources led by Past Master Peter Matthews.

With the Master's facilitation, we are planning a 'Chatham House' dinner with the Minister For Water Rebecca Pow on February 28th followed by our City Water Debate (see Future Events below) on 21st March.

WCT Update

The Water Conservation Trust is the charity arm of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators. Since 2008 the Trust has awarded 179 bursaries and 74 prizes for the best dissertation to students on water and environmental management postgraduate courses at 24 universities. Currently the Trust is working with 15 universities and this year 2022/23 has awarded 14 bursaries to students who would otherwise struggle to pay for their studies. For students who completed their postgraduate course in 2022 the universities have identified 12 winners of the Water Conservators' Dissertation Prize.



It was super to welcome nine winners (pictured above) who travelled in from Bath to Amsterdam, to the Myddelton Lunch, to receive their awards.

For more details on the Trust's activities see the 2023 Winter Edition of the WCT Newsletter.

New Members

Jessica Bain, Justin Harper and Gemma Harvey all joined as Freeman this year. Dr Gemma Harvey (pictured below) is a Reader in Physical Geography in the School of Geography at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) and is Bailiff to our Thames Warden. Jessica recently graduated from the University of Dundee, where she read Environmental Science and Geography. Justin graduated with a degree in Government and Law at the LSE in the 90's, he is a CIMA fellow of 20+ years' experience specialising in costing and pricing of projects.

Brett Bader joined as a Liveryman



because he already has Freedom of the City and is a Liveryman of the Educators' Company. He also has a National Professional Qualification for Headship.

Obituaries

In December the Company sadly noted the passing of Paul Jerrome. Paul joined the Company as independent accountant and auditor in the early 1990s, and was retained until recently, making him our longest serving officer. Paul



was also the Water Conservation Trust's Auditor and, as Trust's Hon. Treasurer for 20 years, we all got to know Paul well. He was a delightful colleague and will be sorely missed.

Future Events

City Water Debate

This year the WCWC City Water Debate on Tuesday 21st March will be "Does the governance of the water sector need to change to meet the requirements of the 2020s and 2030s, and, if so, how?" To discuss this we welcome the following speakers:

Sir Dieter Helm CBE (Professor of Economic Policy at the University of Oxford), Alan Lovell DL (Chair of the Environment Agency), Iain Coucher (Chair of the Office of Water Regulation), Lila Thompson (Chief Executive of British Water) and John Hirst CBE (Chair of Anglian Water).

February/March Events

See Company website for latest details.

20 February 2023, Master's Dinner, Oxford & Cambridge Club.
21 February 2023, Pancake Race, Guildhall Yard.

23 February 2023, WCWC Webinar, Preparing for Combustion Transition, Simon Spooner, Atkins.
15 March 2023, Mudlarking, The Thames Foreshore.

15 March 2023, Associates Pub Evening, tba.

21 March 2023, Wet 10 Debate, Bakers' Hall.

24 March 2023, United Guilds Service, St Paul's Cathedral.