



# The Conservator

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The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

## Project H<sub>2</sub>O Outreach

As the New Year dawns Simon Catford, the 30th Master of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators, reflects on the success of his recruitment initiative H<sub>2</sub>O Outreach (aka H<sub>2</sub>O) launched last July.

"It is vital that we maintain a steady stream of new members into the Company if we are to remain the leading Livery Company in the water, waste and environmental industries," says Simon when asked about the need for such an initiative.

Simon also points to the three key objectives of any Livery Company, that of education and research; charitable fundraising and networking and fraternity – "All vital roles in the modern business world," he says. "And we do them all rather well!"

So how successful has H<sub>2</sub>O been? "I am pleased with the initial response. I set an objective of increasing membership by 10% by 2020, which is now only a year away. To date we have seen six new members and we are delighted to welcome them into the Company". He goes on – "But we need more."

"There are several routes to joining us" he adds. "Firstly - and this is the traditional route - we encourage business partners and or friends along to one of



our events, usually a lunch. We always have an interesting speaker on a relevant subject for our industry. Hopefully people get hooked. We also have a low-cost Associate Membership scheme which was introduced recently. This has proved very popular with younger entrants and is a route to full Liveryman status."

Simon continues, "We are also developing links with other Professional Institutions and with small to medium sized businesses who operate in our space with a view to becoming either personal or corporate members". Sounds impressive? But as Simon points out, "If we all introduced but one new member each, the Company could double in size - what an exciting prospect!"

So, what is the first step to H<sub>2</sub>O? "Speak to me, any of the Wardens or the Clerk and we will give you much more information. You can also visit our website for further details." Finally, and to quote a well-used phrase, Simon says, "Come on in; the waters' lovely!"

## Annual Banquet

One of the highlights of the Water Conservators social calendar is the black tie Annual Banquet, which this year was held on Thursday 1st November at the beautiful Drapers' Hall in Throgmorton Street in the City of London.

Following an excellent three course meal with accompanying wines and port, Members and their guests were then treated to a musical interlude performed by a pianist and two vocalists from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Songs from Carmen, Irving Berlin and Phantom of the Opera were beautifully delivered and much appreciated by everyone present.



## Kensington Palace Visit

I had always wanted to visit Kensington Palace, not only to see the wonderful building and all the history it contains, but also to see the 'Diana Dresses' exhibition. On talking to other Consorts in the Company I found that they did too so I organised a visit in early December.

We are very lucky in having as a Court Assistant Christine Jarvis who is a London Blue Badge Guide and as such gave us our own private tour of the Palace and exhibition. As a party of 12 we could move easily amongst the displays and ask questions of Christine. I think she answered every one!

After all that culture and it being near Christmas there was only one thing to follow it – lunch at the Ivy Brasserie down the road! A lovely meal and in such great company. Thank you girls!

*Wendy Catford, Consort*



The Master then had the honour of investing Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli as an Honorary Freeman of the Water Conservators - see page 3 for further details. The Master then proposed a toast (in water) to the Guests, including Lord Chartres (until recently the Bishop of London), who in responding on behalf of the guests was both amusing and knowledgeable about the work of our Company.

The thoroughly enjoyable evening finished with a Stirrup Cup - thanks to the Master and our Clerk, Ralph Riley, for such hard work and attention to detail.

*Keith Tozzi, Past Master & PR Manager*



## Lord Mayors Show



Widely recognised as the world's largest un-rehearsed street parade, the Lord Mayor's show is a true spectacle! Proudly marching in the Modern Livery Companies section on Saturday 10th November were the Master, Masters' Consort and the Fleet Warden who between them shouldered the "Water Conservators" banner.

Following a familiar route around the City, the high point was passing Mansion House where the Lord Mayor and assembled dignitaries were seated. There were waves and words of encouragement from the Lord Mayor as the parade marched by. Turning the corner from Princes Street into Cheapside a resounding cry of "Three Cheers" to the Lord Mayor rang out!

Back on the road after lunch on the HQS Wellington the parade passed Blackfriars Station to enormous crowds and much cheering, past Mansion House again and thence to journeys-end at London Wall.

*Simon Catford, Master*

## Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin

The Reverend Rose Josephine Hudson-Wilkin is a Church of England priest and Honorary Chaplain to the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators. Since November 2014, Rose has been Priest-in-Charge of St Mary-at-Hill, City of London, but she additionally holds the important roles of Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons, priest vicar at Westminster Abbey and Chaplain to the Queen.

Rose is well known to the Water Conservators and plays a key role in providing spiritual guidance at ceremonies throughout our year. It was therefore, with the greatest pleasure that the Master installed Rose as an Honorary Member of the Company following the Christmas Court in December.

*Keith Tozzi, Past Master & PR Manager*

## Did you know? ... about the The Dwan Family

Members of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators will have seen and met the Company's Bargemaster, Johnny Dwan, in his formal attire at many events. Johnny is a Thames Lighterman and Captain of the Company's cutter, the "Water Forget-me-not".

The Cutter competes in a number of events each year on the River Thames, including the Port of London Challenge and the Admiral of the Port Challenge. For many years Johnny has raced the Cutter with an all-female crew from Poplar Rowing Club, and has an enviable record of success.



*Johnny (centre) and his son (right) shown in photo at a recent Water Conservator event.*

The cutter is 34 ft long with a beam of 4ft 6ins and can be rigged for up to eight oars either rowing or sculling. In keeping with traditional they can carry a cox and passengers under a canopy and nowadays with canopies and armorial flags flying they perform the role of ceremonial Livery Barges on special occasions.

Johnny comes from a family that has been long associated with the River Thames. He is a Freeman of the Company of Watermen and in 1977 won the prestigious Doggett's Coat and Badge – this is the prize and name for the oldest rowing race in the world. Up to six apprentice watermen of the River Thames compete in a race, which has been held every year since 1715. The gruelling 4 miles 5 furlongs (7,400 m) race takes place between London Bridge and Cadogan Pier, Chelsea, passing under a total of eleven bridges en route. The Dwan family have a long successful history in this race and in 2012, Johnny's son Merlin also won and has proudly worn his coat and badge at the Company's formal lunches and dinners.

Such is the history and fame of the family and their association with the Thames, an exhibition about them was on public display in the Guildhall Yard during 2018.

*Keith Tozzi, Past Master & PR Manager*



## Water Conservator Trust Sponsored Walk

To raise funds for our schools programme the Water Conservation Trust's annual sponsored walk on Sunday 16th September 2018 was along the River Wey from Godalming to Guildford. Around 7 miles in length the walkers passed through some of the most beautiful Surrey countryside and we were fortunate to have a warm sunny day to make the most of it.

Organised by Fleet Warden Rob Casey, and Past Master Peter Hall, the walkers included our Master Simon Catford, and his wife Wendy and

two willing employees from Thames Water who helped us qualify for match funding. Between us we raised £1375 in on-line donations via Virgin Money Giving.

As always we will apply for matched funding from Thames Water's Charity Committee which together with gift aid means the walk should raise around £3,000 in total for the Trust.

Our thanks go to all those members who donated so generously to support our growing school programme which encourages water related science and environmental learning in schools.

*Rob Casey  
Fleet Warden*





## Michael Mainelli

Michael Mainelli is Chairman of Z/ Yen, a commercial think-tank, which he co-founded in 1994. He is Emeritus Gresham Professor of Commerce at Gresham College in London, an Alderman of the City of London (Broad Street Ward), and until recently was Master of the Worshipful Company of World Traders.

Educated at Harvard College, Trinity College Dublin and the London School of Economics and Political Science, Professor Mainelli's early scientific research in aerospace and computer graphics led to him starting Swiss companies in seismology, cartography and energy information from 1979 to 1984. He conceived and produced the first complete digital map of the world in 1983 and has published over 50 journal articles, over 200 commercial

## Unveiling the "Blue Plaque"

The tenacious work of Past Master Ted Flaxman on researching the history of London's water supply has identified a number of key locations where free water was made available for the general population for hundreds of years.

Agreement has been reached with the City of London Corporation to mark three of these important historic locations with a "Blue Plaque". The plaques are funded by the Past Masters of our Company.

The first plaque denoting the Aldermanbury Conduit in Aldermanbury was unveiled in 2010 and the second, denoting the Great Conduit in

## New Associate Members

### DORRY PRICE

Dorry is a Sustainability and Climate Change Consultant at WSP, one of the world's leading professional services firms. She was previously a



articles and four books, including the humorous risk/reward management novel, "Clean Business Cuisine: Now and Z/Yen",

Michael has had a distinguished career and academic background and is a good friend of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators. It was with the greatest pleasure that the Master, with the unanimous support of the Court, installed Michael as an Honorary Freeman of the Company at the Annual Banquet in November.

*Keith Tozzi, Past Master & PR Manager*

Cheapside in 2015. The third plaque denoting the Fleet Conduit in Fleet Street (see below) was unveiled by Sheriff the Hon. Elizabeth Green on Tuesday 18th December in the presence of the Company's Court and Past Masters.

Many thanks to Ted for his hard work in enabling the Company to mark these sites for future generations.

*Roger North, Chairman of Past Masters*



sustainability associate for House of Fraser's global sustainability team, specialising in environment and human rights. Dorry holds an MSc in Environmental Technology from Imperial College London and a BSc in Geography from the University of Manchester. She also speaks both French and Danish and in her spare time, Dorry loves to travel and she is also an avid hiker, skier and cyclist.

### KATHRYN PHARR

Kathryn undertakes water resources policy research at the University of Oxford and is a volunteer editor of the Global Water Forum. She has consulted on water governance policy work for Arup. She worked as a contractor with the U.S. Department of State

## Visit to Bank of England

In November, the Master organized a visit to the Bank of England Museum in the very centre of the City of London – some 20 Members and Guests were treated to a fascinating private presentation on the history and workings of the "Old Lady of Threadneedle Street".

Everyone wants to see the £180bn worth of gold bullion stored in the vaults but sadly it is not for public display! However, in the excellent general exhibition rooms of the Museum there is a real gold bar which – by inserting a hand through a special security screen – one can attempt to lift. The bars are very heavy (12.4kg) and it would be impossible (and highly inadvisable) to attempt to make off with it, but it is a great display and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.



The fascinating visit was rounded off with a very enjoyable lunch at a local restaurant. Well done and thank you to the Master for a great day out.

*Keith Tozzi, Past Master & PR Manager*



on policy and policy implementation for international science innovation and water resources and she has managed stakeholder relationships, funding, and implementation for water policy programmes. Her academic background includes a Master of Science in Analytical Chemistry and a Bachelor's in International Relations and Chemistry.





# Environmental Initiative

On World Water Day, Friday 22nd March, The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators will be launching an environmental initiative entitled "Taking Control of Your Environment".



The launch at midday in the Guildhall Yard will be led by Sheriff the Hon Liz Green (shown left) and will give opportunity for City based companies and organizations to "sign up" to the principles of the three key areas affecting our water environment, and for schools to participate in an environmentally based competition. On the following day (Saturday 23rd March), it is hoped that as many Members of our Company (together with schoolchildren from the



Islington Schools) will undertake a Thames riverside plastics clean-up led by Thames 21.

There will be an exhibition and stands in the Guildhall Yard to help launch this initiative. Displays will include our Magic Tap, a sludge tanker and bales of recyclable plastics. We anticipate

considerable media interest, so please come along and take part.



This is an important initiative placing the Water Conservators at the centre of key environmental issues facing the City of London and it is hoped that many Members will take part. Further details will be published in the coming weeks, but in the meantime please make a note of the dates.

*Keith Tozzi*  
Past Master & PR Manager

The initiative will focus on businesses and schools in the City of London and will concentrate on three key areas affecting the water environment: using water wisely; restricting what is flushed down toilets, sinks and drains; and the use and disposal of plastics.

The Company is working with Thames Water, City of London Corporation (and their "Plastics Free City" initiative), Thames 21 and a group of schools based in and around Islington.

## Forthcoming Events

### YOUNGER MEMBERS



Freeman Robbie Epsom has organized a New Year Networking Event for Wednesday 9th January. This event, which will target younger potential Members will be held at the WeWork offices in Devonshire Square, EC2 from 6.00pm to 9.00pm. This is the latest event as part of the Masters' H<sub>2</sub>O initiative (see page 1) and a very good turnout is anticipated. Further details available from our Clerk, Ralph Riley.

### WET 10

Members will be aware that the informal grouping known as the WET 10 comprises those Livery Companies who are producers or users of water. Our Company leads and directs the group with members including the Firefighters, Environmental Cleaners, Farmers and Launderers. The 2019 Lecture/Debate will focus on plastics in the water environment and will be held on 21st March (the eve of World Water Day) at the Guildhall. Look out for more details.



### UNITED GUILDS SERVICE

On 1st February 1943, following the devastation wreaked on London during the blitz, the Masters and Prime Wardens of the Great Twelve Livery Companies met at Goldsmiths Hall. During that meeting it was decided to hold a Service in St Paul's Cathedral for all the Livery Companies and Guilds of the City of London. The purpose was to help lift spirits in London's darkest hour. The tradition of this Service has continued ever since and the 2019 service will be held on Friday 29th March at St Paul's Cathedral. Look out for details of the service and lunch.

## Next edition of The Conservator

The next edition of The Conservator will be published in July 2019. Any members with interesting articles should contact the editor, keithtozzi@aol.com

