



The Conservator

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF WATER CONSERVATORS

A message from the new Master *Professor Lorna Walker*



Professor Lorna Walker

Twenty years ago, the Guild of Water Conservators was created. The progress we have made is quite remarkable, and is wholly due to the energy and enthusiasm of those early members, Select Society Sanitary Sludge Shovelers and others, who set us on this road.

As your new Master, I am very aware that in comparison with, say, the Great Twelve City Livery Companies, our Company is a mere babe. In 1994, formal recognition by the City of London was forthcoming, and the Guild of Water Conservators became the Company of Water Conservators. As recently as 2000, we successfully petitioned the Court

of Aldermen of the City of London to be granted Livery Status and became the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators. Yet we find ourselves committed by our very statutes to environments that are evolving so rapidly that we, too, must evolve to keep up with them.

Over this time, changes in the environment, including our social, technological and political environments, have been no less dramatic. Back in 1988, the predominant concern about the use of fossil fuels was the danger that we might run out of them. The biggest threat to the atmosphere was CFCs, the Berlin Wall was still standing, and the internet was

only just becoming a significant source of information and communication.

Rising to this challenge, my predecessors have set a cracking pace of change that will be a hard act to follow, but I see it as my task to attempt to do so. In a way, an even greater challenge will be to hold tight to the essential nature of our company: to instil peaceful, constructive evolution and not bloody revolution.

That is why my immediate predecessor, the Deputy Master Colin Drummond, set up a group to follow best business practice, by developing a business plan with

specific goals, time scales, and measures of progress and success. One principle of business is openness and a readiness to consult, listen and respond. Our recent Member Survey, whose results have given us much food for thought, is one example of how we can encourage greater involvement from our members. Another innovation is that members of the Company have already received an outline of our plans for the year and the events we intend to hold or be involved in.

We remain indebted to Colin Bland who has over many years produced two copies of the Conservator each year. This year, because we have been able to report news and events very rapidly via our website, (and 90% of our members have email), Colin felt that the mid-year Conservator was no longer needed. In fact, it will become an annual report with a message from the new Master and a valedictory message for his or her immediate predecessor, a report on the Company's finances, a report on the recent elections and a very brief summary of the year's events. Last year, experimentally, but triggered by postal difficulties, we sent an electronic version of the Conservator to the Clerks of all the other Livery companies – a considerable cost-saving. We shall do so again, this year, and cut the print run by 50%.

I am totally committed to continuing and building on the example of my predecessors. While we are not a commercial business, there is no reason why we should not adopt the principles that make businesses develop, grow and thrive.

To summarise: we are conscious of becoming a much more mature Company than, inevitably, we

were in our early formative years. Let's move forward with a much greater sense of self-confidence, but let's not forget what we have learned in the past.

**Lorna Walker
Master**



*About the new
Master*

The Master is Managing Director of Lorna Walker Consulting Ltd. and a former Director of Ove Arup & Partners.

She is a Chartered Chemist and qualified Civil Engineer and has led and participated in specialist and multi-disciplinary teams on a range of projects, from feasibility studies to project commissioning in the UK, Europe, Africa and East Asia.

A recognised authority in the fields of sustainable development, urban regeneration, water quality and waste treatment, Lorna is a member of a number of policy-making panels in the waste treatment and remediation industry. She is often consulted in the preparation of proofs of evidence, as an expert witness, for planning enquiries and litigation cases, and as an independent technical reviewer of her peers' work.

Lorna is currently a Royal Academy of Engineering Visiting Professor in Engineering Design for Sustainable Development, at the University of Sheffield; a member of the FIDIC Sustainable Development Task Force; and sits on the judging panel of the ODPM Sustainable Communities Award panel. In March 2006 the UK Department of Culture, Media and Sport appointed Lorna as Commissioner Elect for CABE

(Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment).

In her rare moments of leisure, she enjoys travelling, gardening reading - and sleeping, if she gets the chance.



**Rear Admiral Bob Mark
Thames Warden**



**Mr Ian Staniforth
Fleet Warden**



**Mr Barry Dennis
Walbrook Warden**

About the new Walbrook Warden

Barry became a Freeman and Liveryman in 1985 with the Builders' Merchants Company and joined the Water Conservators in 1999.

He has worked in waste and resource management for 44 years and is currently Deputy Chief Executive of the Environmental Services Association the trade body that represents the waste and resource sector. He also holds other directorships of companies related to the sector, and is Vice President of the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management, due to become President in 2010.

He has been Honorary Treasurer of the Company for the past 2 years.

Barry is married to Jan and they have 2 sons Toby and Rufus. Barry also has 3 daughters and 4 grandchildren.

Barry's hobbies include all sports and gardening. He played senior amateur football and represented the FA English Schools; he is a playing member of the MCC and held a single figure golf handicap for 40 years.



Deputy Master's Report 2007/2008

Being Master of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators for the past year has been both a great honour and an unalloyed pleasure. I would like to thank the large number of members of the Company who have supported me with their efforts and friendship. I hope I have repaid in some measure at least the honour and support given to me. What follows

is my formal review of the year. The full calendar of events is attached and detailed reports on a number of them have been posted on the website during the year.

Objectives for the Year

When asked for a one sentence description of the Company I would say "The Water Conservators are an influence for the good in water and the environment". My specific objectives for the year included:

- raising the profile of the company
- enhancing our charitable activities
- keeping the company outward looking
- enhancing recruitment
- balancing the books.

Company Events

Our Lunches and Annual Banquet have been very well attended. The speakers have been high profile and varied (John Gummer, Philip Fletcher, Sir Geoffrey Chipperfield and the Earl of Arran from politics or the public sector, and Ken Harvey, Chairman of Pennon Group our sponsors this year, from the private sector). Overall the events have made a surplus versus budget, the Lunches all showing a significant surplus versus budget which enabled the Banquet to be run at a loss. The policy of increasing prices has been financially successful and has demonstrably not reduced overall numbers but we must recognise that prices are now high especially for retired members. (The questions of the expense of events and of a possible retired member rebate are being addressed as part of our new strategy about which I wrote in May). Guests are very impressed with the style and friendliness of

our Lunches and Banquet and a number of new members have been recruited as a direct result of attending one of these events.

Our other business related events have also been very successful. The private discussion dinner with Baroness Barbara Young, Chief Executive of the Environment Agency, and Andy Torrance Chief Executive of Allianz on risk management in the environment was a great success, hugely enjoyed by all and profitable; it is a format I suggest be repeated. Our House of Commons reception, where we were addressed by Phil Woolas, Minister for the Environment with special responsibility for water, was also a success. It is interesting that we can attract such top quality speakers and good attendance from our members on such events. It is always difficult to see ourselves as others see us. However the evidence suggests we are indeed seen as a body of influence in the water and environment sector.

On the social front the visit to the Globe, the two ladies events, the City Walk plus visit to the Bank of England, the visit to Chelsea Physic Garden and the St Christopher Inauguration Service and picnic were much enjoyed by all. My thanks to Georgina, Gerald Noone, Jeff Rasbash and Rev Dr Peter Mullen respectively. The charity evening, featuring the Oxford Alternatives, an apella singing group, was also greatly enjoyed and raised several thousand pounds for the Water Conservation Trust though attendance could have been higher. Sadly the Master's weekend had to be cancelled because of poor numbers. Conversely my Master's Dinner at Lords Cricket Ground was much

enjoyed – I would like to thank Barry Dennis for facilitating this.

The Water Conservation Trust

Our charity, the Water Conservation Trust goes from strength to strength and we are supporting students at four leading universities and two special needs institutions. Our activities are something I feel we can be proud of and stand comparison with the best of the modern Livery companies. We consulted with members and the strong message was that education should be the prime focus of our giving and that is precisely what we are doing. Education particularly on water related issues is an area of fundamental importance to the future of the UK and indeed the whole world. Members will have seen various articles on our website describing the impact even relatively small amounts of money are having on our students. In a number of cases our bursaries or dissertation support grants make the difference between a student doing or not doing a course or dissertation.

Giving by members has increased as a result of the recent Master's appeal, though we are still a long way from the full participation rate to which we as a Company aspired when the "Giving Company" appeal was launched. I understand from the Chairman of the Water Conservation Trust that overall participation rate is 25% to 30%.

Communications

We are constantly trying to improve communications with members and I would like to thank our web master and bailiff, Bill Halson for the excellent job he has done in creating a lively and topical website. It serves to emphasize the number and variety

of the Company's activities and demonstrates how we are indeed striving to be an influence for the good.

City Events

In total I represented the Company at around 50 external events (see calendar attached) in addition to more than 30 Company events/meetings. All in all I believe we are fulfilling our role in the City and I feel our standing in the City is high.

In addition to our annual Jug presentation I have had a private meeting with the Lord Mayor to brief him on water and environmental sector as background to his overseas trade responsibilities; this I followed up with briefing documents. It is intended that our briefing become an annual event. I have attended two Lord Mayor's briefings to the Masters of all the Livery Companies. In the first the Lord Mayor referred twice to the Company of Water Conservators which was noted by other Masters present!

I also of course attended the Lord Mayor's dinner for Masters and Prime Wardens and the United Guilds Service. Other Services I attended included Evensong for St Cecilia, the Guild of Freeman Service and Reception, Evensong for the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy and Evensong at St Bartholomew's.

Later in the year I had the pleasure of participating in two splendid events involving our cutter, the Water Forget Me Not, on the River Thames. Canaletto's pictures of the barges and gondolas in Venice are well known. The events on the Thames were every bit as stylish and colourful. In the first, the Tudor Pull, I presented a piece of

an old conduit at Hampton Court Palace which was rowed in convoy to the Tower of London for safe keeping, the Queen's cutter leading. This ceremony is specifically designed to celebrate the conservancy of the Thames. The second, the Admiral's Challenge, is a race for the cutters of various Livery Companies starting outside the Palace of Westminster. Yet again the Water Conservators won this race by a considerable margin. My thanks to our Bargemaster Johnny Dwan for training our crew to the same high standard as he has used when training the Oxford University Boat Race crew.

I attended more than 20 lunches, dinners or other events with other Livery Companies or related institutions. I had the pleasure and honour of describing our Company to a number of important personages including HRH The Princess Royal, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Joanna Lumley.

I hosted an informal meeting of Masters of certain water related livery companies with a view to assessing interest in setting up a grouping such as the Wet 10 which has often been mooted but never acted on. There was considerable interest among the 5 other companies who attended and support for our company taking a lead. The Master has asked me to try to progress this further in the current year.

Strategic Planning System

We now have in place an excellent strategic plan and planning system. This addresses formally the need for continuity of approach between successive Masters who individually serve for one year only, a classic issue facing Livery Companies. The

enthusiasm and hard work of Peter Matthews, Richard Cherry and Nick Reeves deserve great thanks. I have written to all members summarising the plan as approved by Court.

The single most important item is recruitment. Numbers are growing based on our successful events noted above. Bob Mark, Thames Warden, is chairing the recruitment sub committee.

Finances

The accounts have not been audited at the time of writing. However we are forecasting a surplus of over £10,000 for the year. Partly this is thanks to £5,000 sponsorship from Pennon Group PLC for which the Company is most grateful; however it does suggest that even without this our house is in order from a financial viewpoint. I would like to thank Barry Dennis for his excellent work as Treasurer. I think he will make an excellent Walbrook Warden and subsequently Master. I would also thank our Clerk, Ralph Riley for his careful control of costs.

Conclusion

It has been a great privilege and a huge enjoyment being Master. I hope that I have upheld the tradition and constitution of the Company and that I leave it in good heart. Our focus on water conservation and related environmental areas puts us right at the centre of the key issues facing the world today. I feel we are respected in the City and more generally, and believe we are well placed to prosper and grow. I would like to thank my Wardens, the Clerk, members of Court and Committees, Past Masters and the whole membership for your

support. I would also like particularly to thank my wife Georgina for her understanding support and all the enthusiasm she put into her role as Master's Lady; it has been a joy to share this year with her. I offer Lorna, Bob, Ian, Barry and Ralph, who have been such a support to me, every good wish for the coming year.

Colin Drummond
Master 2007/08



Thames Fishery Project

Water conservation and charity are at the heart of what we do, and water in the River Thames is central to our being. We toast the health of our visitors in Thames water at our lunches and banquet.

So it made sense, at last, that the Company is now associated with the City of London Thames Fishery Research Experiment., which is an Annual Angling Competition to demonstrate the health of the Thames. We now provide a Tankard for the Biodiversity Prize for the catch which best demonstrates the continuing improvement and conservation of the River.

We joined the 35th Experiment held on Saturday October 27th at Denton Quarantine Station near Gravesend when the Master, Colin Drummond, presented the Tankard to Jason Mann of Charles Stanley Anglers.

As well as recreation and results, scientific research was the major victor at an event which has been held annually since 1972. Teams caught more than twice as many fish as last year — 162 compared to 75 - and the variety, weight and size of each specimen was

recorded to assist with determining the number of fish species returning to the river. This also assists with providing information about water pollution levels and health of fish stocks in the lower reaches the Thames.



A mixed catch

As London's Port Health Authority, the City Corporation looks after public health issues along 94 miles of the tidal Thames. The event is organized by the City of London Corporation, the Thames Angling Preservation Society and the Environment Agency. Additional funding is provided by one of the City's historic liveries, the Fishmongers' Company.

Teams are awarded points for numbers of fish caught and according to the diversity and rarity. The complete results were:-



The best fish

Lady Howard Trophy awarded to the adult team with the biggest points tally:

1. Essex County Anglers;
2. Charles Stanley Anglers;
3. PLA Anglers.

Inter-Schools Angling Trophy and Salver: 1.Gravesend Grammar School; 2. City of London School for Girls

Best single fish (a Dover Sole):
Winner – Connor Watkins,
Gravesend Grammar School

Best adult catch: – Winner: Barry
Graves – Essex Anglers

Best student catch- Joint winners:
J. Saunders and Connor Watkins
– Gravesend Grammar School

Biodiversity Tankard – Jason
Mann, Charles Stanley Anglers



In the polytunnel

Well lads and lasses does anyone fancy organizing a team for the Water Conservators for next year

Peter Mathews Court Assistant



Progress at Ysgol y Gogarth

Progress at Ysgol y Gogarth is such that the polytunnel and pagoda have been constructed along with several large raised beds that were put to good use in 2007.



Ivor Richards with some of the students

The school reports that “Everyone is gearing up for the new spring season”. Spring should come relatively early in Llandudno. Water conservators will be supplying herbs for the sensory garden.

Ladies Event at the Royal Academy

The school will also be receiving an award for its ‘ecoproject’ from Ecopot Europe Ltd., a company that supplies automatic water control systems for greenhouses. Ecopot had a special display at the Eden project at the time of the company’s visit in 2006. Our continuing annual contribution is being put to good use.

A group of 20 ladies enjoyed a tour of the Fine Rooms of the Royal Academy on 19th October 2007 arranged by the Master’s Lady. After breakfast in the Reynolds Room with its magnificent ceiling, the party were conducted through the Fine Rooms by guides Nigel Cartwright and Wendy Skehens. We learnt about the fascinating history of the building, with its origins as a private house, and the development of the Academy itself

from the eighteenth century onwards. Nigel’s encyclopaedic architectural knowledge was entertainingly leavened by an equally wide acquaintance with historical scandals, while Wendy enhanced our enjoyment of the pictures with details of their hidden meanings and stories of the artists. Thanks are due to both our guides for an excellent morning.



Ivor Richards Court Assistant

Master's Dinner

The Master's Dinner was held at Lord's Cricket Ground, in a change from our normal choice of a City of London location. Access to this hallowed venue was courtesy of our Treasurer, Court Assistant Barry Dennis.

Members of Court and guests numbering over 40 attended. After excellent wine and canapés Barry gave us a superb guided tour of the famous Long Room (with its various paintings and other cricket memorabilia) followed by the England and Visitors' dressing rooms. The tour was enlivened by many a cricketing anecdote. After that we repaired to the Committee Dining Room for an excellent dinner accompanied by Lord's own label wine. Would that the latter were available for general release. To judge from both the level and the duration of conversation during and after dinner, everyone had a superb time.

I offer my warm thanks again to Barry for organising such a lovely event. I was privileged to be able to hold the event in such a prestigious location and one that is steeped in cricketing and English history. I was delighted at the same time to offer tribute to my many friends in the Company who are doing so much to drive it forward. Particularly I singled out for praise our Web Master, Liveryman Bill Halson and all involved in our charitable initiatives including Court Assistants Jeff Rasbash and Peter Hall.

Colin Drummond
Master 2007 - 2008



Reception at the House Commons

A most enjoyable evening was had by over 30 Members of the Company and their guests at the House of Commons on 10th October. Our host for the reception was the former City water analyst, Philip Hollobone MP, (who is now the Conservative Member of Parliament for Kettering but still retains an active interest in the sector) and our caterers the House of Commons Banqueting Department, (who were most attentive, providing a delicious selection of hot and cold canapés and making sure our wine glasses were never empty).

The Master warmly thanked Philip on behalf of the Company and, by way of introduction to the Minister, indicated that our aim was to be an influence for the good in the water environment.

Philip had kindly arranged for Phil Woolas MP and Minister of State for the Environment to formally welcome the Company to the Palace of Westminster and to speak for some minutes. Mr Woolas' speech highlighted the environmental issues facing us in the UK on the provision of water supply and the need for long term solutions - sentiments that resonated strongly with the assembled party. The formal part of the evening was then rounded off with an enthusiastic toast from the Minister to the Company ("Root and branch, may it flourish.")

Philip then proved himself to be a delightful guide and took us on tours around both the House of Lords and the House of Commons, providing most enjoyable anecdotal comments en route. It was a real treat for us all to be able to go on the floor of the House of

Commons, the official business for the day having finished a little earlier, and we soaked up the incredible atmosphere - and also the theatre - of our historic surroundings.

All too soon the evening was over. But the most convivial company of our Members and their guests, coupled with the warm welcome from the Minister in such a fabulous setting made for an evening that many of us will remember for a long time to come.

Colin Drummond
Master 2007 - 2008



Annual Banquet

Around 150 Liverymen and guests attended our Annual Banquet on 1 November at Painters' Hall, a record at least for recent years. To judge by the volume of conversation before, during and after the Banquet, people were having a great time.

We were privileged to have The Rt Hon John Gummer and his wife Penny as our principal guests. According to a recent BBC publication, John is the Environment Secretary against which others are judged. He gave a fine speech drawing on his long experience and on the recently completed Conservative Quality of Life Report which he masterminded. In a witty but passionate manner, he stressed the key role of our Company and set us the challenge of progressing the climate change agenda.

I described the first time I had met John, on a trade mission to Peru and Bolivia some 10 years' ago. It is a measure of the man that though invited to High Mass in the splendid Cathedral in Lima, he

insisted on going instead to Mass in the poorest of shanty towns outside Lima.

It was first time in a number of years that we had dined at Painters' Hall and they did us proud. As usual at our Banquet we made presentations to representatives of our armed forces affiliates, the Military Work Force, HMS Scott and the Aeronautical Information Documents Unit. It was particularly good to show gratitude for the hard dedicated service our forces always demonstrate (and especially at present), and for which they get all too little thanks.

**Colin Drummond
Master 2007 - 2008**



Myddelton Celebrations

Our annual celebrations in memory of Sir Hugh Myddelton, founder of the New River Company and the first person since Roman times to bring piped water to the city of London, took place on 25 January.

As usual and proper the day began with a Church Service, this year at St Giles Cripplegate. In this, Master, Wardens and Members of the Company dedicated themselves anew to the service of God, the City and the Company. In total over 50 attended and it was particularly good that Philip Fletcher, Chairman of OFWAT and our guest of honour at the Lunch, was able to join us for the Service and our subsequent procession to Ironmongers' Hall. The Chaplain, though away from his beautiful home church, preached a fiery and inspiring sermon which by public demand has been posted on our web site.

Our Lunch was particularly well attended with a total of some 110 members and guests. This continues the strong trend in attendances at recent formal Company events. We were particularly delighted to welcome Guy Myddelton, a direct descendant of Sir Hugh as a guest. Other guests included David Rooke, President of CIWEM, Professor John Sumpter and Dr Mark Scrimshaw of Brunel University, and Brad Tucker our bursary student in Water Sciences at Oxford University.

During the lunch I was delighted to announce on behalf of our Charity, the Water Conservation Trust, a new three year bursary funding agreement with Brunel, the fourth university with which we have such an agreement. At the same time I formally launched our Giving Company appeal, to warm applause from a generous audience; our aim is for everyone to be giving regularly to the Water Conservation Trust, even if only a small amount.

Highlight of the event was Philip Fletcher's speech which focussed on Sir Hugh Myddelton and his New River Company. Philip set Sir Hugh's work in the context of current priorities in the water industry (and vice versa). He came up with many insights as a result of which Sir Hugh will be seen as a living predecessor of ourselves and not just as a shadowy founder figure. It was particularly good that Philip, arguably the most important single person in our industry, was able to spare time in the run up to the current Periodic Review, for such a fine speech and for staying on afterwards to talk to us individually.

It was sometime after 4.30 pm when the final guests departed which shows how much the event

was enjoyed.

**Colin Drummond
Master 2007 - 2008**



Charity Evening at Salters' Hall

Let's be honest, how many people know what to expect when they come to hear an international *A Cappella* singing group? Even Master Colin Drummond's introduction understated the impact of fourteen young, talented singers whose repertoire included a wide range of popular and serious songs. Singing unaccompanied, the appropriately branded *Aquapella* group provided a musical feast of subtle harmonies, drama and comedy in an utterly delightful Water Conservators' Charity Evening.

The beneficiary, the Water Conservation Trust, will use the surplus to expand its bursary and dissertation funding programme. Trust Chairman, Jeff Rasbash, praised the singing and thanked the Company for organising the event, and presented each singer with the now traditional Water Conservators' mug.



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