



The Conservator

Summer 2011 | Issue 44

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

A Message from the Master

Dear Water Conservator,

I am honoured and privileged to have been elected your Master for the coming year and will work hard to engage with our members and the Livery movement in every way I can.

As many of you may be aware I became a freeman and Liveryman with the Builders Merchants Company over 25 years ago. It was the Company that my family had had connections with for some years.

When the Water Conservators became a livery in 2000 I was asked by some business colleagues who were already involved with the company to become a member. I did this willingly but have to say I never had any thoughts about becoming Master.

I have worked in the waste sector since 1964 when I left school and have been involved with both wet and dry waste collection and treatment in various ways ever since. Firstly through the family business the Deards Group until we demerged the group in 1982. My immediate family retained our builder's merchants activities and I retained some waste management contracts at the same time. Two of the contracts being at Lords and the Oval cricket grounds. Those of you who know me well will understand why!

I am a past Chairman of the Sand and Ballast and Allied Trades Alliance a trade association associated with the waste and aggregate industries. Since 1992 I have worked for the Environmental Services Association (formerly NAWDC) the trade body representing the waste and recovery sector here in the UK as its Director General.

I am also President of the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management, a trustee and treasurer of the Waste Management Industry Training & Advisory Board and a director of other companies related to our industry sector.

My wife Jan and I have two sons both at present working in Australia and I have three daughters and four grand children. My interests include all sport particular soccer, cricket and golf. I am also an expert at cutting grass under my wife's instructions.

My aims for the Company for the coming year are firstly to continue to build on the excellent



work Roger Hewitt, the Deputy Master, has done by promoting our company within the City of London and our industry sector. He has attended well over 100 events during his year! My second aim is to beat his tally!

Thirdly, the Livery movement has very deep roots and has many traditions going back hundreds of years and these need to be maintained and cherished and our company needs to play an active part and I will work hard to achieve this but I must say we all need to be involved in this as Liverymen. I hope I can count on your support.

Fourthly, we need to grow our membership and again we all have a responsibility here. Please do try and enlist a new member from all your contacts in your daily lives.

In closing, I would ask you all to support our many events that are planned through the next year and I look forward to meeting you all as the year progresses.

Barry Dennis
Master





Deputy Master's report

Reflections on a Year as Master | 2010 – 2011

by Roger Hewitt

It has been a great honour and a pleasure to serve the Company as your Master for the past year.

It has been a very active and interesting year during which I have represented the Company officially on over 110 occasions, ranging from church services, lunches and dinners, to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, the presentation of the Water Jug to the Lord Mayor at Mansion House, an inter-livery pancake race in Guildhall Yard, the Battle of Britain commemorative reception and fly-past at RAF Northolt, a visit to HMS Scott in Plymouth, an Engagement Day at RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire, the Tudor Pull, the departure of the Hackney Carriage Drivers' Magical Taxi Tour 2010, a visit to the Sea Cadets in Maidstone and a visit to the City Freeman's School in Ashted, Surrey to attend the pupils' prize-giving.

The white tie banquet at the Mansion House for the Lord and Lady Mayoress to meet the Masters, Prime Wardens and Upper Bailiff of the Livery Companies was a splendid affair, as were the Plumbers' Company and Information Technologists' dinners at Mansion House.

The Company's Annual Banquet at Stationers' Hall, the First Annual Livery Dinner at Brewers' Hall and the Master's Dinner at the House of Lords were also memorable occasions which I hope will be continued in future years as they are keystones of the Company's calendar.

My speakers included Liveryman Vic Cocker; Chairman of Ofwat, Philip Fletcher; Chaplain, Rev Dr Peter Mullen; former Lord Mayor and Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, Sir David Brewer; the Earl of Arran; and Master Engineer, John Banyard.

I was especially pleased that the Lady Mayoress, Barbara Bear, was able to attend the Myddelton Lunch and to give a very entertaining address on her life in South Africa and her interest in water supply in Southern Africa.

I was a guest at a number of other Livery company and City functions, including several interesting lectures and tours. The Company reciprocated by inviting the Masters and Clerks of other Livery companies to our functions.

Company social events included the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London, a tour of the Old Bailey, a theatre trip to the Globe and a sponsored walk in aid of the WCT Bario Project.

My first engagement of the year was the Port of London Challenge, the first of several actually on the river. I am indebted to our Bargemaster, John Dwan, and the ladies from the Poplar Rowing Club, who are always so willing to crew the Company's cutter, the Water Forget-me-Not, and to do us proud on such occasions.

I attended a number of services at St Paul's, including the United Guilds' Service, the Musicians' Company Evensong, the Loriners' Company 750th Anniversary Service, the 357th Festival of the Sons of the Clergy and the 300th Anniversary Service of the Cathedral. I was also pleased to attend services at the Company's own church, St Michael's, Cornhill, including the Carol Service and New Year Service, the Consecration of the Bells, the Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of our Chaplain, Peter Mullen, the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible and the Company's Patronal Service.

The Company remains very active within the WET 10 and there was a discussion dinner in March at Glaziers' Hall with a very constructive debate prompted by speakers the Earl of Selborne and Sir Peter Mason.

An important objective of the Company is awareness of the heritage of water. In that context, Alderman Andrew Parmley, in the presence of our Court, unveiled a Blue Plaque to commemorate the site of the Conduit in Aldermanbury, serving the area of Guildhall. This plaque was the fruit of intense work by Past Master, Ted Flaxman, who is now moving on to a Blue Plaque to commemorate the Great Conduit in Cheap.

I was pleased to attend two meetings of the Past Masters' Committee and the Founder Members' Lunch at Butchers' Hall. The Past Masters are a key part of the foundation of the Company and I am grateful for their support and advice during my year.

No Master's year can be complete without the customary weekend visit to Ironbridge.

Some 90 Companies gathered there in June and it was a unique opportunity to meet old friends and to make new ones within the Livery movement.

Speaking of old friends, I must mention with great sadness the passing of Founder Member and Past Master, Chris Shirley, and Liverymen Keith Court and Mike Healey. They will be greatly missed.

On the financial front, the Company was to have been in deficit for the year, but I have been pleased, personally, to cover this shortfall and to place the Company in a cash-neutral position going forward.

Additionally, I am pleased to have been able to secure two matching donations of £50,000 each to the Water Conservation Trust from the Waste Management Industry Training & Advisory Board (WAMITAB) and the Environmental Services Association Education Trust (ESAET). These donations are to be used to fund bursaries for MSc students and associated research projects at universities. The WCT will work with WAMITAB and ESAET to identify suitable candidates and projects.

Charitable giving is a fundamental part of the purpose of the Livery Company and movement and we are all rightly grateful for the work undertaken by the Water Conservation Trust. The development of WCT support for student bursaries and involvement in environmental projects with schools and other bodies is the practical example of the charitable function.

Our Company, being a young modern Company, has not yet accrued a large amount of regalia. I was therefore pleased to be able to present to the Mistress Water Conservator at the Installation Lunch on 6 July a jewel to be handed on each year to the partner of the newly installed Master.

Finally, I am grateful for the support of the Court, the Wardens, the Beadle, the Bargemaster and my Bailiff and, of course, all the Livery. The Master cannot function without the endeavours of the Clerk, to whom I am also most grateful. The Company has good heart and spirit and I look forward to seeing it prosper. May it flourish, root and branch, for ever.



Water Conservators 2011 Lecture Anaerobic Digestion

Timing could not have been better for the Water Conservators Lecture on Anaerobic Digestion (AD), coming two days after the publication of [The Government's Review of Waste Policies and Anaerobic Digestion Strategy for England](#). Although the Government is committed to the commercialisation of proven technology by creating markets for input feedstock and digestate use, the practical and economic aspects which will support the substantial investment needed are far from certain.

The Lecture was hosted by Sheffield University. Professor Harm Askes welcomed the speakers, the sponsor – Castle Environmental, and over 100 delegates to what was likely to be a lively evening. Three expert speakers – David Collins from the Renewable Energy Association, David Woolgar from BiogenGreenfinch, and David Tomkins from the Waste & Resources Action Programme set out what needed to be done from their perspectives.

David Collins outlined the UK renewable energy strategy – to increase the percentage of renewable electricity, heat and transport in the UK against a decreasing energy demand, the role of anaerobic digestion in renewables, and the policy needed to make it happen. The main task was to work with government and its agencies to reduce barriers of all sorts, but particularly fixing a medium economic and financial strategy that would secure the investment needed and provide a return for investors.

David Woolgar explained the AD processes available for the 11 million tonnes of food waste generated annually in the UK – as potential feedstock. However, there was little relevant UK experience, with the majority of anaerobic digesters run by the water industry for the treatment of sewage sludge (around 550 digesters on 200 sites). Elsewhere in the UK, the process has traditionally been used on a small scale – there are currently about 50 other AD facilities, most of which are small-scale “on farm” plants. This compares poorly with continental experience – there are some 3,000 farm plants in Germany and over 6,000 biogas plants.

Agriculture specialist David Tomkins reviewed the potential for AD products in agriculture, looking at digestate quality, its best use and new markets. Concluding, he said that policy discussion on AD will always focus on biogas, but using by-products in agriculture may not be easy because of concerns over food contamination.



Roger Hewitt and the three Davids, Woolgar, Tompkins and Collins

One potential unintended impact – growing energy crops in place of food to fuel the production of biogas had to be managed carefully. New digestate transformation technologies near their markets were being developed but cross-fertilisation with water industry experience was essential.

Following a question and answer session, Master Conservator Roger Hewitt explained the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators commitment to water and environmental issues. Although London based, the Company supports post-graduate bursaries in a number of universities and promotes public

discussion through topical lectures. He thanked the speakers and Professor Askes for providing a high quality debate.



Professor Harm Askes

Calendar of Events 2011–2012

1 September 2011	Company Visit	Globe Theatre
17 September 2011	Company Weekend	Suffolk
28 September 2011	Michaelmas Court Lunch	Armourers Hall
3 October 2011	Election of Lord Mayor	Guildhall
20 October 2011	Company Event	College of Arms
3 November 2011	Annual Banquet	Drapers Hall
11 November 2011	Silent Ceremony	Guildhall
12 November 2011	Lord Mayors Show	City of London
8 December 2011	Christmas Court Meeting	TBA
8 December 2011	Joint Carol Service	St Michaels Cornhill
TBA	Myddelton Lunch	TBA
23 March 2012	United Guilds Service	St Pauls Cathedral
TBA	Company Visit	Lloyds of London
TBA	Company Visit	Lords Cricket Ground
19 April 2012	Election Court Lunch	TBA
TBA	Company Visit	Mansion House
25 June 2012	Election of Sheriffs	Guildhall
4 July 2012	Installation Court Lunch	TBA



The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators Wardens

The Company's list of courses grows

THAMES WARDEN

Peter Matthews



Prof. Peter Matthews, Ph. D, FRSC, FCIWEM, Chartered Scientist, Environmentalist and Water and Environment Manager joined the Company in 1996.

After a career in the water industry of almost 35 years he retired from Anglian Water International as Deputy MD in 1999. Since then he served on the Board of the Environment Agency for six years and is now on the Board of the Port of London Authority and is the Chair of the Northern Ireland Utility Regulator and of the Sustainable Organic Resources Partnership. He is also on the governing boards of the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management, European Water Association and the Society for the Environment, and has been the President /Chair of all three, and is Chair of his own consultancy Pelican Portfolio. Peter is Visiting Professor at Anglia Ruskin University, a Past Pitt Fellow of Pembroke College Cambridge University and was awarded an OBE in 2007.

FLEET WARDEN

Ivor Richards



Ivor Richards OBE B.Sc. CEng. MICE FIHE spent many years as the tight head in the front row of a rugby scrum delivering the 'push' provided by the rest of the pack and often winning the ball against the head.

In his last year at school Ivor played for the village club and survived alongside miners and steelworkers. He still misses the enjoyment uniquely found in the front row. Ivor has been a chartered engineer since 1972 and is chairman and managing director of Richards Moorehead and Laing Ltd (RML). In the 1960s whilst working for the Taf Fechan Water Board in South Wales Ivor was described by Alan Twort of Binnie and Partners as "A back door engineer like me", his first degree not being in engineering. Delivering large scale projects involving coal mining discard, iron and steel slags, slate waste and metalliferous slimes confirmed Ivor's early conviction that civil engineering could and should do much better if only engineers talked to people in other disciplines. A long involvement in a multi-disciplined approach to civil engineering was the result. Collaboration with Professor Tony Bradshaw at the department of botany at Liverpool in using metal tolerant grasses on lead mine wastes started in 1975. An ecologist appeared in the engineering office in 1978 quickly followed by soil scientists and landscape architects. As a result RML was described by a senior government advisor as 'an unusual company that addresses problems'. Many of the projects were in areas of high landscape quality that were economically and socially deprived. People were expecting to see and deserving of improvements in lives as well as landscapes. In this respect Ivor believes that there is still much to be done as our horizons and interests as Conservators expand.

WALBROOK WARDEN

Roger North



Roger North, B.Eng. C.Eng. FICE.FCIWEM.C.WEM. MIAM, was admitted as a Freeman in 1995, became a Liveryman in 2000, has been a court assistant since 2007 and is currently Hon. Treasurer.

Roger has worked in the water and environment business for over 40 years. After graduating from the University of Sheffield in 1969, he started his career in water and wastewater consultancy with John Taylor and Sons. In 1978 he joined Atkins, one of the world's leading engineering and design consultancies where he is now the Managing Director of Water Operations. He has held a number of senior positions in the UK and overseas including two years as resident manager in Sri Lanka. His career has involved him in a wide range of water related services in the UK and overseas from research and development, design and asset management, to institutional development and operation support services. He has worked in many countries across Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia and the Far East. He is a member of the UK Trade and Investment Environmental and Water Sector Advisory Group.

Roger and his wife, Christine, have two married daughters and three grandchildren. His hobbies include gardening, DIY and golf.

By virtue of two substantial donations of £50k each, the Water Conservation Trust (WCT) is delighted to be able to announce that the MSc in Hydrogeology at the University of Birmingham and the MSc in Wastes Management at the University of Northampton will join the list of post graduate courses currently supported by the WCT and the Company. This brings the total number of courses now to five. All of these specialist post graduate courses can look forward to help from the Trust for at least three years. The support package offered each of them has three elements:-

- (a) The **Water Conservation Bursary**, (value of £4,000 per year). This is to assist a student or students who may find themselves in difficulty with the payment of their course fees;
- (b) The **Water Conservators' Dissertation Support Grant** (value £1000 per year). This grant is to assist any student members of the course in meeting specific expenses connected with the research they need to carry out to complete their dissertations; and finally
- (c) The **Water Conservators' Dissertation Prize**, which is awarded to the student who obtains a distinction grade and presents the best dissertation each year on the supported MSc course.

It is hoped that during the coming year two more university post graduate courses will join the list, which currently includes courses at the Universities of Oxford, Sheffield and Brunel as well as the above two courses.

This most welcome expansion of the university support programme has been made possible by the receipt of two very generous donations of £50k each from the Waste Industry Management, Industrial Training and Advisory Board, (WAMITAB), and the Environment Services Association Education and Training Board (EASET), which were facilitated by our Master for 2010/11, Roger Hewitt. The Trustees are most grateful to Roger for all his tremendous efforts in this regard.

Jeff Rasbash
Chairman of Trustees,
Water Conservation Trust

The Company would like to welcome the following new members:

- Tim Askew
- Nigel Kennedy
- Alex Money
- Simon Catford
- Andrew Kirkman
- David Richards
- Claire Deanesly
- Hugh Masters-Williams
- Dominic Nash
- Adrian Gouldstone
- Nigel Mattravers

This edition of **The Conservator** has been published courtesy of:

 **CASTLE ENVIRONMENTAL**

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