

The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

*Promoting a diverse and sustainable
environment*

Monthly Update



February 2024 Issue 38

Message from the Master



We are making a difference.

Our Colloquy in the Mansion House on the UN Sustainability Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) was very successful and the Lord Mayor has expressed his personal thanks. We are very grateful to our Walbrook Warden, Tom Flood, for organising it with the Plumbers' Company. We heard about the challenges we face, nationally and globally. We need new investment in water infrastructure, we need to develop new technologies and solutions, yet we are facing a skills shortfall. We are all committed to following up the issues raised.

Many thanks to the Revd Katherine Hedderly, Vicar of All Hallows by the Tower and our Chaplain, for organising the Myddelton Service for the Rededication of the Company Cross, and the Members



of the Company. She shared her personal experience of the damage caused by water, the power of water and the need for sharing. Katherine has recently been appointed Archdeacon of Charing Cross. Our congratulations to her.

Dr Tony Juniper, Chair, Natural England, gave us a powerful presentation at our Myddelton Lunch. He described the natural cycle of water, the influences on it and the need for more nature-based solutions. It was also wonderful to welcome and congratulate eight Postgraduate Dissertation Prize Winners and present them with their prizes and certificates. Thanks to their supporters as well.



As our current and future impact on the environment increases, we need the skills necessary to assess environmental impacts, to innovate and design in an environmentally beneficial or benign way. We must communicate and engage with leaders and developers in other professions and sectors - and with public and political leaders. I am very pleased that, through the Water Conservation Trust and our

wide engagement, we are making a difference.

We have many exciting events coming up. Come and enjoy them. Please cheer on our energised pancake tossing team at the Guildhall on 13 February. The last spaces are available for our next discussion dinner with Sir John Armit on 28 February.

Masters Weekend



Book before 15 February to get your early bird discount for the Master's Weekend in Bristol on 26 to 28 April. We will be cruising on the River Avon, touring the SS Great Britain and walking the Clifton Suspension Bridge amongst many other things. Contact the Master's Consort on eileen.biggs@outlook.com.

Professor Martin Bigg
Master.

Watch out for The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators on LinkedIn
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/clerk-water-conservators-livery-company-467999159>

Follow my blog <https://masterwaterconservator23.blogspot.com/>



Future Events

11 February 2024 - Tower Bridge Visit

13 February 2024 - Pancake Race, Guildhall Yard - join the Company team

15 February 2024 - Webinar: Tom Spencer, Moorland Restoration

28 February 2024 - Discussion Dinner: Speaker Sir John Armit

7 March 2024 - Webinar: Professor Carolyn Roberts, Thames Barrier

12 March 2024 – Webinar: Helen Orton, Commercial Models for Major Projects

15 March 2024 – United Guilds' Service, St. Paul's Cathedral

21 March 2024 - City Water Debate, Bakers' Hall

Annual Pancake Race

The 2024 London Inter-Livery Pancake Race will take place in Guildhall Yard, on Tuesday 13 February commencing at 11.30 am. Once again, the Water Conservators' Company will be entering an enthusiastic and energetic team, comprising:

Masters' Race: Prof. Martin Bigg
Liverymen's Race: Dylan Barker (Thames Warden)
Ladies' Race: Eileen Bigg (Master's Consort)
Fancy Dress Race: Andy Williamson (Liveryman)

Conservators are warmly invited and encouraged to come along and support our team. After the event, a buffet lunch is available in the Guildhall Crypt. Buffet tickets can be purchased via the following link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/>

February Webinar: Moorland Restoration & Natural Flood Management

Tom Spencer, Research Scientist at Moors for the Future Partnership, will be presenting our February webinar on Thursday 15 February 2024 at 6.00pm. Severe erosion of blanket bogs in the Peak



District following the industrial revolution has led to degradation of key ecosystem services at the headwaters of regional river catchments. Restoration of these peatlands at the landscape-scale has led to stabilisation and recovery, with benefits including increased vegetation diversity, improved water quality, reduced severity of flooding, raised water tables and a near-total halting of peat erosion. This webinar will look at the research findings from this ongoing experiment and the implications these have for peatland restoration at the landscape scale. Register via <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/>

The Lord Mayor's Lecture series – Webinar: Thames Barrier – Immediate Future or Long Past?

The webinar at 11am on 7 March 2024 is hosted by the Gresham Society, and will be presented by our Fleet Warden, Professor Carolyn Roberts who, herself, is a Gresham Professor Emeritus. The Thames Barrier is such an important feature in protecting London from tidal surges and the potential impacts of climate change. Use this link to register and to read more about the lecture: Knowledge Miles: [The 695th Lord Mayor's Lecture Series - Gresham Society](#)

United Guilds Service, St Paul's Cathedral

At a meeting of the Twelve Great Companies in 1943 it was

decided to hold a Service in St. Paul's Cathedral, the idea being that it would lift the spirits of the City following the Blitz during the Second World War.



This Service, at 10.45 for 11.15am on Friday 15 March is an annual event in the presence of the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs and Court of Aldermen, and is one of the few occasions when the Livery Companies and Guilds of the City gather together as a whole. It is a colourful and interesting spectacle to see all the Livery Companies and Guilds. Come and join the Masters, Prime Wardens and Upper Bailiffs, together with their Wardens, in their robes and badges, on this amazing occasion. We will be joining the Wax Chandlers afterwards in their hall for lunch. Contact the Clerk for information.

City Water Debate, Bakers' Hall, Harp Lane, London

We have some great speakers at our next debate on Thursday 21 March 2024 from 5.30pm. Major investment will be needed in water infrastructure over the next 25 years. Traditional physical engineering solutions involve treatment plants and pipelines, many of which come with a high carbon footprint. This debate will consider the scope for a nature-based system approach, involving joint working between a range of parties, and the challenges, including financing and delivering such solutions. Further information will be circulated shortly.

