

The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

*Promoting a diverse and sustainable
environment*

Monthly Update



May 2024

Issue 41

Message from the Master



What an amazing month for the Company! We are growing strongly; we are successfully influencing, educating and learning; we are supporting important causes and we are having fun.

The state of our waterways and environment are national issues - we have never been so relevant!

At our Election Court I was pleased to welcome eight new Freemen of the Company:

Simon Ayley, Peter Bunton, Nick Higham, John Hirst CBE, Lee Morton, Joanna Skowronek, Kala Vairavamoorthy and Rainer Zimman. I was also pleased to welcome two new Liverymen: Annie Shepperd OBE and Grzegorz Skowronek.

At our subsequent lunch the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli, when commenting on "current affairs", noted "As the row continues, the continued thought-leadership and engagement of the Water Conservators with business and government on this and other issues - from future funding to the introduction of nature-based solutions - will be essential."

We were also honoured by the presence of the Lady Mayoress, Sheriff Dame Susan Langley DBE and her Consort. I was pleased to award Jessica Penny from the University of Exeter the Company prize for her PhD dissertation "Impact of Land-Use Changes on Hydrological Regimes"



Only the previous week a large group from the Company had visited the Thames Barrier and heard of the potential flooding challenges facing London.



We have submissions in hand for the Environment Audit Committee on river water and for OFWAT on innovation. At our Court meeting we agreed new Sustainability and Social media policies. These and details of our many activities are all on our super new website. Please also look out for details of our forthcoming webinars there.

Thank you to the many members of the Company who have already agreed to sponsor my walk 215m down the outside of the "Cheesegrater" for the Lord Mayor's Appeal. More details below.

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

15 May 2024 – Webinar - E-Waste Management in Hong Kong and Singapore - examples for London?

?? May 2024 - Bletchley Park code breaking centre rescheduled. Contact christinesjarvis@hotmail.co.uk
19 May 2024 – Tudor Pull from Hampton Court to the Tower of London

22 May 2024 – Associates Webinar: Women in the water sector and the Community of Women in Water

24 May 2024 - Thames Tideway Tour 13.00hrs London Bridge Pier
?? June 2024 – New members' evening

7 June 2024 - The Master Water Conservator's Abseil for Charity
13 June 2024 – Admiral of the Port Challenge

24 June 2024 – Webinar – International Water and Wastewater Issues

2 July 2024 – Master's Thank you dinner for Court, Past Masters and Consorts

3 July 2024 – Installation Court and Lunch



Brunel, Boats, Bridges and Banksy - Master's Weekend in Bristol

After months of planning, 33 Company members and guests visited Bristol and Clifton. We kept warm and dry while we had a guided tour by local members round the city, followed by dinner overlooking the harbour. On the next day, we ventured up river by boat towards Bath before returning to tour the SS Great Bristol and hear about Brunel.



The evening meal was in a restored wine shed, with a talk about Bristol from an environmental point of view. On the final day, we had an entertaining guided tour of the Clifton Suspension Bridge, then descended into the recently rediscovered vaults underneath the Bridge. Our lunch was overlooking the Bridge and Avon Gorge.



May Webinar

Nigel Mattravers, Consultant in resource management with Alba Group Asia, will be presenting our May webinar on Wednesday 15 May 2024 6.00pm to 7.15pm titled "E Waste Management in Hong Kong and Singapore – examples for London?"

The UK is looking to introduce further Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes for e-waste management; these will involve not only the manufacturers, but also retailers and the consumer. The cities of Hong Kong and Singapore have similar generation rates to the UK and have many similar physical challenges to London. This presentation will look at the two different solutions that these cities have adopted as they seek to establish EPR schemes to manage e-waste – could these be examples for London to follow? Please register via the following link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/884176554877?aff=oddtcreator>



Tudor Pull

The Tudor Pull commemorates the introduction of fresh drinking water to London and supports and promotes rowing and sculling on the River Thames in Waterman's Cutters. It is a rowing event on the River Thames with much pageantry, and this year will take place on 19 May 2024. At 10.00 at Hampton Court the Master Water Conservator presents a piece of wooden water pipe in a special glass case to the Duty Officer of the Royal Palace. They in turn present it to the Royal Barge Master for safe passage by Barge on the river to the Tower of London. Here it is delivered at about 16.00hrs to the Governor of the Tower of London. The flotilla of small boats accompanying the Barge includes our Cutter Water Forget-me-not.



May Associates Webinar

The Associates Webinar on 22 May 2024 will be presented by Kathryn Parr. Entitled "Women in the water sector and the Community of Women in Water". Further information to follow on the website shortly.

The Master's Abseil for Charity

As part of our wider commitment to charity, the Master is thrilled to be participating in the Lord Mayor's Appeal Abseil Challenge 2024 on 7 June 2024. Please use this JustGiving site to support him.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/martin-bigg-1713264669847>

Thank you for your support and making a difference. Together, we can create a better future for all.



June Webinar

Our June webinar on 24 June 2024 will be presented by Kalanithy Vairavamoorthy, Executive Director of the International Water Association. The webinar will cover international water and wastewater issues. Further information will be circulated shortly.

